

Redstone Rocket

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'We didn't even ask for this help'

Soldier has support of Army, community in fight against cancer

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

Tennessee National Guard Sgt. Johnny Hitt isn't deployed to the battlefield these days. But he is in the fight of his life.

During a deployment to Jordan last year with C Battery, 181st Field Artillery, Hitt started generally not feeling well. Although he was eating less and less, his stomach was always bloated and he felt as though he'd just eaten a big meal.

"I had no clue what was going on. Last August, right after we deployed, I re-upped for six more years. I was healthy and I could do everything I was required to do, including physical training in 130-degree weather in Kuwait," Hitt said. "Then, about three months later, I started not feeling good and it went from there."

Army doctors ordered a CT scan at an Amman, Jordan, medical center. The test revealed swollen lymph nodes. Hitt was soon sent to Fort Campbell, Ky., for a biopsy.

"I was medevaced back here in February. I came home a month earlier than my unit," he said.

The biopsy results defined the battle that Hitt's body is now fighting. The enemy is lymphoma, a type of blood cancer that occurs when lymphocytes – white blood cells that help protect the body from infection and disease – begin behaving abnormally.

"The doctor told me there is no reason why I should have this. He said it was like winning the lottery. You just don't see it coming," Hitt said.

"But you usually see it in people who are 60 and 70 years old. I'm only 30 and no one on either side of my family has had it. There is no cancer in my family. I've never really been sick. I've never even had the flu. It's like somebody flipped a switch and I was sick."

Hitt remained at Fort Campbell until May, when he was reassigned to the Community Based Warrior



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Despite his battle with a life-threatening illness, Tennessee National Guard Sgt. Johnny Hitt is looking forward to a long life with his fiancée Brittney, his daughter Sara and Brittney's son Xavier. The couple will marry Sept. 27.

Transition Unit at Redstone Arsenal. A Lawrenceburg, Tenn., resident and a past resident of Decatur, the new assignment put him closer to his family, his girlfriend and now fiancée Brittney Lawrence, and his unit. He and Brittney are making plans to marry on Sept. 27.

The assignment has also made it easier for Hitt to share the care of his 7-year-old daughter Sara with her mother and her family, which includes Redstone Arsenal employee Donald Ingram. Although Sara's mother cared for her while Hitt was deployed, she is under her father's custodial care when he is not overseas.

"Being with the CBWTU has made things so much easier," he said. "When Brittney came to see me at Fort Campbell, I had to find a hotel for her to stay in off-post. That got expensive.

"Now, I can be at home, get the treatments I need and also continue to serve."

Hitt's cancer is being treated by doctors at the Sarah Cannon Research Institute in Nashville. His treatment is being monitored closely by Capt. David Reid, a nurse case manager with the CBWTU.



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RocketViews

College football starts this week.
What team do you cheer for?

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com



Roshelita Crudup
Regions Bank
"I don't watch football. I would rather watch basketball."



Heather Moore
Regions Bank
"I am an Alabama fan - everybody should be. Roll Tide Roll!"



Ashley McMullen
Regions Bank
"I don't really follow sports, but I will cheer for our customers' teams!"



Wesley Stewart
Regions Bank
"Alabama graduate and fan. Who else is there? Roll Tide!"

Quote of the week

'Be so good they can't ignore you.'
— Steve Martin

RedstoneRocket

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Letter to the editor

Excess infrastructure becomes growing challenge

The Army faces a major challenge determining how to handle its increasing excess infrastructure.

Our Army's infrastructure consisting of roads, utility lines, buildings, airfields, firing ranges, and training lands must be proportionate to our troop strength requirements — currently it is not.

During the World War II-era our facilities were designed and built to support 8 million Soldiers. Our current force is several times smaller, and continues to decrease.

However, the Department of Defense does not possess the authority or resources to manage our excess infrastructure due to fiscal restraints.

A review of our troop strength as it pertains and contributes to our excess infrastructure highlights the following:

- By the end of 2017 active-duty Soldier strength will decrease from 570,000 to 490,000.
- The Army National Guard will reduce its strength from 358,000 to 353,000 Soldiers, while the Army Reserve has already reduced to 205,000 Soldiers.
- The Army is inactivating 10 Brigade Combat Teams; each BCT requires over a million square feet of facilities. More reductions are likely with increased budget pressures.
- Many excess facilities require a certain amount of maintenance for safety and environmental reasons — these are millions of dollars in costs that can and should be avoided.
- Due to funding constraints, there is a 15-year backlog in planned demolition of buildings in "failing condition."
- The cost of maintaining unused or failing infrastructure means other critical Army programs may suffer.
- Our ability to invest in equipment, training and maintenance will be reduced.

The Army has been increasingly successful in finding innovative ways to utilize excess infrastructure. We continue to repurpose structures when and where possible, using them for training, leasing them to private industry and scheduling them for demolition when appropriate.

Base Realignment and Closure authorities have significantly helped to reduce excess infrastructure over the past decade. More than 350 installations have been closed across all military branches in five BRAC rounds: 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, and the most recent round of BRAC 2005 completed in September 2011.

Savings to defense budgets from these closures have resulted in over \$12 billion in annual savings from operating costs.

These BRAC rounds have led to many positives. Surplus property has been conveyed to new users and is being utilized for industrial, commercial, recreational or housing opportunities managed by state, county and local reuse

authorities. The surrounding communities have been great beneficiaries from our excess infrastructure. Placing excess property back into productive reuse can facilitate job creation, help communities build a local tax base and generate revenue. For example: the excess Army lodging at Fort Monmouth, N.J., was used by Hurricane Sandy evacuees to reside in; a communications company purchased land to construct a 275,000 square foot, high tech office park ultimately creating 275 jobs for the local community; and an urgent care clinic is going up to serve the local community. Sixty percent of the returned buildings at Fort Monroe, Va., closed in BRAC 2005, are being used, leased, or reused, to benefit the community.

Outside the United States we have successfully used our authorities to manage infrastructure in the most optimal way. In Europe, over the next decade our force will shrink by 45 percent. Simultaneously, the infrastructure will be reduced by 50 percent, civilian staffing will be reduced by 58 percent, and base operations costs will be reduced by 57 percent. Thus, we are able to maintain a balance in what we need to support our Soldiers and their families in order to keep them ready and resilient.

The 2005 BRAC Commission recommended that Congress authorize another BRAC round in 2015, and then every eight years thereafter. Thus far, Congress has rejected Pentagon calls for base closures. Then defense secretary Leon Panetta had called for two rounds of base closures, while at the same time arguing that the alternative of the sequester would be a "meat-ax" approach to cuts which would "hollow out" military forces.

We must face the reality that lower budgets and a smaller force require us to reduce our infrastructure. We need to begin the discussion on what the next BRAC round should look like.

From a military standpoint we need to reset to support reduced Soldier strengths; beyond excess infrastructure, what else should we consider? Should we consider the economic value or marketability of the property? Should we only consider installations with lowest environmental closure costs?

The Army's infrastructure was established to support the needs of this great nation. As the needs of the nation change in ways that reduce our force structure, we need the nation to help us reduce our infrastructure.

Katherine Hammack
Assistant secretary of the Army
for installations, energy
and environment

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

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Rocket Staff

Editor-in-chief: Col. Bill Marks, Garrison commander

Director of Public Affairs: Sharee Miller

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins

Reporters: Amy Tolson, Katie Davis Skelley

Photographer: Ellen Hudson

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: French Salter, 256-340-2463, or French.Salter@theredstonerocket.com

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Retired information management chief dies

Samuel Coleman Vaughn died Saturday in Huntsville. He was 88.

He was born Sept. 29, 1924, in Dallas County. He served in the Army during World War II. He entered in 1943 and was honorably discharged March 8, 1946, as a staff sergeant in the 99th Fighter Squadron. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Temple University.

Vaughn worked as an Army civilian

for more than 30 years and retired in 1979 from Redstone Arsenal as an information management division chief.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Gloria; a daughter, Sandra; three sons, Samuel Jr. "Skip," David and Daniel; daughter-in-law, Janice; one sister, Sarah Adams of Philadelphia, Pa.; two grandchildren, Samuel III "Cole" and Glorian; niece Sharon Quarles of Florida; and many other nieces and nephews.

Former AMCOM deputy commander dies

Dan Rubery, AMCOM's first deputy commander, died Aug. 21 in St. Louis. He retired June 30, 2000, at Redstone.

"His legacy is counted in the many, many Soldiers and civilians spread throughout our Army today, throughout AMC and AMCOM who have skills they would not have if not for him," then Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan said at the retirement ceremony.

Rubery was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1989. For 13 years prior to 1989, he held a variety of logistics responsibilities, and was named the Army Aviation Association of America's Civilian of the Year in 1990.

He spent 26 years on active duty with the Army. Most of these were in the maintenance sphere. Key assignments



Dan Rubery

included tours as commander of aviation maintenance units, staff aviation logistics planner, chief of aviation depot maintenance and director of the Aviation National Maintenance Point.

He retired as a colonel in 1989. Service achievements included a Senior Army Aviator rating in rotary-winged aircraft and overseas postings in Germany, Panama, Vietnam and Korea.

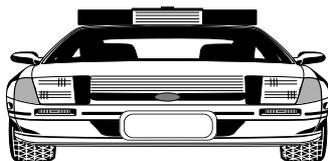
Rubery's military awards included the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Fran.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 11-17:

- Police investigated damage to government property when a government-owned vehicle fell while being loaded on a truck.
- Police investigated the larceny of a pair of basketball shoes that were left unattended on the bleachers at Pagano Gym.
- Police investigated a traffic accident with minor injuries at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads.
- Police recovered a deserter from the Fannin County (Ga.) Jail, and returned him to his unit at Fort Knox, Ky.
- Police recovered a deserter from the



Leeds Police Department and transported him to Fort Campbell, Ky.

- Police investigated a report of domestic violence in housing.
- Police investigated a no-injury traffic accident at the intersection of Martin and Lindner roads.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license when he could not provide identification at Gate 7.
- An 18-year-old was arrested for shoplifting at the Exchange. The teen was cited and released.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license when she arrived lost at Gate 9 and could not produce a valid license.
- Twenty-nine U.S. district court violation notices were issued.

Comment: Thank you, thank you, thank you for this fantastic pool! The water is always perfect at the Aquatics Center. And it's very clean, especially the ladies locker room. I've swam all over town and this pool takes the prize in cleanliness! The new "swimate" spinner is a very welcome addition. The best part is your awesome staff! They are friendly, professional and go out of their way to be accommodating! The only thing that could be better would be if it was open all day.



Response: You spoke – we listened! Effective Sept. 3, the Aquatics Center will be open all day from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pool will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tell us about your experience. Put it on ICE at ice.disa.mil. For more information or questions about the Garrison ICE Program, call Donna Johnson at 876-2924.

Getting to know you

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Tim Anderson

Position: Recreational specialist for Pagano Gym

Where do you call home?

I have lived in the Monrovia area of Madison for most of my life. But my hometown is Mobile, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

I like working with all the different people. My favorite part of my job is working with the sports department during softball season.

What are your goals?

My goal is to retire. After retirement I plan to pursue my master's and teach at the junior college level. I would also like to work with a sports department at the collegiate level.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy riding my motorcycle, training my dog, and spending time with my nieces and nephews. I've had one nephew playing high school football and one playing college football. I



try to make all of their games, which keeps me busy during football season. This year, I plan to attend games at both the University of South Alabama and Auburn. I was an Auburn fan when they could not pay for a win, and I still support Auburn today. No fair weather fan here!

What's on your bucket list?

I want to attend a football game in every Southeastern Conference stadium. So far I have been to Alabama, Auburn and Vanderbilt. I would also like to learn how to scuba dive.

Soldier

Continued from page 1

“This allows the Soldier to begin that re-integration process while also remaining on active duty and receiving all the benefits of being on active duty,” Reid said.

Reid reports on Hitt's progress to the CBWTU command team.

“Our model is set up to where the Soldier can be remotely managed,” CBWTU commander Maj. Gregory O'Hara said.

“Once they in-process with us, they are released to go to their home of record in our four-state region, which includes Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, and seek medical care and get well so that they can either come back to the force or receive a medical discharge and become a productive citizen of our country.”

The CBWTU focuses on healing the Soldier holistically. Besides a team of medical experts focused on managing the Soldier's physical recovery, the unit also provides behavioral health services to assist the Soldier in overcoming any psychological barriers to full recovery.

“A Soldier heals better when he's at home,” O'Hara said.

“We work with the Soldier for balanced health. While he is healing, we also help the Soldier find gainful employment that gives them something to go back to if he is medically discharge. We help them set goals for their future and we work on a plan that will get them discharged from the CBWTU, and returned to either military service or a civilian life.”

The Redstone CBWTU, which is part of the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., can manage the medical care of up to 220 Soldiers. O'Hara said his staff of 37 views the progress of every healing Soldier as a personal challenge.

“There's nothing more rewarding than seeing a Soldier come into this program not feeling well or hurt, and then helping them to go back to the fighting force or to being a productive citizen,” the commander said.

Hitt is a member of the CBWTU's Care Team Delta. He reports in daily with Sgt. Christopher Steade, and reports for work with the Tennessee National Guard whenever he feels able. That usually amounts to one or two days a week, Steade said.

“All Soldiers have to have a duty station. While they are assigned to the CBWTU, they work in internships in the community or work with their local National Guard or Reserve units,” he said. “The Tennessee National Guard is heavily involved with Sgt. Hitt's situation. They have really given him excellent support.”

“How much Sgt. Hitt works really depends on how he is feeling. We leave that up to him to let us know what he can do.”

Reid is confident Hitt will make it through his treatment and return to full military service.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Sgt. Johnny Hitt works with Sgt. Christopher Steade, left, and Capt. David Reid of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit to manage his health care while he fights lymphoma.

“He definitely has the world ahead of him,” Reid said. “He has the best oncology team. The medical treatment he is currently receiving is superior.”

Hitt is undergoing his third chemotherapy treatment. The first two types of chemotherapy that were used didn't impact his cancer.

“The cancer was still growing after the first chemotherapy I tried,” he said. “Then, they put me on an experimental pill for four weeks. It still kept growing. Now, I'm on an R-CHOP regimen, which involves four medications to wipe out the white blood cells. And that seems to be working.”

R-CHOP is used in patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Doctors hope this third type of regimen will be the difference in Hitt's battle.

“It takes me about a week to recover from a treatment,” Hitt said. “It wipes me out and I don't want to eat anything. I've lost a lot of weight. In April, I weighed 192. I now weigh 157. This really takes a toll on the body. I'm a lot weaker, a lot more tired.”

“This time around, my body is actually responding the way it's supposed to. I am starting to lose my hair and I haven't shaved in three days. Before this chemotherapy, I had enough hair for three people and I could shave twice a day.”

Hitt takes a chemotherapy treatment every 21 days. After three more treatments, doctors hope to do a bone marrow transplant later this year with bone marrow donated by Hitt's twin brother, Donnie, who

lives in Dodge City, Ala.

This isn't Hitt's only brush with a life-threatening illness. Although he's been healthy most of his life, he overcame a Brown Recluse spider bite when he was a first grader that landed him in the Children's Hospital in Birmingham for three months.

“They gave me a 50/50 chance of surviving that,” he said. “The spider bit me right in the chest near my heart. Because it was close to my vital organs, the bite started shutting everything down. My skin turned blue.”

“I made it through that. It is what it is.”

Hitt's diagnosis has been tough both physically and psychologically. Besides fighting the fatigue that comes with chemotherapy treatments, he also must contend with the feelings about being left behind by his Tennessee National Guard unit.

“When I was in Jordan, that deployment I did as a volunteer with Charlie Battery, 181st Field Artillery. But my actual unit, Alpha Battery, just activated to Fort Bliss (Texas) to get ready for a deployment to Afghanistan,” he said.

“It's tough watching my buddies leave.”

Hitt's official job in the Tennessee National Guard is to serve as a 94P, or HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) rocket launcher mechanic.

“My unit is the first National Guard unit to deploy with HIMARS. They are taking HIMARS and I'm not going to get to go with them. But when they come back in 11 months, I will be there to welcome them back,” Hitt said.

Hitt joined the Tennessee National Guard in 2005 because it provided an opportunity for him to have a steady income that would support his family.

“I worked in this factory for five years. I bought my first house when I was 21,” he said. “I was making \$15 an hour plus overtime. That was good money and things were going fine, Sara was on her way with my first wife. But then the company I worked for filed for bankruptcy.”

Hitt joined the Guard and discovered a new career opportunity where he could excel. Although he was assigned to field artillery, Hitt and the rest of his Guard unit trained as military police for their first deployment to Iraq in 2007-08. In 2010, Hitt came to Redstone Arsenal and trained in his current military occupational specialty.

“I was here for seven months at OMEMS (Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School) learning how to be a HIMARS mechanic. My group was one of the last to go through here at Redstone,” he said.

He then worked as a full-time mechanic in Nashville for the Guard, repairing and refurbishing vehicles that returned after a Tennessee National Guard deployment.

“I've worked on just about every vehicle in the Army, from a TOW mortar to a five-ton truck. If it drives, I've worked on it. The only thing I haven't worked on in the Army is the helicopters,” Hitt said.

Besides the support he's received from his family and the CBWTU, Hitt has also benefited from the support of his Guard unit. Artic Heating and Air in Lawrenceburg worked with members of the Tennessee National Guard to hold a golf tournament in Hitt's honor that raised more \$9,000, which will be put in a college trust fund for his daughter.

Buffalo River Farms will host the couple's wedding for free, thanks to the efforts of the Guard's family readiness coordinator volunteers. And Brittney has received a wedding dress donated by Brides Across America, a national organization that helps military wives have the wedding of their dreams.

“It's pretty awesome,” Hitt said. “We didn't even ask for it. People just came to us saying we can do this or we can do that for you all. It has really helped out a lot.”

Brittney, who has been dating Hitt for two years, is proud of her fiancé and hopes he will be healthy enough to enjoy the wedding.

“I'm really looking forward to it. Hopefully, he's going to feel OK that day,” she said.

Sidelined for now, Hitt plans on returning to full service as soon as he wins his battle against cancer. He is looking forward to a future with his new family, which includes Brittney's son, 4-year-old Xavier.

“The doctors are pretty optimistic about this and so am I. It is what it is,” he said. “You only have one life to live. This doesn't bother me. It's just something I have to get through.”

“Everyone dies of something. But that's not my plan right now. I plan on going back to what I do as a Soldier. I love my job.”

On this date in history: Aug. 28

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

In 1609: Henry Hudson discovers and explores Delaware Bay.

In 1867: The United States occupies the Midway Islands in the Pacific.

In 1917: Ten suffragists are arrested

as they picket the White House.

In 1937: Toyota Motors becomes an independent company.

In 1963: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. makes his “I have a dream speech” at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1986: Navy officer Jerry A. Whitworth

is sentenced to 365 years for spying.

In 1988: Seventy people are killed in the crash of three Italian AF fighters at an air show in Germany.

In 2005: Hurricane Katrina hammers the southeastern United States, especially New Orleans and coastal Mississippi.

Painting depicts daughter's love for fallen Soldier

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

Seventh-grade artist Elizabeth Crouse paints from the heart.

So, when she was asked to paint a mural in the new Survivor Outreach Services room at Army Community Service, she knew she had to accept the invitation in honor of her dad.

Today, her dad's frame stands tall on the wall at the SOS room at the Community Welcome Center, building 3443. He is wearing his combat uniform, with a backpack on his back and his weapon strapped over his left shoulder. He is holding the hand of a little girl as she looks up at the dad who now lives only in her memories. The mural is painted in silhouette form with the figures in black, giving viewers the opportunity to use their mind's eye to fill in the images behind the Soldier and child.

To Elizabeth, the tall Soldier will always be her dad – Sgt. Robert Crouse – and the little girl with the pony tail flopping to the side will always be her.

“There's not much I remember about my dad because I was only 4 when he died,” she said. “But I do remember my dad being really, really tall.”

Elizabeth's dad died of a sudden heart attack on July 8, 2004, during a family trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the museums and see the monuments. A physically fit, 30-year-old Soldier, Crouse had recently undergone tests for possible seizures prior to the trip with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children. The family spent the day at the museums and was at the World War II monument when he died.

“He had to see the World War II memorial,” Elizabeth's mom, Jennifer Brock, said. “He walked around the entire memorial and read all the writings on the memorial. We were in front of the fountain and he said ‘Thank you, guys, for an awesome day. I love you guys.’ And then he had a heart attack and died on the memorial.”

For a 4-year-old, the memory is more sketchy.

“I didn't know what happened. I saw him fall down and the ambulance came,” Elizabeth, now 13, recalled.

She remembers playing “squishy, squishy face” with her dad. She remembers crawling in a clothes basket and her dad singing to her as he swung her around in the basket. She remembers her dad being so tall that his head would hit the ceiling light in their home's hallway. She remembers the family's new addition, a Jack Russell-mix dog named Scooby, biting him on the nose



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Seventh-grader Elizabeth Crouse shares her love for her father with others through a silhouette painting she painted on a wall at the new Survivor Outreach Services room at Army Community Service. Elizabeth was 4 when her father, Sgt. Robert Crouse, died suddenly of a heart attack.

when he returned from Korea.

“They ended up being best friends. They would do the Lady and the Tramp thing (eating from both ends of a spaghetti noodle until meeting in the middle) with a hot dog,” Elizabeth said.

Tribute for survivors

Elizabeth, who attends the Academy for Academics and Arts, and her two older siblings, Aedon and Veronica, who both attend Grissom High School, participate in SOS family programs coordinated by Kerrie Branson of ACS. It was Branson who invited Elizabeth to paint the mural.

The idea came out of the SOS fall festival, where Elizabeth participated in an art therapy class that let children express their grief and sadness through art. Elizabeth decorated a small plate with a painting of a purple bird sitting on a red flower. To paint her plate, she thought about funerals in Japan and anime stories, pulling from Asian images of flowers and birds, and using rich blue, red and purple colors that would be found at an Asian funeral.

“When I saw her beautiful painting of a bird, I immediately asked her if she would be willing to paint a mural in our new SOS room,” Branson said.

“I thought it would be very meaningful to have one of the survivors paint a tribute on behalf of all the survivors. I told her to think about what she would like to do, and when she brought her sketch to me at the next SOS outreach event, I was speechless.”

Elizabeth's inspiration came from her memories of her dad and the wall space where her art would be painted.

“Usually, I think of pictures through music,” Elizabeth said. “But when Kerrie asked me to do this, I was just standing there looking at the wall and I thought it would be really cool to make a silhouette of a Soldier holding the hand of a little girl.”

Elizabeth researched on the Internet for silhouettes of Soldiers and children. She then sketched out the shapes in her sketchbook and came up with a plan for the mural. She drew out her mural freehand on the wall and painted the silhouette in black.

“My favorite memory about Elizabeth painting the mural is when I asked her what she thinks about when she looks at the painting,” Branson said.

“Her response brought tears to my eyes. She said ‘I think that my dad will always be with me.’”

Branson went online and found a wall application with the words “I will always be with you.” She applied this to the wall next to Elizabeth's painting.

“It's so perfect for every child, spouse, mother, father, brother, sister or anyone who has lost a servicemember to hear that their fallen servicemember will always be with them,” Branson said.

Her dad's love

For Elizabeth's mom, the opportunity for her daughter to share her art and her love for her dad was a dream come true.

“She has been drawing ever since she could hold a crayon and to see such beautiful art from her, being she is so young, is absolutely amazing,” Brock said.

“I was in tears when I saw her paintings on the walls in the SOS room. She has waited so long to be able to share her art with others and this opportunity allowed her to show others just how passionate she is about her talent. She loves the idea that others can share in her passion and possi-

bly heal their hearts with her vision of her father.”

Elizabeth's silhouette is a reflection of what her mother has tried to teach her and her siblings about their fallen Soldier.

“From the very first day after the death of their dad I wanted them to realize that he did not leave us, he simply just couldn't be touched or seen anymore. Their dad was a remarkable man of many interests and talents, and I needed them to realize that his death did not end their being a part of him,” Brock said.

Even though the children were all young when their dad died, Elizabeth's mom has encouraged them to talk about their dad, and their feelings for him and his death. She reminds them of the qualities they share with their father, and they celebrate his birthday and remember him at holidays.

“I simply just wanted to let them know that even if he couldn't be seen or touched he would always be a part of everything we do and most of all never forgotten,” Brock said.

“I also allowed them to speak whatever feelings they were going through and I feel allowing the anger to be expressed freely allowed them to finally empty their hearts of the hurt of him not being here, and open it up for all the love he had for us when he was here and the love he still has for us. With a lot of love, understanding for each other's feelings and communication we were able to somehow get through the hard times.”

Elizabeth's mom has since remarried and works as a manager trainee in FMWR's Child, Youth and School Services. Their stepfather, retired Sgt. 1st Class Will Brock, is now helping Elizabeth's mom raise her three teenagers.

Elizabeth has painted other wall art in the SOS room. In a children's play area, she has painted some of her favorite anime characters, a colorful horse known as Rainbow Dash and four warriors known as Ninjago.

“I love anime characters and the anime shows. Sometimes the story lines are better than on regular television shows,” Elizabeth said.

See Artist on page 12

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National preparedness focus for September

September is National Preparedness Month. It is a great time for Team Redstone employees to prepare themselves and those in their care for emergencies and disasters.

The Team Redstone Employees Preparedness Day will be held Sept. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. All Arsenal employees, including military, civilian and contractors, are encouraged to attend as work schedules allow.

Every year since 2004, the president issues a proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness Month to encourage this nation's citizens to prepare for emergencies, in their homes, businesses, schools and communities. The national theme for 2013 is "You Can be a Hero."

The Army supports NPM through the Ready Army Program and Team Redstone participates in NPM by holding its employee preparedness event.

Team Redstone Employee Preparedness Day offers an opportunity for the work force to gain awareness, extensive knowledge, and to ask questions aimed to in-

crease their individual level of preparedness for emergencies and disasters. Short informational briefings will be presented in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Speakers and topics will include: AMCOM Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Boulware speaking on coping with disaster related stress; Kathleen Riester, Army Community Service, speaking on the Army Disaster Accountability Assessment System and emergency financial planning; Jessica Rasche, Crisis Service Center for North Alabama, speaking on the crisis information 2-1-1 system; and David Kesting, Fox Army Health Center, speaking on the hazards of prolonged sitting.

Outside the auditorium, many Redstone organizations and the local emergency response community will be available to explain their organization's daily and emergency operations, provide preparedness information, answer your individual questions and help you take steps to increase your level of preparedness.

For more information, call the AMCOM EM/COOP Office at 876-5662 or 842-4821.

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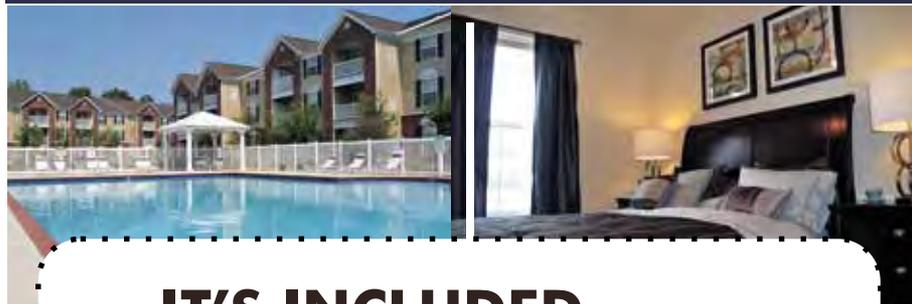
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Spiritual living at Redstone

Protestant group offers programs

By **CELESTE WILLIAMS**

Protestant Women of the Chapel president

Fall is a busy season of life. Schools, colleges and sports become a whirlwind of activity. What plans, commitments and obligations are you making for the coming months?

As you fill your schedule with wonderful and meaningful opportunities to contribute to the good of our communities and schools, don't forget to add something to your schedule that will replenish and refresh your spirit also. One of the ministries of the Protestant service is the Protestant Women of the Chapel. We hope that women will make time for Protestant Women of the Chapel as we begin a new series of Bible studies and programs on Thursdays beginning Aug. 29 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Bicentennial Chapel.

These studies are open to all women in the Redstone community who want to study the Bible in a small group setting. PWOC has been a part of the Protestant chapel community for more than 50 years. It is a special place for women who share the military/DoD experience and the desire to be encouraged with others who have similar life experiences. The focus of PWOC is to bring women together to study the Bible, but there is also plenty of time to visit (with snacks of course), a short devotional and worship with song.

This year, PWOC will be reaching out further into the local community with outreach projects to coordinate with special programs held several times over the year. The ministry outreach that will be introduced at our kickoff program Thursday will be for Inside-Out Ministries, founded and directed by Larry and Deborah Ward. Inside-Out Ministries is a local program that helps families through financially tough situations. PWOC will be collecting household cleaning items, personal hygiene items and toiletries to donate to this important ministry in the community.

Our speaker for the kickoff program will be Sharon Olshefski, director of the Baby Care Program/Neighborhood Baby Thrift Store, a local ministry of Second Mile. Ladies are invited to partake in a light lunch with a beach theme at the

Bicentennial Chapel Sunday Schedule

Catholic Mass 9 a.m.

Protestant Sunday
School 9:30 a.m.

Protestant
Worship Service
11 a.m.



kickoff program.

The Thursday morning studies offered this fall include a popular DVD series by popular evangelist, author and Bible teacher Beth Moore called "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things," I Corinthians; "Godly Solutions for Church Problems" by noted Bible scholar, pastor and bestselling author John MacArthur; and Respectable Sins by evangelical Christian author and speaker Jerry Bridges. An evening study on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. will go through the book of Galatians.

There is limited child-care for the morning studies on a first come, first serve basis, and there is also a program offered through Child, Youth and School Services for homeschooled children at the same time as our Thursday meetings. All children need to be registered with Child, Youth and School Services, located at the Community Welcome Center, building 3443.

Jewish holiday

Rosh Hashanah begins Sept. 4. Religious services for this holy day are offered at local synagogues. Call the religious support office for more information at 842-2965.

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services at noon Monday through Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175.

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry, "addressing the needs of men and planting seeds for spiritual growth in Christ Jesus," meets on a Saturday each month - for exact date, call Harry Hobbs at 425-5307 - at 9 a.m. at the Links.



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Mold removed from child development center

By CHRIS COLSTER
Garrison Public Affairs

The Child Development Center on Mills Road, buildings 5600 and 5601, opened as usual Aug. 19 after cleanup crews worked over the weekend to clean up mold found in both buildings.

Employees noticed mold in the kitchen and other areas during the week of Aug. 11 and the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, working in conjunction with the Directorate of Public Works, contracted with EMSL Inc. of Smyrna, Ga., to test samples of the mold and immediately begin remediation efforts.

"In our hot, humid environment, mold is always a concern," FMWR director Derrick Gould said. "There is no 'safe' level of mold for our buildings, so we take immediate action whenever any mold is discovered."

As soon as mold was detected, caregivers at the CDC buildings removed children from the affected areas until the mold could be identified and removed. Higher than normal humidity levels in the buildings

contributed to the growth of the mold. The HVAC systems for the two buildings are being adjusted to prevent future mold growth.

Molds can cause health problems and can cause different reactions in different people. If anyone suspects that mold might be the cause of health problems, it is important to discuss this with a primary care physician.

Potential health effects associated with mold exposure may include irritation of the eyes, skin, nose, throat and lungs of both mold allergic and non-allergic people. In sensitive individuals, allergic reactions can be caused by inhaling or touching mold.

"I'm really proud of the quick and thorough effort of Team Redstone," Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks said. "We were able to identify our problem, quickly mobilize an independent lab to analyze samples and then to begin remediation - all within a couple of days."

Officials urge everyone on Redstone Arsenal to remain alert for the possibility of any type of health hazard and to report it as soon as possible.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

9.11K Run

The annual 9.11K Run is Sept. 7 at 7:30 a.m. at Pagano Gym. Check-in for the 5.66-mile race is 6:30-7:15. Race day registration is \$20. For more information, call 876-6701 or 876-2943.

No Friday movie this week

Because of the Labor Day holiday, there is no Friday movie this week. A free movie is usually shown each Friday at 6 p.m. at Heiser Hall, building 3712 near the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. For more information, call Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president Staff Sgt. Perry Logan (205) 585-9564 or Child Youth and School-Age Services' Kevin Frankson, 842-3202. Snacks are sold for a nominal fee.

Oktoberfest in September

The ever-popular Oktoberfest is set for Sept. 12-15 at Redstone's Activity Field. Hours each day are: Sept. 12 from 5-10 p.m.; Sept. 13 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sept. 14 from noon to 1 a.m.; and Sept. 15 from noon to 7 p.m. Admission ticket includes: free carnival rides, free entertainment and free parking, and music by Terry Cavanagh & the Alpine Express. Authentic German food and festival fare will be for sale. The sponsor is Papa John's Pizza. The HHGregg/WOW Sports Pavilion will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday

showing college and NFL football and other sports on five HD televisions. New for 2013 is the Craft Biergarten, which is a sampling of a variety of craft beers. Tickets will be available at the Craft Biergarten Tent. Tickets for Oktoberfest can be purchased at the gate to the Activity Field. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Rhythms, brew and barbecue

The Rhythms, Brew & Barbecue Festival is Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. at Redstone's Activity Field. Featured R&B artists include Joe, Angie Stone and Raheem Devaughn. The sponsor is 94.1 WHRP. Advance and premium tickets are available. Premium tickets include preferred center stage seating, a catered dinner and beverages, cash bar and indoor restrooms. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Youth golf

CYSS Sports and Golf League tees off Sept. 7 and continues through Nov. 9. The program is from 1-4 p.m. at the Links and is open to ages 8-17. This is a recreational golf league, not an instructional league. Participants should have a basic knowledge of golf rules and etiquette as well as basic skills. Players should be able to play, walk and carry their golf bag for nine holes with little help from a parent or coach. Age and skill groupings will depend on registration numbers. Volunteer course monitors are always needed and appreciated. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3699.

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Annual conference focuses on better quality of life

By **TERRI STOVER**

Garrison Public Affairs

Have you used the indoor pool at the Redstone Aquatics Center? Did you renew your car tag or driver's license at the Madison County office inside the One Stop?

These are just a few of the amenities we have at Redstone, and we have them because of your suggestions to Team Redstone's Army Family Action Plan (last year known as the Community Action Plan).

The Team Redstone AFAP offers you the opportunity to improve life at our installation and the Army. All members of the military, retired military, family members, civilian employees and survivors of our fallen heroes can identify issues of concern that impact the

quality of life of the entire Army family.

The suggestions and input given to the Team Redstone AFAP impact decisions made locally, but are also submitted to the Army Family Action Plan at the Pentagon level. Suggestions come from every Army installation worldwide.

Each year Team Redstone holds a two-day conference with representatives from across post and every aspect of life at Redstone to discuss the ideas you have shared through surveys. The delegates from tenant organizations, retiree groups, military and family groups discuss topics in four workgroups: health care; personnel administration; family programs; and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation.

The conference is a decision-making tool

for Redstone leaders, as they help refine and prioritize the issues that are submitted. This year's conference is Nov. 6-7 at the Community Activity Center.

Since AFAP was created in 1983, there have been 692 AFAP issues, of which 520 have resulted in changes to improve the quality of life for Soldiers, their families, retirees and civilian employees. The issues that have resulted in change include 128 legislative changes, 184 Department of Defense or Army policy changes and 208 improvements or creation of programs.

Examples of accomplishments through AFAP include establishing school liaison officers, guaranteed cost of living adjustments for retirees, advanced life support services on continental U.S. installations, and establishing child care standards for Army installa-

tion child care centers.

You have two ways to provide your ideas and suggestions for the AFAP. One is to submit the survey below to the Army Community Service quality of life program manager, Carie Green. You can mail your completed survey to ACS, building 3443 on Honest John Road, Redstone Arsenal 35756, or drop it by the Community Welcome Center welcome desk at building 3443. You can submit an online survey at www.redstonemwr.com/surveys/afap/afap_survy.php.

The second way to improve the quality of life at Redstone is to get involved with the Team Redstone AFAP as a conference delegate. You can submit your information to Carie Green at the ACS office, building 3443, or email to carie.c.green.civ@mail.mil.

Army Family Action Plan survey form

Name: (Optional)

Email: (Optional)

Phone: (Optional)

Demographic Data: Circle all that applies to you.

Active Duty (AD)
National Guard (NG)
Reserve Component
Civilian (CIV)/Spouse
Civilian Contractor
Family member
Surviving Spouse
Teen
Retiree/Spouse

Marital Status:

Single
Married
Widow

ISSUE TITLE: The title is used to identify the issue and should be short, simple and clear to anyone not

familiar with the issue. Examples include: Benefits and Entitlements, Medical and Dental Services, and Transportation.

ISSUE SCOPE: The scope is a clear and concise statement that summarizes the issue. It should answer three questions: What is the problem, who does it affect and why is it a problem?

ISSUE RECOMMENDATION: The recommendation is your suggested solution. It should be very specific in terms of what needs to be done, and the desired result or end product.

Would you like to participate in the Team Redstone AFAP process as a conference delegate? Conference delegates represent the RSA demographics. Delegates will discuss and prioritize what they think are the most critical issues.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

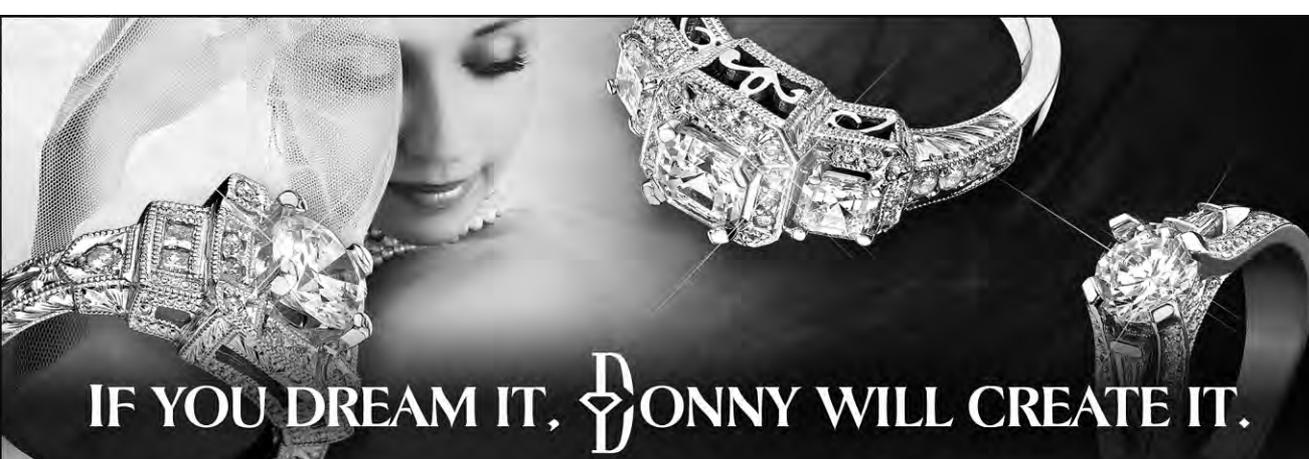
Only issues that follow the above guidelines will be considered. Once submitted, your issue is addressed through the AFAP process. During the year, it is sent to the agency or organization that can provide feedback about how to solve the issue. It is then included among the issues addressed during the annual Team Redstone AFAP Conference, this year Nov. 6-7. However, it may take time for the results of your issue to be seen. You may always follow up on an issue.

Privacy Policy: If you choose to pro-

vide us with personal information (as in an e-mail to our program managers or directorates, or the Webmaster, or by filling out a form with your personal information and submitting it to us through our website) we use that information to respond to your message and to help us get you the information you have requested. We do not collect personal information for any purpose other than to respond to you. Moreover, we do not create individual profiles with the information you provide or to give it to any private organizations.

If you would like to leave feedback on a specific Redstone Arsenal facility or program, visit our Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Site: https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=513.

You can mail your completed survey to the AFAP POC at: ACS, 3443 Honest John Rd, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35756, or drop it by the welcome desk at the Pershing Welcome Center, 3443 Honest John Rd.



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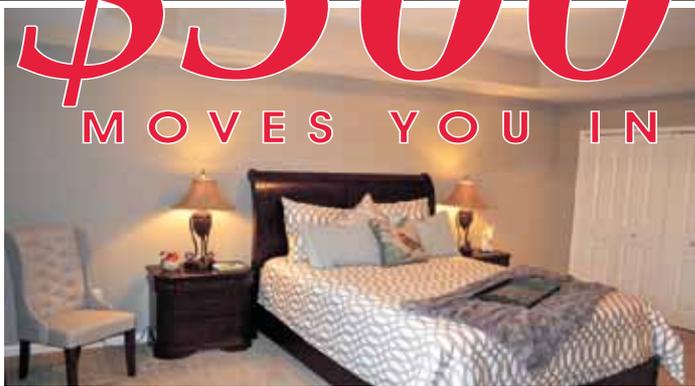
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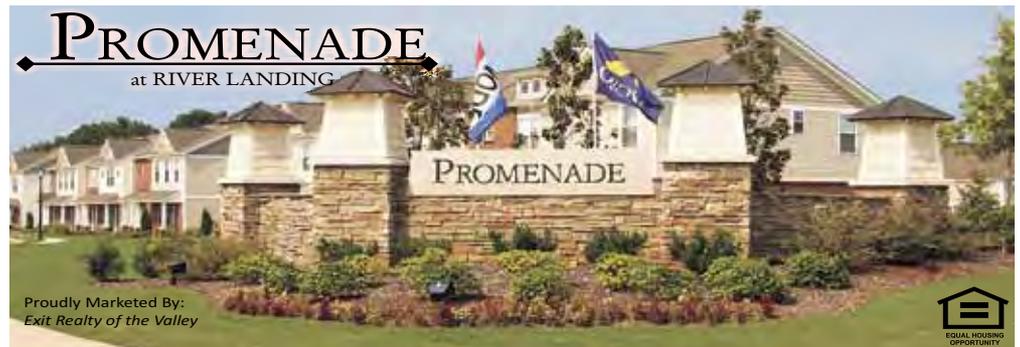
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Artist

Continued from page 5

Elizabeth draws in her sketchbook every day. "I challenge myself to see how fast I can fill up a sketch book," she said. "I sketch a lot of anime. My favorite anime characters include Death Note, Yuki and TriGun."

At the Academy for Academics and Arts, Elizabeth takes advanced art classes. She has also reached out to the special needs children at the K-8 school, and often talks to them and plays with them during recess and other school breaks. She aspires to go to an art college, perhaps Julliard in New York City, and work as a graphic artist or animator for Disney. She has even thought of being a special education art teacher someday.

Survivor programs

SOS did not exist when Elizabeth's dad died. The family not only had to come to terms with his death, but they also had to learn to live outside the military community as they were no longer allowed to live on an Army installation after their Soldier's death. A few years later, the SOS director at Fort Campbell, Ky., contacted the family.

"Once we knew about SOS we were so excited to finally have a place to go where we didn't feel alone in the military community and where we could help others progress in their grieving and if nothing else help others



Photo by Kari Hawkins

In the children's play area, Elizabeth Crouse painted some of her favorite anime characters.

understand that there is hope," Brock said.

"It was an amazing blessing to be able to be with others who understood us and to be in a military setting again was like finally coming back home. My children were able to be with other children who knew what they were going through and they were able to be around other military children again."

The family remained involved with SOS after moving from the Fort Campbell area to Huntsville. Elizabeth said the SOS events that she and her family have attended have helped her understand the loss of her dad, and to enjoy fun times with other kids and families who have lived through the same

kind of loss.

"I just like the SOS events because they're really cool and the cooking is awesome. I really love food," she said.

Elizabeth's response to the SOS events, which include a lot of fun activities for children, and a lot of interaction with Soldiers and other volunteers, is the kind of response that Branson is looking for from the children of fallen servicemembers.

"The idea behind the outreach events is to just have fun," she said.

"We want them to have a place to hopefully connect with other surviving children, but most of all just forget all the unhappiness in their lives and have a good time whether it be by participating in an art activity, volley ball, swimming or other things we do."

SOS supports families of fallen servicemembers by giving them a place to connect with other families in similar circumstances, and a place where their feelings of loss are accepted and understood.

"We want these children to know they are not alone and there are other children who have experienced the kind of tragic loss they have, and that people care and want to keep their loved one's memory alive and continue to honor them for their service to our country," Branson said.

"We are also able to help with their recovery process, and assess what their needs are and make referrals as appropriate. It's our

way to wrap our arms around them and let them know we care."

Remembering the loss

Branson said visitors to SOS have been touched by Elizabeth's mural.

"Her mural is amazing and hard to believe when you see it that it was done freehand. There is so much detail to it, like the way the little girl is looking up at her dad and the wrinkles in his uniform," Branson said.

"I hope that when people look at it they feel some of the pain, tragedy, and sadness because frankly that is what survivors feel when losing their loved one. But I also hope they walk away with pride for the service of those fallen Soldiers to our great country, and the courageous survivors they left behind. We have so much to learn from them about being resilient. And, most of all, I hope it is a reminder that freedom is not free."

For Elizabeth's mom, the mural is a reminder of the timelessness of a man's love for his family.

"I hope Elizabeth remembers that he was a man with a heart full of love and hope for his family," Brock said. "He valued family more than anything else in the world and I would hope that Elizabeth would keep those same values. And like the memories she does have, I hope that she remembers that he will always hold her in his arms while saying how much he loves her."



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Missile defense team supports community project

By Lt. Col. KENNY JOHNSON and THERESA MOXLEY
For the Rocket

Who hasn't heard of Habitat for Humanity? You are probably very familiar with the fact that they build houses. On July 20, several members of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System's Integrated Fire Control Product Office teamed up with their counterparts from the Northrop Grumman IBCS IFC Integrated Product Team to serve at the Habitat for Humanity in Huntsville.

Habitat for Humanity said it serves as a Christian-based housing ministry that works in partnership with God and people to make ownership of decent affordable homes a matter of conscience and action. It is a global organization that has built or rehabilitated more than 500,000 homes for more than 2.5 million people. It has done this in almost 90 countries.

The Habitat for Humanity of Madison County was established in 1987, according to volunteer coordinator Janet Wright. Since then they have served 241 families in Madison County. In fact, this past year they completed construction on 10 new homes, conducted 14 renovations and completed six "A Brush with Kindness" projects, which is their home repair program.

There are currently 50 families in the Madison County program. What a lot of people may not know is that Habitat for Humanity doesn't just give away the



Photo by Janet Wright

Preparing to work for the Habitat for Humanity in Madison County on July 20 are, from left, Tom Penick, Jeff Moore, Sally Watts, Luis Blanche', Holly Kirkland, Tom Nguyen, Joe Pierce, Theresa Moxley and Lt. Col Kenny Johnson.

homes that are built. There is a zero percent mortgage attached to them and 100 percent of their interest mortgage payment goes to building the next home. In the fall they plan to build four homes, two in the Harvest area and two in Huntsville as well as conduct four renovations. In the spring of 2014 they will take the ambitious step of breaking ground to build an entirely new neighborhood that will have 32 homes.

PM IBCS IFC is a product office in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space and has the cost, schedule and performance responsibility for the Integrated Fire Control Network, the IFCN Relay Major End Item and the ad-

aptation of several air defense weapons and sensors. The IBCS IFC IPT, one of several IPTs in the Northrop Grumman IBCS program, designs and produces the IFCN Relay MEL. In addition to the IFCN Relay, the IFC IPT is the lead for network design and integration in both the IFC Relay and the Engagement Operations Center. The IFC IPT also provides IP networking expertise for the IBCS program.

This event was both a joint team building activity and a community outreach opportunity to lend a hand to a local organization in our community.

Unfortunately, we didn't have the opportunity to do a glamorous service

project like help build a house. The good news is that we were still able to serve by doing some "grunt" work and provided much needed assistance to completing part of the Habitat for Humanity Madison County headquarters.

For several hours the PM IBCS IFC and NG IBCS IFC IPT teams worked in a warehouse located in the headquarters area. We installed insulation in ceilings; performed caulking and hung ceiling tiles in what will eventually be many Habitat headquarters offices and rest rooms. We fixed a few stair hand rails, cleaned up a paint room and rearranged part of the warehouse garage.

Part of the PM IBCS IFC team consisted of Army civilians. Even though they were going through the second week of the furlough, they decided to still take time out of their schedules and spend it helping us support this admirable organization. We commend them.

This was a great and worthwhile team building activity and joint community outreach event. Both of our teams enjoyed working together to support Habitat for Humanity. If you or your organization would like to volunteer, call the Madison County Habitat for Humanity at 533-2282.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. Kenny Johnson is the product manager of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System's Integrated Fire Control Product Office. Theresa Moxley is the Northrop Grumman IBCS IFC manager.

Drivers' patience appreciated at Redstone gates



Photo by Ellen Hudson

As Redstone Arsenal's guard force continues to shrink, commuters can expect longer wait times at the gate in the future.

Resource limits, security needs may cause longer wait times

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Furlough may be over, but the challenges of constrained resources will continue to be felt by Team Redstone's work force at the gates.

"Our resources continue to undergo attrition," said Mike Sheehy, director of emergency services, which oversees the guard force. "Even though the furlough is over, we're still in very resource constrained times, and one of the impacts of that is our guard force is continuing to shrink. Our throughput is not going to be what it has been in the past and

it's probably unrealistic to think it's going to go back to the way it was before. Everybody is going to feel the pinch of the resources constraints."

That pinch was especially felt by commuters Aug. 22, as the guard force implemented new technologies and procedures at the installation's access control points to improve security, as directed by Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks. Marks assessed in his first month of command that security at the gates was not

at a level appropriate for the unique considerations and conditions at Redstone Arsenal. Combined with the shortage of available guards, traffic quickly stacked up at the gates.

"We simply don't have enough guards to operate our gates at full capacity," Sheehy said. "That's the bottom line — it's a challenge of the times, resourcing. In addition to that, we are implementing

See Gates on page 14

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Gates

Continued from page 13

some new technologies that will enhance security and ultimately make it more convenient and efficient for the customer, but we need to do some continued fine tuning.”

Those new technologies are assisting guards in identifying counterfeit badges and expired or revoked credentials. Throughout the Department of Defense, there have been instances of guards finding “very sophisticated fraudulent IDs,” Sheehy said. The new technologies being used by the guards will not only help increase the installation’s security posture, but will help with throughput in the long run as well.

“Every day, those who would do us harm are changing their tactics and techniques,” Marks said. “We have to adapt as well. As new technologies become available to us, we must take advantage of them to maintain our security posture.”

Redstone Arsenal is not a large troop installation, but rather, is heavy into research development test and evaluation, and high technology, which translates into special considerations that need to be taken when it comes to security at the gates. Due to the nature of the business, it’s impossible to let members of the work force know exact details about increased security measures and the timing of random inspections without cluing in adversaries as well.

“Redstone is a unique installation as we all know,” Marks said. “We have

equipment, knowledge and resources that are critical to our nation’s security. It’s an awesome task to ensure that we operate as safely and securely as we possibly can.”

With the shortage of guards, commuters can expect to see more changes as Garrison officials work to find the right balance to ensure an efficient throughput, whether it is changing hours of operation, how many lanes are open or the number of guards at each gate, while still maintaining an appropriate level of safety and security. The impact of the shrinking guard force and increased security measures on drivers is not lost on Sheehy and staff.

“We are mindful of the impact that it has on our customers, and as a result, we’re continuing to adjust to find the right balance between security and efficiency,” Sheehy said.

To assist guards at the gates, drivers should have their credentials ready when they approach the gate, and understand that longer wait times are a likely reality in the future.

“Delays are at times beyond our control, and they can be a factor of many things – how many people we can draw from to have on duty, the weather, traffic volume, our security protocols,” Sheehy said. “They’re a factor of a combination of things. Yet we want to shape conditions in order to be able to give our customers some reasonable degree of predictability, ‘Is it going to take me five minutes or 50 minutes?’ so they can plan accordingly. We will never be able to give them an exact number, but we’d like to give them a feasible band of expectation.”

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Redstone Arsenal then and now

Nation's space program launched by the Army

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
 Rocket editor
 skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

More than 50 years ago, the Army left the space exploration business.

On July 1, 1960, some 4,700 civilian employees, including the von Braun team, and \$100 million worth of buildings and equipment at Redstone Arsenal and Cape Canaveral were transferred to the newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Army built the foundation for the space program. From Jan. 31, 1958 to July 1, 1960, the Army had a series of pioneering efforts in space. During the 30 months from the successful launch of Explorer I to the formal transfer ceremony which officially opened the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, the Army did the following: placed four Earth satellites into orbit; launched the Free World's first lunar probe and first solar satellite; launched three primates into space, two of which were recovered alive; initiated an effort on a 1.5-million-pound-thrust booster being designed for a lunar exploration vehicle; and began work on the launch vehicle which would carry the first men into space.

President Eisenhower, a career military man, signed the executive order to create a civilian agency to run the U.S. space program. This offset competition among the military branches.

Subsequently, NASA acquired all the space missions from the then Army Ballistic Missile Agency.

Today the Marshall Space Flight Center has a key role in advancing NASA's mission of space exploration and discovery. The Marshall Center's engineering capabilities, extensive experience in human spaceflight system development and ability to perform cutting-edge research in Earth and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Marshall Space Flight Center represents one of NASA's largest field centers.



MSFC website photo

Historic marker for Marshall Center.

space sciences are vital to the work of the U.S. space program, the long-term success of the nation and the quality of human life across the planet.

One of NASA's largest field centers, Marshall has nearly 6,000 employees, including roughly 2,400 civil service and 3,600 contractor employees, and has an annual budget of approximately \$2 billion.

Marshall comprises 253 buildings and structures on 1,841 acres at Redstone Arsenal. Patrick Scheuermann is Marshall's director.

Editor's note: Information for this article was provided by Dr. Kaylene Hughes of the AMCOM Historical Office, and by Marshall's Public Affairs Office.

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Fox team welcomes new doctor, nurse practitioner

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

They come from two distinctly different paths – one who vowed she would never be a nurse, another who always knew he wanted to be a doctor – but together, they are working to help Fox Army Health Center's beneficiaries live a lifetime of wellness.

Fox Army Health Center has welcomed nurse practitioner Lt. Col. Carla Crouch and physician Maj. Francisco Rubio to its patient centered medical home.

"These outstanding professionals are a great addition to the Fox team," Col. William Darby, Fox Army Health Center commander, said. "Their experience and competence will enable Fox to improve on the great quality care that we already provide to our beneficiaries."

Born and raised in Indiana, Crouch never intended to be a nurse. Taking one look at her two sisters' careers in nursing, Crouch instead pursued a career in the lab. But after a few microbiology courses waiting for things to grow in Petri dishes, Crouch realized that her sisters were on to something.

"I figured out myself that I'm a people person," said Crouch, who longed for more interaction. "That was just the natural path for me."

Joining the Army National Guard to fund her education, Crouch spent the first nine years of her career in the Indiana National Guard working on her bachelor's degree in nursing, while also serving as a medic.



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Fox Army Health Center welcomes Dr. (Maj.) Francisco Rubio, left, and Lt. Col. Carla Crouch, a nurse practitioner.

Upon receiving her degree she took a direct commission on active duty and has since served in Korea, where she was assigned to the 43rd MASH before it was deactivated. Crouch also served in Germany and Kosovo as well as serving stateside at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and Fort Riley, Kan., where she completed her master's to become a nurse practitioner at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Coming to Fox Army Health Center, Crouch has a hands-on role as chief of the facility's patient centered medical home, a team focused approach that puts the patient's needs and wellness at the center of their medical care. Beneficiaries are assigned to a specific team – red, white or blue – which con-

sists of a primary care provider, two licensed practical nurses and a registered nurse.

"Patient centered medical home benefits the patient because they can have some expectations from their team," Crouch said. "Knowing where to go to get answers is key to moving along in a care plan for someone."

One of the primary goals of patient care is helping beneficiaries live a lifetime of wellness, not just coming in to Fox when something is wrong with their health.

"We do a lot of wellness reiteration," Crouch said. "That's the biggest change about health care with patient centered medical home is that we're looking forward to their health, not just what's happening right here today. As people get older, certain screenings needs to happen, and that's at the forefront of the team's mind. Have they had a colonoscopy? Have they had a mammogram? Those kind of preventive measures are being looked at by the entire team, and that helps tremendously."

Efforts are under way to fill Fox's vacant family practice positions within the three teams, allowing beneficiaries better access to appointments and improved patient care.

"The big message for patients is to understand when they call for an appointment, we are going to make every effort to ensure they have their appointment with their assigned provider," Crouch said. "Now that we've got more providers, we're going to be able to maintain that standard of having the right patient with the right provider at the right time."

Rubio is one of those new family care physicians at Fox and is responsible for the blue team. For as long as the Miami native can remember, he has wanted to be a doctor. Over the course of his 15 years in service to his country, he has served at places such as Fort Rucker, Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Stewart, Ga., Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Redstone Arsenal, where he is happy to exercise his helpful nature.

"I love just being able to help people, to help them feel better and stay healthy," Rubio said. "It's just gratifying."

One of his favorite parts of his career is evident in the Christmas cards he receives every year, from the smiling families whose lives he has touched as a family medicine doctor.

"Delivering babies at my previous assignment – that's my favorite part," Rubio said. "Being able to take care of the moms throughout their pregnancy, deliver the babies, and then take care of them until I leave. You kind of become part of their family. It's a nice thing."

As the primary care provider for the blue team at Fox, Rubio is granted the opportunity day in and day out to help his fellow Soldiers strive for a lifetime of wellness, and encourages all his beneficiaries to make healthy choices, such as exercising and eating right.

"If you just do the basic stuff, then it's really pretty easy to stay healthy, but unfortunately it's easier said than done," Rubio said. "It's following all the simple stuff that grandma said."

Fox's pathology department earns accreditation

Fox Army Health Center's Department of Pathology has received accreditation from the College of American Pathologists.

This was based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Program, according to a prepared release.

The facility's director, Michael Cooke, was advised of this national recognition

and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. Fox's Department of Pathology is one of more than 7,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide.

The federal government recognized the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, as being equal-to or more-stringent-than the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation pro-

cess, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

The College of American Pathologists,

celebrating 50 years as the gold standard in laboratory accreditation, is a medical society that serves more than 18,000 physician members and the global laboratory community. It is the world's largest association composed exclusively of board-certified pathologists and is the worldwide leader in laboratory quality assurance. The college advocates accountable, high-quality, and cost effective patient care.

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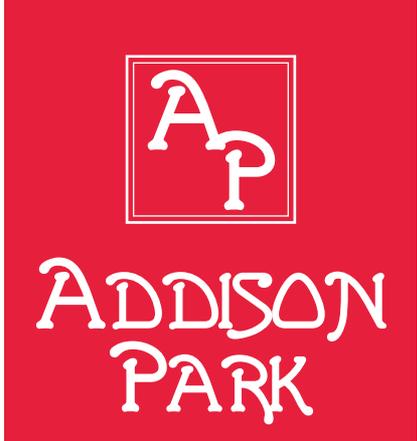
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University lends support to student veterans

By **DIANA LaCHANCE**

UAH Marketing and Communications

With a significantly higher percentage of student veterans compared to most schools of its size, the University of Alabama-Huntsville has made great strides in recent years toward meeting the needs of this nontraditional student group. And one of the most notable of late is UAH's increased participation in the Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program.

Launched in 2009 as part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Program is designed to help veteran students afford tuition at a school where they do not qualify for in-state rates. But to understand how that works, it helps to first understand how the GI Bill works.

That's where UAH's VA benefits assistant Crystal Parker comes in. Parker says there are six different benefits, known as chapters. The most common one is Chapter 33, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which applies to any servicemembers on active duty as of Sept. 10, 2001.

"The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays from 40 percent to 100 percent of in-state tuition depending on the servicemember's length of service," Parker said. "So if a student ve-

teran is receiving 90 percent of tuition costs based on 36 months of service, he's responsible for paying the other 10 percent."

Out-of-state student veterans, however, can only be certified for the in-state equivalent; they must make up the difference between in- and out-of-state tuition themselves. And in the case of UAH, that can amount to close to \$12,300 for student veterans whose GI Bill covers 100 percent of their in-state tuition.

But not anymore. Under its 2013-14 agreement with the Yellow Ribbon Program, UAH has agreed to pay 50 percent of eligible student veterans' out-of-state fees, the maximum amount. And with the VA matching the remaining 50 percent, the entirety of the difference will now be covered.

"That's really generous of any school, especially in these economic times," Parker said. "It provides a great opportunity for student veterans who are non-residents or graduates to focus on being in school instead of worrying about their financial burden."

And while this is not the first year that UAH has participated in the Yellow Ribbon Program, the university's current 50 percent match marks a significant increase over last year's – and a 100 percent increase over the previous year's.



Crystal Parker

"We care greatly about our veteran student population and are thankful for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf," UAH president Dr. Robert Altenkirch said. "We realized that the best way to honor them would be to ensure their access to a high-quality, affordable education through our full participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

That appreciation hasn't gone unnoticed by the university's veteran population, including Dr. Eric Seemann, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology and UAH's Veterans Network faculty adviser.

"This is a clear showing of support for our student veterans by the administration," said Seemann, who is on active orders with the National Guard. "It is a sort of 'meet me halfway' program to help student veterans cover any tuition overage that remains after the GI Bill or other source, if any, has paid."

As a result, he continued, "it will keep student loan borrowing to a minimum, optimize our student veterans' opportunities for success-related grants, paid traineeships, and scholarships, and keep high-quality students at UAH who may have gone elsewhere due to a tuition overage they could not afford."

Whether or not the university will continue to match at the same level next year has yet to be determined. "The university's agreement with the VA only lasts for one year," Parker said. "This is our trial year and we're going to see how it works."

But as the daughter of a veteran, and as a UAH employee, she is hopeful that it will. "It's important to help our student veterans because they serve our country – they're brave enough to face dangers that most of us can only imagine," she said. "They protect our freedoms every day, and that's something that we take very seriously."



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Program manager competes in amateur bodybuilding

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

When Porscha Porter gets up on stage, it's not about the competitors to her left or her right – it's what she brings to the contest.

"You can't control the outcome of what the judges choose and you never know who's going to show up that day," Porter said. "It's not about the person standing next to you. You can only control the package you bring."

As an amateur bodybuilder, that package – her physique – is evidence of the hard work she puts in at the gym when she's not busy at work as a program manager for the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

"I enjoy the performance of it, getting on stage and showing off all my hard work, flexing to show the different angles of where I've developed muscles," she said. "Seeing the pictures afterward and reflecting, I can't believe that's me."

It was only a few years ago that Porter was deployed to Kuwait with the Army Materiel Command, where she met a friend who indicated an interest in getting into bodybuilding when she returned stateside. Within a couple months, her body underwent an incredible transformation Porter might not have believed had she not seen it with her very eyes.

"That inspired me to say, 'Wow, this is somebody I know, this is not a magazine, this is not some fitness model. I saw this person do this transformation myself,'" Porter said. "That inspired me to challenge myself, to see if I could do it. It was an inspiration for me to see if I could go the distance."

Naturally athletic – Porter played



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Porscha Porter, program manager for the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, describes the hard work and perseverance involved in the sport of bodybuilding. She works out six days a week and maintains a strict diet to get ready for competitions.

softball at Alabama A&M University and then with the Huntsville Recreation League after graduation – bodybuilding became a new sport for the Florida native, who had to think beyond whether she could hit a home run or catch a fly ball.

"This is the best shape I've ever been in in my entire life," Porter said. "This is on a whole other level of fitness. When you're just playing sports it's not so much about body composition – sports is all about ability, skills. I've become more in tune with my body. When I eat certain things I can see it. I am that in tune with myself. I can tell if I haven't had enough calories because I'm not as strong. You



Courtesy photo

Hours in the gym and a strict diet prepare Porscha Porter for her time on stage as a bodybuilder.

become so aware of everything."

With the help of a trainer who holds her own pro card in bodybuilding, Porter developed the workout and diet needed to get herself stage ready. Hitting the gym for an hour six days a week, Porter spends 30 minutes doing cardio and 30 minutes lifting, rotating between the major muscle groups each days, such as shoulders and triceps on Mondays, legs on Thursdays. At her peak, she can lift 500 pounds at the leg press.

"It's not as much time in the gym as people think – 90 percent is diet," said Porter, the mother of two. "You can work out every day, but if you don't eat right, you're never going to see it. It makes a difference what your diet is in terms of how fast you will see your body change. You don't have to kill yourself in the gym. It's one hour a day and that's all you need."

To counter her muscle mass with a lean physique, a balance that is essential to scoring well at competitions Porter said, she eats six meals a day, typically comprised of protein, chicken or fish. Everything is grilled or baked – no fried foods, dairy, or fruit – with small amounts of brown rice or sweet potatoes and other veggies thrown in. In the off-

season she lifts heavier and eats more, but when she's preparing for competitions, such as last weekend's state championship in Gadsden, it's all about leaning up.

"It doesn't happen overnight," she said. "Women are already not as prone to gain muscles as men, so it takes us a little time, with the right type of diet, to build that type of muscle and keep it lean at the same time."

Porter not only had to refine her workouts and diet to succeed, but also develop a stage presence, complete with the proper tan, bikini, hair, makeup and poses.

"Stage presentation is a big part I didn't realize," Porter said. "It's almost like a pageant. You have to get up there and be poised, present yourself. I don't care how good you look, if you can't get up there and present it, it doesn't do you any good."

Hard work and perseverance has paid off for Porter who did her first show, the Rocket City Classic, in July 2012, and went on to the state championship in Gadsden, where she received third place in her class for figure. She competed once again at the state championship in Gadsden last weekend, after a successful showing at the 2013 Rocket City Classic.

"I enjoy the challenge to myself," Porter said. "Every time I step up on stage, no matter who's there, I'm competing against me. The challenge to see if I could even do it is what spurred me. Every show it's trying to get better, looking better than I did last show."

With dreams of getting her pro card one day, Porter knows that there is work to be done before she takes it to the next level. Proud of the strength she holds in her legs, she's working on growing her shoulders and triceps.

"You have to know your body and know when you're ready," Porter said. "Just because I win a show doesn't mean I'm ready. You've got to know what you need to look like, because at that level you're on the next level."

Courtesy photo

On nationwide tour

Laura Oldham, in foreground, daughter of retired Reserve Col. Henry Oldham of Huntsville, has joined a nationwide tour of the musical "Chicago" which opens this week in the state of Washington and arrives in Huntsville on Sept. 27-29.



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Redstone engineer treks across Spain on foot

AMRDEC worker and daughter complete historic pilgrimage

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Many people head to the beach during the summer. Some work on projects around the house. Derek Jenkins traveled across Spain by foot.

Jenkins, a systems engineer with AMRDEC's Aviation Rockets and Small Guided Munitions program, spent 35 days completing the Way of St. James pilgrimage with his daughter Caroline, a student at the University of Dallas. Caroline, a theology major, recently completed a semester abroad in Rome, Italy, and Jenkins flew over in May to start their journey.

"I had just turned 50 and I've never gotten away for a month, since starting work as an engineer," Derek said.

Both Derek and Caroline liked the idea of an extended trip that was not solely walking – but had a deeper meaning and destination. On May 8 they set out on the French Path, which is one of many routes to Santiago de Compostela.

Neither was experienced in long-range hiking, although Derek was an avid outdoorsman. "I guess we are now!" Caroline said laughing.

Each day, they set out at daybreak to first find coffee and then start their daylong walk. They spent their nights in hostels, sometimes together and sometimes apart.

"(One evening) we slept in a monastery where they separated the men and women. There were 70 men in a small room," Derek said. "Snoring was a problem."

During the day, with the help of their guidebook, the Jenkins would stop at markets and restaurants that catered to the pilgrims with low-cost menus. It was at one such café that the Jenkins lost their only connection with friends and family back home when his iPhone was stolen. However, stories of theft or other criminal problems are few and far between on the pilgrimage.

"The Spanish government has an interest in making it safe. There is very little danger or theft," he said.

The pilgrimage can be traced back to medieval times. After the remains of the apostle St. James were

found in 813, Catholics traveled by foot to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain as a plenary indulgence, which in the Catholic faith is the extra-sacramental remission of the temporal punishment due, in God's justice, to sin that has been forgiven.

While in the past pilgrimages started from one's home, as most pilgrims were Western European Catholics, in modern times there are different paths in which a pilgrim travels. Today more than 100,000 pilgrims from across the world make the walk each year that ends in Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where it is believed that the Saint James' remains are buried. St. James, the Patron Saint of Spain, was the first of Jesus' apostles to be martyred in Jerusalem by King Herod Agrippa I in A.D. 44, according to the New Testament.

The greatest challenges for both Jenkins were of the mind and body, which is understandable considering they walked an average of 17 miles per day during the coldest summer in Spain in 100 years.

"It is not for the faint of heart," Derek said. "It took a month afterwards for my feet to heal. The first week your body breaks down, but then it gets strong. The second week your mind breaks down, but then it gets strong. In the middle you ask yourself, 'why in the world am I doing this?'"

The short answer to that question is found at the destination of the pilgrimage. The Santiago de Compostela Cathedral was built in 1060 and was not complete until over 150 years later in 1211.

"(The cathedral) was huge," Caroline said. "It was very beautiful and ornate." The remains of St. James are buried under the altar and pilgrims at the end of their voyage descend a stairway into the crypt for viewing.

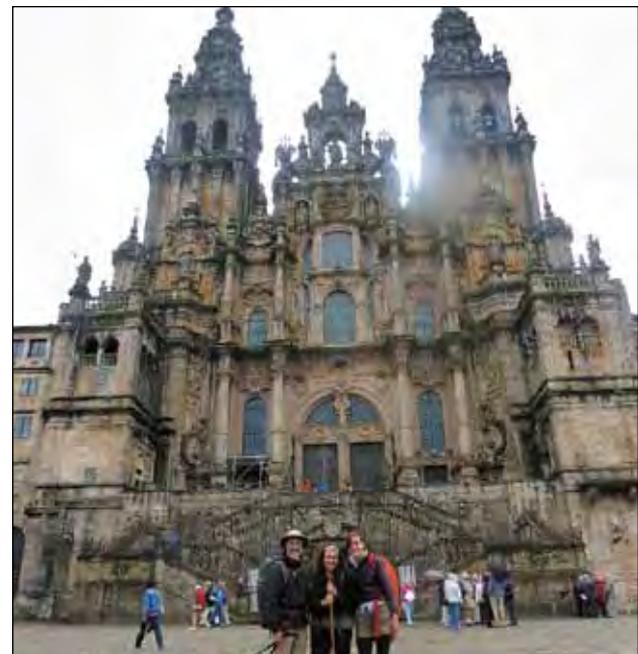
Spending a month walking 485 miles through the scenic mountains and plains of Spain was a transformative experience for the father and daughter – a time of introspection and self-discovery. Both Jenkins said that they would definitely make the journey again. Derek, who several years before had converted to Catholicism, enjoyed both the solitary aspects of the journey, and the opportunity to meet and walk with other pilgrims.

"It was a wonderful experience because we met people from across the world – from Australia to the Isle of Man," Caroline said. "We experienced the other side of Spain that the tourists don't normally see."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Derek Jenkins and his daughter Caroline traveled the Road to Santiago in May.



Courtesy photo

The Jenkins duo and fellow pilgrim Therese Trinko arrive at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.



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AMCOM chaplain reaches out to work force

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

These days, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Boulware's mission goes beyond the physical boundaries of his new assignment.

As the Aviation and Missile Command chaplain, Boulware hopes to reach out beyond Redstone Arsenal to the command's civilian work force, no matter where they live, work or play.

And that goal will undoubtedly take him off post into the communities that AMCOM's employees call home.

"Normally, the mission is to support Soldiers wherever they are, and that means on post where Soldiers are stationed and where their families live," Boulware said. "With this assignment, I've got the feeling the mission won't only be on post."

For that reason, living off post seemed a natural progression for Boulware and his family, which includes wife Dianne and six children who range in age from 6 to 24, two of which no longer live at home.

"This is the first time we've lived off post since I went active Army 11 years ago," the lieutenant colonel said. "What we needed we just could not find on post. So, we bought a house in southeast Huntsville that fits our family."

No matter where his ministry takes him — both on and off post — Boulware is ready to share the word of God.

"I've got a lot of energy and drive because I feel the Lord has called me to do this. It's more than a job. It's a ministry," he said.

Boulware, a Southern Baptist minister, served as a church planter pastor in Pennsylvania for 13 years, during which he was also a chaplain in the Pennsylvania National Guard and at the local VA hospital. When his unit deployed to Iraq in the early years of the war, Boulware was right there with them, providing Bible studies for Soldiers, counseling and praying with Soldiers, and providing the ministerial support that helps Soldiers get through tough times.

"When I was with Soldiers, we talked a lot about experiencing God, about knowing and doing the will of God," he said. "During that time, I sensed God calling me to active duty. I asked my wife about it and she said she was sensing the same thing."

"Then, I got a call from the active Army, asking me if I wanted to go active duty. It all happened at the same time. Within a matter of moments that door opened for me to go active duty as a chaplain. In three months, I had made that huge transition, and it was solely because God called me to the Army."

That calling wasn't the first for Boulware. Raised with five sisters and two brothers in an Army family, he first heard God's call to the ministry at age 12.

"Hearing God's call is as clear as God is

speaking to me," he said. "I went to college knowing I had a mission. Since then, God has called me from place to place. It's a real blessing to be in the ministry, but God has called me into it. I go where the Lord needs me to, good, bad or ugly."

Boulware joined the active Army as a major, with his first assignment as the 14th Military Police Brigade chaplain at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Yet, his experience as a Soldier lagged behind his experience ministering to Soldiers.

"I knew nothing about the active Army," he said. "As a Guard chaplain, I would go and do the ministry, and then I would go home. There wasn't a lot of Army in what I was doing. I came in with a lot of pastoral experience, but I knew nothing about things like Army Knowledge Online and all the Army acronyms, or how the logistical piece of the Army worked. I was a major and I had less knowledge than what a first lieutenant has coming into the Army."

"Within six months, the battalion commander at Fort Leonard Wood told me 'Chaplain, you have the pastoral piece down. Now, you have to become a good staff officer.'"

Fortunately, there were plenty of other Soldiers who were willing to work with Boulware to get him up to speed on Army requirements. And with his tendency to jump right in and learn, it wasn't long before Boulware got with the Army's program.

"I might have had a lot to learn on the Army side. But I had a lot of ministry experience that I had developed through years of working with Guard Soldiers, ministering at hospitals and prisons, counseling, building churches, preaching and teaching. And, I brought all that with me to this side of the house," Boulware said.

His eagerness to minister to Soldiers was noticed, and soon Boulware was planning an outdoor Christian concert at Fort Leonard Wood that drew 1,200 worshippers.

"That project was where I really started to understand operational orders and logistically what I was doing, and how doing something like this requires team support," he said. "It was a huge learning experience for me."

"I've always been one of those people who like BHAG — Big Hairy Audacious Goals. I like to help develop big things that people get excited about and volunteer to help with and rally around. I like putting concepts into action that excite people."

That first Army BHAG turned into a big deal, and was repeated the next year with the support of Fort Leonard Wood's Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Protestant Women of the Chapel. The second year the field filled up with 2,500 worshippers.

"I've made a lot of mistakes, but those mistakes help you learn along the way. I had a lot of people put their arm around me and tell me 'Here's the Army way' and that's how I learned," Boulware said. "Everything is a



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Boulware hopes to reach out beyond Redstone Arsenal to share God and faith with the employees of the Aviation and Missile Command.

learning experience for me."

He was then assigned to Giessen Friedberg, Germany, where he took on the task of closing down the post's chaplain services.

"They were closing down the base. The whole unit had gone to Iraq. And I wasn't certain why I was there," Boulware said. "The assignment was to actually close it down. I was there for nine months and during that time, I had to end contracts and close down two chapels."

Boulware then was stationed at Bamberg, Germany, where he deployed to Iraq with the 16th Sustainment Brigade for 15 months in 2008-09. He served as the brigade's chaplain at contingency operating base Q-West, where he focused on helping Army couples strengthen their marriages, despite the distance apart, through video teleconferencing.

"Iraq was difficult for Soldiers for two reasons — one, they are in combat and combat is always tough and, two, they are away from their families. That second part is the worst part," Boulware said.

Besides facing the threat outside the gate when he traveled with Soldiers, Boulware also faced the threat of combat deaths, suicides and other issues within the ranks he supported. He provided counseling and assistance to Soldiers suffering from marital issues, girlfriend problems and a host of other personal issues.

"The kind of issues you have when dealing with young Soldiers are pretty consistent," he said. "I oversaw all of our services, and I worked with Iraqis in different areas. We worked to find out what the needs were and then we addressed those needs in a spiritual way. The most important thing was making sure every Soldier had the ability to practice their religious faith no matter what their faith was."

The VTC marriage program involved couple's participation in the 40 Days to a Better Marriage curriculum.

"We did this right before we returned so that reintegration went smoother," Boulware said. "We talked about things that would en-

rich their marriage, and get their minds back on being part of a marriage and a family."

His next assignment was with the Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Ky., where he was the deputy senior chaplain at the Garrison. HRC is primarily a civilian organization, much like AMCOM.

To reach AMCOM employees, Boulware plans to establish a chaplain's website and a lunchtime Bible study program. He is spending his days learning the organization and its employees.

"Anybody working for AMCOM or in support of AMCOM is part of my ministry," he said. "Whatever concerns them, concerns me. I want to have a connection with AMCOM employees that will help them in their work and in their lives."

"I want to pray with AMCOM employees. I want to counsel them and lead them in Bible study. I want to connect with them where there is a need."

He understands that Army civilians, unlike most Soldiers, have religious affiliations and support networks outside of the installation. He hopes to augment, not compete, with those connections.

"This is a ministry of presence," he said. "I want to embody the chaplain's corps for them and be what chaplains are meant to be. We are meant to minister to people and connect with them wherever they are."

Working with a command group that cares for its employees makes Boulware's job easier and more meaningful.

"This command group takes care of its people. It's about doing the right things, not just about getting the job done. And I am glad to be a part of that," he said.

"This is a battalion chaplain's job on steroids. It involves a huge group of people and a different setting. You're not dealing with privates who are just married. The employees here are way beyond that."

Through Bible studies, counseling and preaching, Boulware tries to share the important lessons of life, such as forgiveness, self control, integrity and how to make a marriage work.

"Everything to me funnels down to one's relationship with Jesus Christ," he said. "It's about knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and savior. Without that, you have nothing."

At AMCOM and wherever God takes him, Boulware hopes his Army ministry helps to build the faith and purpose of God's people.

"I hope people learn from me the truths of God that will guide their lives," he said. "I hope I can help them understand what God thinks and how they can connect to God on a personal level."

"I hope they learn from me at whatever level they are, whether just believing in God or going into the ministry. I hope that I help them take one little step closer to God wherever they are."

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Center's contracting chief earns leadership award

By DEBRA VALINE

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

John Mayes, chief of the Directorate of Contracting at the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, received the National Contracting Organization's Leadership Award at the Corps of Engineers' Summer Leaders Conference Aug. 5 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Mayes is an exceptional leader, pacesetter and change agent at the Huntsville Center, and a strong, influential voice throughout the Directorate of Contracting and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Charles Ford, Huntsville's deputy for programs and technical management, said. "He fosters a culture and environment that embraces quality and innovation as well as streamlining initiatives and solutions."

"I am very honored to receive this award," said Mayes, who has been with the Huntsville Center for a little over five years. "I constantly strive to set a high standard of excellence in all that I do, and to inspire others to dream, learn and become all they can be. As an individual, I believe that unquestionable integrity is critical because without it, success is not possible. To be recognized for my leadership is very humbling and rewarding, both personally and professionally."

Mayes is often sought after by other leaders in federal contracting for ideas and advice regarding matters that are unique and require innovation. He has led several teams to streamline processes and build consistency among the USACE Contracting Organization. He spearheaded a team that looked at resources, structure and compliance for which he designed a new organization structure that implemented a business operations cell for districts and centers across the Corps.

Under Mayes' leadership, the Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate executed more than 6,000 contract actions totaling approximately \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2012 and anticipates the same or more for FY 2013. Mayes also oversees the business operations and oversight function which provides comprehensive policy, business and systems support and oversight to ensure quality execution. During FY'12, Mayes led his team in putting together one of the largest acquisitions ever to be executed by USACE. This procurement is for the purchase of power from renewable energy sources valued

at \$7 billion over a 30-year period. The project has extremely high visibility and is of great public interest. This project incorporates the use of a consolidated pool for both Restricted and Unrestricted sources. It will promote the use of growing small businesses more than many USACE procurements have done in the past. Mayes supports the small business program and works hard to ensure programs understand the need to meet small business goals.

Other accomplishments include:

- Spearheaded the creation of a COR Database/Dashboard at HNC and introduced it in some districts and centers as an interim solution. Later, as part of deployment of the Virtual Contract Enterprise, Mayes volunteered to implement the CORMS system which provides for a mechanism to assist contracting officers in managing COR appointments, training, etc.

- Volunteered to be the primary pilot for the implementation of the Paperless Contract File module and led Huntsville Center to a successful implementation. It was later implemented across USACE.

- Established and maintains a robust intern program that includes more than 30 interns, including a "Special Projects" intern assignment that allows for shadowing of contracting leadership and visibility on special high-level projects.

- Stabilized the work force by implementing programs to train and develop personnel, telework, awards and recognition, on-boarding and rotations of employees and morale boosting.

Mayes said he believes strongly in professional development. He encourages his team to participate in professional organizations, accept developmental assignments, and pursue college coursework and advanced degrees. Mayes also partners with local rural schools to sponsor the Future Business Leaders of America as part of Huntsville Center's outreach program.

"I really enjoy finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our customers who are supporting the war fighter and our nation," he said. "In addition to that, I love mentoring and coaching the young professionals on how to be value-added business advisers as they grow in their careers as contracting professionals."

Said Ford, "Mayes is a true leader. His leadership and influence continue to have a significant positive impact both within Huntsville Center and the USACE Directorate of Contracting."



John Mayes

SMDC honors new lieutenant colonel

By SHEILA GIDEON
SMDC/ARSTRAT

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Republic of the Marshall Islands – Maj. Joseph Bethel was promoted to lieutenant colonel Aug. 9 at the Reagan Test Site conference room. Bethel is stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Bethel was joined by his wife Karen, daughter Abigail, friends and co-workers in Colorado Springs via video teleconference. Attending on the RTS side were Lt. Col. Dean Wiley, Thomas Webber, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Slancauskas, Master Sgt. Marcus Weiland and Mary Jane Lavender.

In Colorado Springs, TRES Sgt. Maj. Luther Harris Jr. recognized Bethel for his past accomplishments and alluded to his success in the future.

“I want to make sure we recognize a great American for what he’s done for the Army,” Harris said. “As soon as Joe got to the command, we knew that he had the potential to succeed.”

In light of his patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities, Harris said, Bethel has demonstrated potential for increased responsibility, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Wiley pinned the new oak leaf to Bethel’s uniform.

Bethel thanked Harris for his kind words, and for his mentorship, which



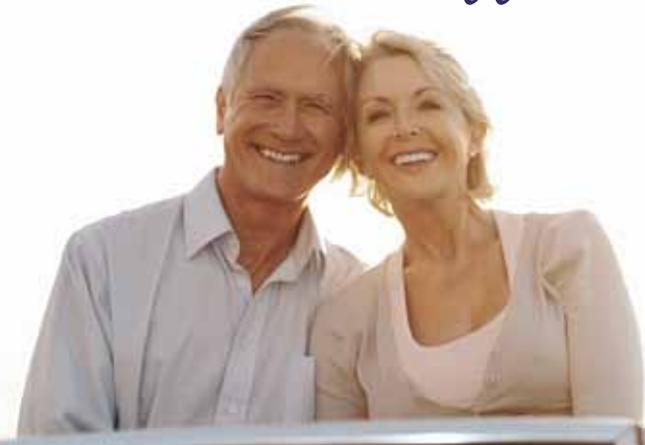
Photo by Sheila Gideon

Kwajalein Atoll, Reagan Test Site director Lt. Col. Dean Wiley pins the lieutenant colonel oak leaf onto newly promoted Lt. Col. Joseph Bethel’s uniform Aug. 9.

helped get him to where he is today. He then thanked his wife, who he met two months into his Army commission, for being such a great Army spouse. He told his daughter he knows being a military child is not always easy, but he appreciates her being there for her mom and being such a great supporter. Flowers were presented to Karen and Abigail on Bethel’s behalf.

Bethel also thanked his friends and co-workers for attending. A small reception was held at RTS and in Colorado Springs in honor of his promotion.

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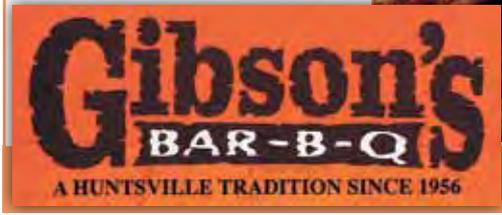
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Faces at the gates: the Redstone guards

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

No matter who you are or where you come from, the very first interaction anyone will have as they pass through the installation's gates is with Department of Emergency Services' guard force, a team of dedicated individuals willing to undergo rain or shine, extreme heat and chilly temperatures to safeguard the security of the Arsenal. In this *Redstone Rocket's* series, we'll introduce you to the guards who welcome you to the installation each day.

Name: Paul Feltmeyer
Hometown: Granite City, Ill.
Military service: Army National Guard; I've been in for six years.

What do you like about your job? I like the fact that I work with prior service people.

What do you like to do in your off hours? Play guitar.

What is your favorite gate? I don't have one.

What is your go-to greeting? Have a good day.

What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? St. Louis Cardinals.

What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? Just have their ID ready.



Name: Kevin Barnhill
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Military service: Retired Air Force, 30 years.

What do you like about your job? The thing that keeps me coming back every day is our flex hours. We don't fight traffic, and we come in at different times, so I can get stuff done in the day time. It allows me to spend time with my family and do appointments, pay bills. The hours are one of the best things.

What do you like to do in your off hours? Everything – sports, going to movies, doing stuff with my family, golfing.

What is your favorite gate? Truck lane. The customers are realistic and polite. (Gate 1)

What's your go-to greeting? I try and treat people well – good afternoon, good evening, what can I do for you today. If people are confused, how can I help you?

What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? I'm a lost soul – a UCLA guy in the middle of Alabama.

What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? Give respect, respect will be given. Leave the attitude at home.



Name: Kim Archer
Howtown: Philadelphia, Pa.
Military service: 22 years in the Army.

What do you like about your job? I like knowing that I'm taking care of people. I have a master's degree in social work and bachelor's degree in criminal justice. I came here to serve and protect and take care of people, which is what I've done all my life.

What do you like to do in your off hours? I'm really athletic – Insanity, running, bowling. I'm a fan and still an avid athletic person as well.

What is your favorite gate? I really don't have a favorite, but I think that the hardest gate to handle proficiently is Gate 9, so I like to be on that one. I like the challenges of Gate 9.

What's your go-to greeting? I like to tell people have a great day.

What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? All the Atlanta teams – the Dream, Hawks, Falcons.



See Faces on page 27

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Faces

Continued from page 26

What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? To remember that not only are we people, but that a lot of us have been to college, and they can talk to us about a lot of different things, and we can converse with them. We have knowledge. The uniform doesn't make me cookie cutter. I was something before I got here.

Name: Reggie Gipson
Hometown: Florence, Ala.
Military service: Air Force, retired.
What do you like about your job? Having a career.
What do you like to do in your off hours? Hunt.
What's your favorite gate? I like them all.
What's your go-to greeting? How are you doing today?
What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? Alabama.
What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? Have their stuff ready. Instead of pulling up, stopping and looking for it, have your ID card ready. Turn your wipers off when it's raining, otherwise it just slings water on us.



Name: Ariel Hernandez
Hometown: Puerto Rico
Military service: Army and Navy.
What do you like about your job? Interacting with different people from different ways of thinking, different ways they've been raised. You learn different things from your co-workers or people who come through the gates, because sometimes you have to engage foreign nationals as well.
What do you like to do in your off hours? I try to keep my house squared away – the yard, interior, keep my vehicle clean as well.



I love the outdoors, all kinds of activities in the outdoors.

What's your favorite gate? I don't have a favorite; to me all the gates are the same. It doesn't matter where I go, everybody knows me.

What's your go-to greeting? I work afternoon, second shift, so I always say good afternoon, welcome to Redstone, have a good day or good evening.

What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? I don't have any.

What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? Life is short so if you have a problem don't bring it to the gate. We're here to protect and defend Redstone Arsenal and everybody in and out of Redstone. We are here to do our job and our job is to serve and protect the people. When you process through the gate, get your credentials out on time so that traffic doesn't back up.

Name: Ryan Jez
Hometown: I was raised in Arkansas, Texarkana area.
Military service: Army; I was in the infantry and did seven years.



What do you like about your job? I like working with other veterans, other people who have served, because I can relate to them.

What do you like to do in your off hours? I read a lot, I like a lot of history. I'm a big Dan Brown fan.

What's your favorite gate? Gate 8. I get to see a variety of different people, different personalities.

What's your go-to greeting? I try to be nice, like have a good day or you doing all right. It all depends – you can read people's faces and body language.

What's your favorite team memorabilia to see on vehicles as they pass through your gate? I'm really not a football guy. I like to play sports, to get out there and get muddy and dirty, but I just don't watch them.

What's your advice to people waiting to get through the gate? To be courteous to us. Just because you had a bad day doesn't mean that we haven't had a bad day, too. You don't know what shoes we've walked in. Some of us have walked in some really bad shoes.

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Career aviator prepares for retirement landing

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

It was never meant to be a career, but it is one that Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Langewisch is sad to say farewell to.

"1984 was a long time ago," Langewisch said. "When I look back on my career, time has just flown, through the good times and the bad. I would go back and change a few things, but I hope that whatever I would change would still put me where I am today."

Where he is today is serving as a voice for aviation brigade maintenance officers in the command suite of the Aviation and Missile Command, as the aviation branch maintenance officer. For the Army aviator, it is the pinnacle of his nearly 30-year career, a high note he is proud to end his career on when he retires in March.

"My biggest achievement is just representing 20 aviation brigade maintenance officers to the AMCOM work force, putting a face and a name with the uniform for them so they know who they're supporting," Langewisch said. "There's been several times when I've walked into a meeting and things may not be going well, and I just remind them, 'You work for us, the U.S. Army, it's not about you. It's about the mission that you're doing and how it supports our

Soldiers, people like me who are in combat right now.' That brings them back to a point where it's more about the big picture and can change the dynamics of the meeting."

Growing up on a farm in Missouri, it was the need for a job other than the local slaughterhouse or at home that led Langewisch to life as a Soldier.

"My dad looked at me and said, 'This is a one and a half man operation here on the farm and you're the half man,'" Langewisch remembered. "I thought I'd probably do three to six years, get out and come back. When I came in, I came in as a mechanic on helicopters and then transitioned to being a pilot. How many kids are afforded the opportunity to do that?"

Over the course of his 2,800 flight hours, Langewisch has flown TH-55, UH-1, OH-58 Alpha and Charlie, and Apaches, and counts himself lucky that he has had the opportunity to fly multiple aircraft. No matter what aircraft he's taken to the clouds, flying has become a part of Langewisch.

"Once you fly it's pretty much in your blood," he said. "I love the mission, the things that we do in Army aviation. Knowing that I'm one of the few that gets to do that – it's the privilege of doing it."

Of all the aircraft he has flown, the Apache stands out as his favorite, Langewisch said. One of his most memorable moments from

his career was working with the Egyptian Air Force as an AH-64A model instructor pilot when they purchased the Apache D models. When it came time to fly the first Egyptian D Model out of the Port of Alexandria, Langewisch was given the honors.

"It's the hot rod of Army aviation," Langewisch said. "You can't beat flying the Apache and the weapons that it brings to the battlefield. It's the bomb of Army aircraft."

His career in the air has not always been smooth skies however. Langewisch was in Germany in December 1997 when the helicopter he was navigating went down. The pilot overflew the landing and didn't clear the trees, resulting in the tail rotor to clip the trees and the helicopter to crash. Luckily for Langewisch, the helicopter landed right side up, exactly as they were supposed to.

"One of the maintenance officers in the maintenance company was happy and excited – the helicopter did exactly what it was supposed to," Langewisch said. "They had never seen that happen firsthand before."

On the ground, Langewisch has served all over the world, including a deployment in support of Desert Storm and two Operation Iraqi Freedom tours. In addition, the Army has taken Langewisch to Germany, Southwest Asia and Korea, as well as locations stateside, such as Fort Rucker and Fort Hood, Texas. Regardless of where he has been, the Army has shaped him into the man he is today.

"I think my parents gave me a good foundation for morals and values," Langewisch said. "The Army has reinforced that and refined it to a certain point, given me leadership experience that I could never get anywhere else. I'm fortunate to be working alongside some of the finest and brightest



Photo by Ellen Hudson

After nearly 30 years of service to his country, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Langewisch, aviation branch maintenance officer for AMCOM, will retire from the Army March 31.

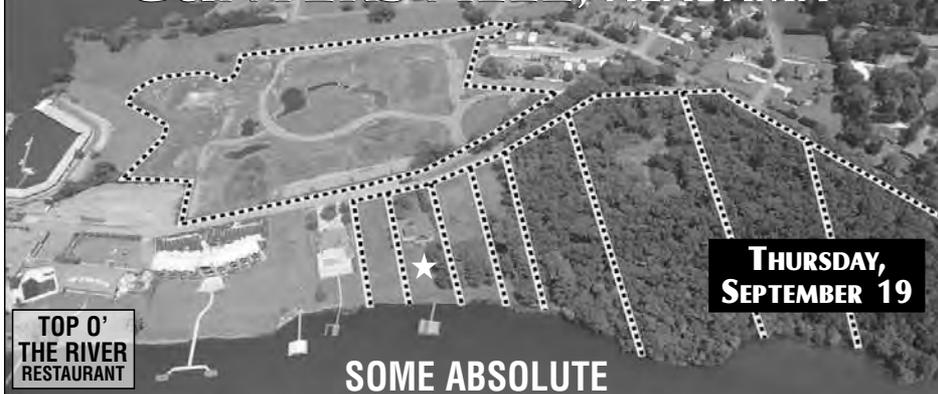
America has to offer."

In his remaining months at AMCOM, Langewisch's focus is on helping the finest and brightest that will come after him, through the policies, procedures and training he can put in place to best help Army aviators around the world long after he's hung up his uniform.

"It took me a year to figure out what this organization does, and it's been a challenge, but I hope that people believe that I've brought value to this organization," he said.

Langewisch and his wife, Barbara, have five children and one grandchild. The couple plan on retiring in the Huntsville area.

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More than 60 Soldiers complete officer course

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

While the school year for many people is just beginning, Thursday was graduation day for 63 Army officers.

They received their diplomas in a ceremony at Heiser Hall after the 16-week Command and General Staff Officer Course taught at the Command and General Staff School, Redstone Arsenal Satellite Campus.

"We had 63 students graduate today," teaching team 33 leader Mary Goodwin, assistant professor (supervisory), said.

They were from various branches and units throughout the world. There was one captain and the rest were majors. They heard from guest speaker Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation.

"You lead," Crosby said. "You're the ones who shape and make the Army."

Maj. Zach Hadfield, from Evansville, Ind., was among the students since May 9. He will be going to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to serve as the nuclear officer on a nuclear disablement team.

"It was great, I enjoyed it," Hadfield said of the course. "We had good instruction, good course material, a lot of experienced staff willing to share knowledge with us."

Maj. Charmaine Doucette, from Fort Bragg, N.C., was among 24 acquisition officers and seven females in the class.

"The course itself was a very intense

curriculum," she said. "It challenged us to exceed our intellectual and mental capacity to excel at the next level in our military careers. This course is the next level preparing us for battalion command and staff level positions."

Maj. Lloyd Runser, from Fort Bragg, was on crutches because he broke his right foot a month ago while he was jogging on a trail on a weekend morning.

"I was out for a run and just rolled my ankle, broke my foot," Runser said. "I should be walking on it by this weekend."

Also among the graduates was Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Shellman, 53, from Fort Campbell, Ky., who gave the invocation. He described the course as "intense, a lot of writing, a lot of reading."

The other chaplain in the class, Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Reynolds, from Fort Riley, Kan., gave the benediction.

The youngest student was 32 and the oldest 53. There were three lawyers, two doctors, an Army nurse, a physician's assistant and a veterinarian.

The Command and General Staff College, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., educates and develops leaders for full spectrum joint, interagency and multinational operations. The Redstone Arsenal Satellite Campus began in January 2010.

The graduates included the following:

Staff Group 33A – Maj. Salvador Nassri, Maj. Sabre Ajyeman, Maj. James P. Allen, Maj. Steven Atwood, Maj. Paul Dalen, Maj. James Flott, Maj. Anthony Hanson, Maj. Scott McCoy, Maj. Shane Miller, Maj. Sergio Molina, Maj. Chad



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Students gather Thursday in Heiser Hall for their graduation from the Command and General Staff Officer Course taught at the Command and General Staff School, Redstone Arsenal Satellite Campus.

Propst, Maj. Amy Saal, Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Shellman, Maj. Michael Stock and Maj. Laurijean Wright.

Staff Group 33B – Maj. Jeffrey Belcourt, Maj. Matthew Carruthers, Maj. Laudino Castillo-Rojas, Maj. Ira Crofford, Maj. Christian Deichert, Maj. Charmaine Doucette, Maj. Edward Gutierrez, Capt. Kevin Kearny, Maj. David Lewis, Maj. Demond Merrick, Maj. Tim Mitchell, Maj. Tim Nix, Maj. Travis Shain, Maj. Darin Stevens, Maj. Brian Tripp and Maj. Chris Watson.

Staff Group 33C – Maj. Bailey Brown, Maj. Zach Hadfield, Maj. Tony Harris, Maj. Walter Hawkins, Maj. Jason Hulsey,

Maj. Cedric Lewis, Maj. Brian Major, Maj. Eric Miller, Maj. Elizabeth Moore, Maj. Ernesto Perez, Maj. Lloyd Runser, Maj. Amelia Shultz, Maj. Kevin Shilley, Maj. C. Raaen Stewart, Maj. Travis Trammell and Maj. Lisbon Williams.

Staff Group 33D – Maj. Eric Alexander, Maj. Michael Craig, Maj. Isaac Cuthbertson, Maj. Jeremy Ebdrup, Maj. Vincent Highley, Maj. David Hnyda, Maj. Ryan Kort, Maj. Christy Licklider, Maj. Brianna Perata, Maj. Bashiri Phillips, Maj. Manuel Prado, Maj. Cory Reiter, Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Reynolds, Maj. Matt Seeger, Maj. Pat Taylor and Maj. Shannon Thompson.

Command and General Staff School by the numbers

The Command and General Staff School, Redstone Arsenal Satellite Campus, provided the following statistics:

3 is the number of times in a calendar year that the Command and General Staff Officer Course is presented.

4 represents the number of satellite campuses. The others include Fort Belvoir, Va., which has two classes; Fort Lee, Va.; and Fort Gordon, Ga.

16 weeks is the duration for the Command and General Staff Officer Course.

72 is the student maximum capacity at the Redstone Arsenal Satellite Campus.

3,024 students are graduated annually at the combined campuses together with the main campus located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

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Contracting command's move like jigsaw puzzle

By ED WORLEY
ACC Public Affairs

Moving the Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters staffs to their new temporary home is like putting together a giant puzzle, according to relocation planners.

"All the pieces have been dumped on the table and everyone has a piece," explained Mike Holcomb, ACC commandant, whose office is managing the move's logistics.

The move to 106 Wynn Drive in Huntsville will take place in three phases, according to Kevin Burleson, engineer and project manager for the relocation, Deputy Chief of Staff Installation and Logistics G-4.

He said phase one will begin Sept. 15, phase two on Oct. 15, and phase three on Nov. 15. He expects the puzzle to be completed in early January.

Burleson said the command is using its existing furniture to save money. He estimated it would cost about \$3,500



Photo by Ed Worley

Brian Wood, field services technician with Alutiiq LLC, assists Vaneesa Peeden, ACC protocol officer, during her move to her new temporary location.

per person, or about \$1.4 million, to buy new furniture.

"That's why we're doing this move the way we are," he added.

Holcomb credited Ray Gray of the Commandant's office for developing the move plan to ensure the puzzle pie-

ces fall when and where they should. Gray is working with the moving company and duty sections to coordinate the moves.

Specific moving dates will be scheduled by relocatable building and duty section, Gray said. Occupants will get their moving boxes two days prior to their scheduled move.

"On moving day, the movers will show up and load all packed boxes for that section and relocate them to the new facility, completing the move that day," he explained.

Burleson and Holcomb agreed that the plan is manageable, but one problem could delay the process.

The move is like lining up dominoes, then knocking them down, Holcomb explained. "If one domino doesn't fall in place, then we have a problem."

One of their chief concerns is whether the information technology equipment will be ready for people on Sept. 15. Once the contract is awarded, the equipment must be configured by the Redstone Network Enterprise Center.

Ed Stayton, operations chief, ACC Chief Information Officer G-6, said the IT contract was awarded Aug. 20.

"We will put pressure on the supplier to ship as soon as possible. Based on my experience, I fully expect to have the building ready for IT equipment on Sept. 15," he said.

Both campuses will have video teleconferencing and desktop support throughout the move, Stayton said. He does not expect any degradation of service at either location. As the population shifts, so will the number of technicians at each site.

"Our plan is sound," he added, "and support can be adjusted quickly."

Stayton said everyone will get new, voice over internet protocol telephones, which will allow the staffs to keep their current telephone numbers. VoIP telephone calls are transmitted over an IP network such as the Internet rather than traditional telephone lines, he said.

ACC and ECC headquarters staffs will remain at the Wynn Drive location until their permanent home at building 4505 on Martin Road is ready for occupation in fiscal year 2016.

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Operations security advice applies to everyone

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Thanks to the hard work of operation security officers from across post, the Redstone Arsenal work force is a little bit more knowledgeable in the ways to protect both the mission and themselves from potential adversaries.

Members of Team Redstone gathered for the inaugural Operations Security Day, Aug. 20 at Bob Jones Auditorium, where speakers from across the installation spoke on a variety of topics, including operational security and the Internet, and operational security and social media. The event gave participants an opportunity to identify the ways adversaries collect information, and how they can keep that from happening.

For Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and other social media lovers, experts recommended the following steps when using social media websites and the Internet in general:

- Remember basic computer security. Use strong passwords, permission settings, firewalls and anti-virus software.

- Verify all friend requests. Do you know this person? Is the person who they say they are?

- Utilize all available privacy settings – Facebook has more than 120 security settings alone. Remember “everyone” means anyone with access to the Internet can see your information.

- Watch your friends’ privacy settings as well. If theirs are not as stringent as yours, your information could still be shared with people you don’t know.

- Monitor your children’s use of the Internet.

- Verify all links and files before executing.

- Blog with caution. Avoid details and don’t get too personal.

- Understand the risks associated with geotagging, which let people know your location, including your latitude and longitude. Burglars have utilized geotagging, pictures and status updates to break into homes when the owners have boasted about their activities away from home.

- Be an informed user. Be careful with the information you broadcast on the Internet.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Greg Hoffman, a member of the Missile Defense Agency OPSEC staff, speaks at the inaugural Operations Security Day on Aug. 20.

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Foreign partner training adapts to real situation

By KIM GILLESPIE

USASAC Public Affairs

Foreign military sales is generally associated with weapons systems and equipment, but other support provided through FMS, such as training, spare parts and sustainment, are just as critical to building foreign partner capabilities and relationships, as was demonstrated by recent training for the military land forces of Burkina Faso.

The Security Assistance Training Management Organization, a subordinate command of the Security Assistance Command, conducted seven weeks of instruction on reconnaissance and surveillance operations earlier this year.

The training USASATMO conducts for foreign partners is unique in that it takes place in the requesting country, and it is tailored to meet the specific training needs and is adapted to that country's military structure and culture. The training was conducted at a small base north of the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou.

Maj. Cully Neal, an officer with USASATMO's Engagement Branch and the lead for the Burkina Faso pre-deployment site survey, said the Burkina Faso forces trained were some of the more experienced individuals from the land forces, which comprise the border frontier patrols that are to the north near Mali and east near Niger.

"The original request was for offensive operations training," Neal said. "When you go on a requirements survey trip, what you're trying to do is identify the problem ... Sometimes the request is for one thing, but the problem that you identify is quite another.

"What we do when we go in as an engagement team focusing on using what they have as a ground work and implanting new tactics, techniques and procedures to help them along the way and create fundamentals."

Working with the Security Cooperation Officer, a defense attaché who works for the U.S. Embassy and acts as a liaison to the various parties involved (such as the Combatant Command, AFRICOM, the State Department, and the military representatives from Burkina Faso and USASATMO), a proposed reconnaissance and surveillance operations training plan was developed to meet the requirements of everyone involved.

"The training was for a total of 100 troops. Fifty in the first group, 50 in the second group," Neal said.

The training was broken down into two three-week segments, and was con-



Army photo

USASATMO Soldiers instructed Burkina Faso troops, shown on reconnaissance and surveillance operations earlier this year. Training foreign militaries in their own countries requires adjustments and flexibility, which USASATMO Soldiers demonstrated when real-time events along the Burkina Faso border with Mali changed during the seven-week instruction period.

ducted by a USASATMO Engagement Branch team consisting of two officers and four noncommissioned officers. Neal said the first group that was trained focused on the Plan of Instruction that was developed from original mission planning process.

"The first group we trained went out on the border, while the second group that was on the border came back for the second three-week iteration after a one-week break," he said.

But the training took on real world requirements while the first group was being trained, and USASATMO does what it does best, according to Neal: adapt the training to meet the country and the COCOM needs to facilitate regional stability.

"We were about 180 kilometers away from the boarder that Burkina Faso shares with Mali, and during that time, because of what happened in Libya, there were hundreds, if not thousands, of refugees coming across the border every day. This resulted in the border frontier patrol we were training actually becoming involved in operations on the border as we were training," he said.

As the groups rotated for the second iteration of training, it became obvious that additional adjustments needed to be made for the real-time situation the Burkina Faso troops had encountered.

"We sat down with their commanders, and personnel from the Embassy inside the ODC (Office of Defense Cooperation), and we had to change our POI to meet the most current threat

that was present on the border with Mali. This resulted in the second iteration of training being much different than the first iterations as we adjusted to the threat," Neal said.

The practical border and surveillance training (which was the majority of the total instruction time) was augmented by classroom training. Neal admits the language barrier can be a real challenge, but the USASATMO personnel have learned from experience what works to bridge some of the language and cultural differences to ensure their instruction is both practical and effective.

"For the classroom instruction, we break it up into big concepts that you know they can get and digest because they are all very highly intelligent individuals ... and then you immediately follow that quick period of instruction with practical exercises, so it is broken up into about 70 percent practical/30 percent classroom ratio," he said.

For the Burkina Faso forces, the benefits of the instruction are the fundamental framework they now have for reconnaissance and surveillance.

"We're not going to take them from zero to 100 miles an hour in a three-week period of instruction, but what they do pull away from it is some of the fundamentals they did not have before. We provide the very basics that when they're out on patrol near the Mali or Niger border, the fundamentals they can fall back on and know this is what right looks like when I'm not quite sure

what to do – that was the biggest take-away for them," Neal summarized. For the U.S., he perceives the biggest take-away as the human dynamic, which is key to the FMS process.

"We (USASATMO) are not delivering materiel, so to speak. What we like to focus on in the Engagement Branch is the delivery of the connection and the rapport that you develop with the host nation. We not only want to deliver a product (training), but a face-to-face engagement that builds partner capacity – which is what we're really after," he said.

The Burkina Faso training case also had another unique aspect – it was technically the first Regionally Aligned Forces funded mission.

"The mission had a lot of visibility in a lot of different places and our team, officers and NCOs, did a tremendous job adapting to change and operating in an austere environment," Neal said.

He credits the USASATMO teams, and the support they get from other personnel in-country, with the success they have with foreign partner training.

"Everyone in (USASATMO) Engagement Branch is nominated and selected for their professional expertise, technical and tactical competence. So we are perfectly comfortable with sending, on any mission, an E-7 to conduct the operation," he explained.

The team in Burkina Faso also worked closely with the SCO, who according to Neal, played an important role in the quickly changing environment.

"The SCO is crucial to the mission when it comes to the details and logistics. When things change, we have to pass those changes off to somebody... and that's what Burkina Faso was like for us. The SCO was always available and when things changed, he changed with it. He made things happen that helped facilitate the mission, which was important because of our location – he was in the capital while we were more than an hour north in a rural location," he said.

While many see FMS as a dollar and cents transaction, Neal sees it as an investment with high returns for both the U.S. and its partner countries.

"Building partner capacity is going to be crucial in the future of our Army and this starts with training our foreign partners on how to conduct operations," he said. "Because that is the essence, our ounce of prevention, so to speak; with the overall objective being not to deploy thousands of U.S. troops worldwide to solve a problem that could be solved by a regional partner."

Zombie ballistic targets save Army money

By **JASON CUTSHAW**
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is turning the old into the new, saving the Army testing funds and providing capabilities by using low-cost targets during missile defense testing.

The SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center has developed a realistic threat ballistic target called *Zombie* for use in testing the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement, or PAC-3, advanced missile defense systems.

Zombie uses government-owned material components that have reached the end of their useful life and are subject to consideration of demilitarization. The use of this government hardware instead of demilitarization ultimately saves the taxpayers' money.

During this era of budget uncertainty, Army missile defense testers looking to save money on ballistic missile targets can still meet their mission requirements but spend less to do so. SMDC has developed low-cost targets that cut expenses from the approximate \$30 million each for high-end targets, to approximately \$4 million for SMDC's low-cost *Zombie* targets. These savings will allow program managers to stretch their testing budgets and apply funding to where it is needed while

reducing the program's overall testing budget.

SMDC members are using components from legacy systems and reconfiguring them to fly, in modified configurations, as ballistic targets.

"Some of the legacy components are from systems that are referred to as 'dead components' or components that are not part of the active program's future developments," said Bryon Manley, Technical Center Flight Test Services chief. "The 'rebirth' of the dead components is where the term *Zombie* came from. People working this program love this name because of recent pop culture popularity, and even the Patriot interceptor program operators have used the name 'Zombie Killers' in their documentation. It is a name that people can get behind and get motivated."

Zombie is an alternative to the high-cost, high-performance, high-fidelity tactical ballistic missile targets historically used in Patriot PAC-3 testing, such as the *Juno*. *Zombie* is not a replacement for *Juno*, as *Juno* is still needed for the occasion when its specific, required performance capabilities are required.

The *Zombie* idea is one of several low-cost ballistic targets that have been developed and are being developed. The Economical Target-1, the first in a suite of low-cost targets developed, was launched on its first flight in



Army photo

A Lance missile is launched to provide a low-cost target for the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement, or PAC-3 (MSE), advanced missile defense system. The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center has developed the Lance alongside the Zombie as another in its low-cost suite of threat ballistic targets.

February 2012. Two other developments currently ongoing, however, add more flexibility and performance at longer ranges.

"When the developments are complete, SMDC will be able to make these low-cost target options at lower-than-traditional target

costs," Manley said. "The goal is to build huge capabilities at a low cost."

"Lance is another in our low-cost target suite. For less than \$500,000 apiece, we are providing eight telemetry configured Lance missiles to get real tactical ballistic missile test articles to exercise a defense system at a fraction of what other targets are normally available in the integrated missile defense community."

On June 6, a PAC-3 missile successfully engaged, intercepted and destroyed a second *Zombie* low-cost threat representative target during a flight test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

"The idea behind our approach is to develop a whole new suite of targets that utilize old rocket motors that the Army has already invested in to develop and have no future planned usage," Manley said. "We are taking them and retrofitting and reconfiguring them to fly in a manner for which they were not designed."

"From our mission perspective, we are looking for solutions to allow our customers to save money in the target's arena, so they can increase the amount of testing opportunities and ultimately be successful," Manley said. "The SMDC Technical Center is at the forefront of providing the kind of missile defense testing capability to really save the Army a lot of money on its targets."

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Collaboration boosts rocket propulsion technology

By TRACIE DEAN

Army Research Laboratory

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A team of Army researchers has developed a new gel-propellant engine called the vortex engine.

Michael Nusca, Ph.D., Robert Michaels and Nathan Mathis were recognized by the Department of the Army with a 2012 Army Research and Development Outstanding Collaboration Award, or RDA, for their work titled "Use of Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Development and Testing of Controllable Thrust Gel Bipropellant Rocket Engines for Tactical Missiles."

Nusca, a researcher in Army Research Laboratory, or ARL's, Propulsion Science Branch at Aberdeen Proving Ground, explained the new technology.

"Gelled, hypergolic propellants are swirled with the combustion chamber to promote mixing and combustion," Nusca said. "Traditionally, Army missiles used on the battlefield utilize solid propellant in the rocket engine. These engines require an ignition source and once initiated cannot be throttled without special hardware, both of which add weight to the engine. Liquid hypergolic propellants ignite on contact without an igniter and the engine can be throttled by regulat-



Army photo

Gel propellants developed at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center are fired on test stands at Redstone Arsenal. Researchers from AMRDEC and the Army Research Lab collaborated in the development of a new gel-propellant engine called the vortex engine.

ing the propellant flow. In addition, if the propellants are gelled, the storage tanks have been shown to be insensitive to attack, unlike liquids that can explode when the container is punctured."

This new engine was developed with Michaels and Mathis, both researchers at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. AMRDEC and ARL

are both part of the Research Development and Engineering Command, which has the mission to develop technology and engineering solutions for America's Soldiers.

"At AMRDEC, the propellants, injection systems and engines were developed and test fired, while at ARL the physics of propellant injection, combustion and engine operation were modeled using supercomputers," Nusca said. "This modeling included both current engine and fuel designs as well as proposals for design alternatives aimed at enhanced performance. The synergism of research between the two labs proved the technology worked according to design."

"This award recognized the cooperative effort between the ARL-WMRD, or Weapons and Materials Research Directorate, and the AMRDEC-WDI, or Weapons Development and Integration, in maturing a new rocket engine technology for Army tactical missiles."

Commenting on the impact this body of work could have on the operational Army, Nusca said, "This technology has the potential for game-changing impacts on the future of small, selectable thrust rocket engines for Army tactical missiles, as the main propulsion system, as well as strategic missiles as a course correction system. AMRDEC and the Program Executive Office for Missiles and

Space have direct uses for this technology."

The primary use and application of this technology has been on the battlefield.

"Eventually the Soldier will have access to a tactical missile on the battlefield that can be used for a variety of missions due to the selectable thrust capability," Nusca said.

He believes this technology has other applications that will also produce significant results for missile systems.

"The next step for this type of technology would be a full-scale flight test of the vortex engine at AMRDEC for a particular missile system. This test would extend the successful engine test-stand firings and computer modeling and demonstrate increased missile range and thrust modulation in flight," he said.

The RDA awards recognize outstanding scientific and engineering achievements and technical leadership throughout the Army's commands, laboratories, and research, development and engineering centers.

Nusca was thrilled to have received the recognition by the Army for the team's work.

"Receiving this RDA for cooperation makes me feel proud to be a part of ARL and AMRDEC efforts to produce basic and applied research that is increasingly relevant to the Soldier to whom we owe the best battlefield technology that we develop," he said.

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Retracing women's suffrage before 19th Amendment

Last of 2-part series

By Dr. KAYLENE HUGHES

AMCOM Historical Office historian

In the closing decades of the 19th century, women's political opportunities widened. Although suffrage had not been a widely-accepted focus of the feminist demands first discussed in public at Seneca Falls, winning the right to vote nationwide emerged in the post-Civil War period as the central issue of the women's rights movement.

One obstacle standing in the way was the division that emerged among supporters of voting rights for women over how best to accomplish their goal. In 1869 two woman suffrage organizations were founded, each supporting different positions on the 15th Amendment, giving African American men the vote, and espousing opposite ideas on how best to win the vote for women. Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (who devoted her life to the suffrage movement after the two women met in 1851) established the National Woman Suffrage Association, which opposed the 15th Amendment because it specifically limited suffrage to men only. They called instead for a 16th amendment that would establish universal suffrage. Led by women the organization focused on securing the female franchise through federal action. The American Woman Suffrage Association included other prominent men and women reformers who endorsed the 15th Amendment and who worked mainly at the state level for women's votes.

Despite the prominent role given to women and organizations in the northeast, it was actually the western territories and states that pioneered and won the permanency of woman's suffrage in the United States. In 1869 Wyoming became the first to adopt the measure while it was still a territory. It also resolved to stay out of the union if Congress failed to approve woman suffrage as a part of its state constitution. Other trailblazing states in the woman suffrage movement were Utah (1870 & 1895), Colorado (1893) and Idaho (1896).

Back east, though, the movement languished, especially during the 1870s when many feminists became quite disheartened by the poor response to the federal woman suffrage amendment. Consequently, some suffragists tried other approaches to winning the vote. These included legal suits challenging women's exclusion on the grounds that they were being denied their rights as citizens, appeals to Congress and attempting to vote so they could use their arrests as an avenue to legally challenge existing restrictions on woman suffrage. In 1875, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that citizenship did not automatically confer the right to vote. It also declared that the states should decide female voting rights.

The cause received a major boost from Frances Willard in 1880 when she guided the Women's Christian Temperance Union to endorse woman suffrage. This action brought thousands of tradition-minded women into the suffrage movement, which was now seen as a way to protect the home, women and children. The WCTU was invaluable in creating support among women who otherwise might have thought the existing woman suffrage organizations and their leaders were too eccentric or radical. Of course, such a significant gain was not without its problems. The WCTU endorsement of woman suffrage led to the rise of a powerful

new opponent to the female vote. The American liquor industry now became "the Invisible Enemy" of female enfranchisement.

With the dawn of the 20th century, the female members of American society moved forward in their efforts to free themselves from past stereotypes and outmoded limitations. At the same time that the United States began to assume a larger role in international affairs, women achieved a higher public profile in the nation's internal social issues. While still retaining their close identification with the home and family, American women made significant progress in attaining a more equitable legal status, greater educational and employment opportunities, permanent status within the U.S. military (i.e., the Army and Navy nursing corps) as well as gained additional social standing and political influence through several ongoing or newly-founded reform movements and organizations.

In general, Progressivism was a tremendous boon to the cause of woman suffrage because most Progressives believed women's votes would help secure reforms. Beginning in 1910 and continuing until Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919, various states gave the vote to their female citizens. Some states and territories fully enfranchised women voters. These included Washington (1910); Oregon, Alaska, and Kansas (1912); Nevada and Montana (1914); New York (1917); and Michigan, Oklahoma, and South Dakota (1919). New York was the first eastern state to fully enfranchise women voters. Other states partially enfranchised women voters by allowing them to cast ballots in presidential elections only (Illinois, 1913) or permitting female political participation in primary, but not general elections (Arkansas, Nebraska, Idaho and Rhode Island, 1917). In Arkansas women's votes were further restricted by race.

The road to the 19th Amendment Part 2

Of course, the major political accomplishment of this period was the final resolution of the national woman's suffrage issue. Although women were able to participate successfully in the country's political life without a national suffrage amendment, the goal of winning the right to vote for all women in all areas of the United States remained a paramount goal of the early women's movement. In 1890 the two separate woman suffrage organizations reunited in one major organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The new organization continued to demand a federal amendment, but its leaders also decided that the association must first build state support. NAWSA wanted to win enough woman suffrage state constitutional amendments to force Congress to pass a federal amendment that three-quarters of the states would ratify.

Because the new organization wanted to remain focused exclusively on woman suffrage, its leaders also went to great lengths to avoid association with any radical causes. Also, though they never officially stopped using a natural rights argument for women's right to vote, the NAWSA leadership drifted away from the group's former insistence on universal suffrage. Ultimately this decision led to the association's greater use of racist and

nativist rhetoric and tactics as a way to build support among more tradition-minded men. In the south, for example, supporters of woman suffrage claimed that giving the vote to white women would result in the restoration of white supremacy, but by 1903 it was apparent that NAWSA's so-called "southern strategy" had failed. Despite the fact that many white suffragists turned their back on them, a growing number of African American women actively supported woman suffrage. They were convinced if white women believed they needed the vote to protect their rights, black women knew they needed the vote even more because of the racial discrimination to which all African-Americans were subjected.

Despite NAWSA's efforts to project a more traditional image, in 1911 some Americans who did not support votes for women joined together under the banner of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge organized a group of wealthy, influential women and some Catholic clergymen to lobby against a federal woman suffrage amendment, which she opposed because of her conviction that enfranchisement would involve women in partisan politics thus undermining the nonpartisan integrity of women reformers. Dodge also believed that Progressive legislation recently passed at the state level made a federal constitutional amendment unnecessary. The NAOWS group was supported financially by distillers and brewers as well as drew support from urban political machines, southern congressmen and corporate capitalists.

During this same period the more radical branch of the woman's suffrage movement also confronted the mainstream NAWSA leadership. The National Women's Party advocated the use of militant tactics and civil disobedience to publicize the need for a federal woman suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They borrowed tactics from the radical Women's Social and Political Union in Britain, using marches, White House protests, rallies and hunger strikes to promote their cause. In the long run, however, the group's radical methods helped the woman suffrage cause by making NAWSA seem more reasonable.

Simultaneously with the aforementioned developments, in 1916 Carrie Chapman Catt, a feminist leader and peace advocate who led the women's rights movement for 25 years, unveiled her "winning plan" for a woman's suffrage victory. It required the coordination of activities by a vast cadre of workers in both the state and local associations. Between 1905 and 1915 Catt reorganized NAWSA along political district lines, trained women supporters for direct political action and marshaled seasoned political campaigners to focus on the fight for women's votes. Catt then combined this "work force" with a \$1 million bequest into a massive drive to win the passage and ratification of a federal woman suffrage constitutional amendment. In 1918 NAWSA leaders also converted President Woodrow Wilson to the woman suffrage cause.

The 1917 entry of the United States into World War I, however, slowed Catt's suffrage campaign.

Many feminists shelved their activism between 1918 and 1920 to support various relief and war work efforts as well as the later Versailles Treaty ratification fight. Their decision to focus on the nation's needs during this time of crisis proved to be the right one. Their activities in support of the war became an added reason why women deserved the right to vote. Once their suffrage victory was secured, Catt reorganized the 2-million-member NAWSA into the League of Women Voters.

Strategic Command leader visits operations center

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Members of Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense welcomed the U.S. Strategic Command's leader as he traveled to Huntsville.

Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler, STRATCOM commander, visited Redstone Arsenal as well as officiated the change of command Aug. 12.

"I was delighted to officiate the JFCC IMD and USASMDC/ARSTRAT change of command ceremonies," Kehler said. "We said farewell to Lt. Gen. (Richard) Formica and thanked him for his tremendous contributions over a 36-year career. We also welcomed Lt. Gen. David Mann as he takes command of one of our most vital components."

After the change of command, Kehler then traveled to the Reagan Operations Center-Huntsville, or ROC-H, to visit with Soldiers and civilians who control the Reagan Test Site located at Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and its mission of monitoring space and missile operations.

"I am always delighted to get around and see the folks who are doing the mission," Kehler said. "This mission is important; it's a critical part of our space surveillance activities and part of our space surveillance network. Plus, I am especially intrigued by the fact that we are doing a lot of range operations from Huntsville now out to Kwajalein. It is very promising and it says a lot for future operations in other places."

Kehler talked about his impressions of the Reagan Operations Center and what



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, is greeted by Martin Sargent, Reagan Test Site-Huntsville director, at the Reagan Operations Center-Huntsville during a site visit Aug. 12.

the facility provides to STRATCOM and to the defense of the nation.

"This is an impressive facility," Kehler said. "The technology available in the ROC will enhance the space and missile defense mission and our ability to make decisions in a timely manner. The ROC ensures our capabilities and assets are working correctly to defend our nation, as well as allies and deployed forces."

After briefing Kehler on space operations, one Soldier said he informed the general on how the facility monitors missile defense testing in the Pacific Ocean and what it provides to the nation.

"It was quite humbling to be able to brief someone at the STRATCOM commander's level on the operations we do with respect to space and the space surveillance network," Maj. Christopher Fairley, Reagan Test Site Space Operations Center in Huntsville space operations technical monitor, said. "It

was good to get his perspective and to have him come here and support what we do, both for missile and for space, is great."

As Kehler received a briefing on what happens at ROC-H, he was informed of the many ways the facility provides up-to-date information for the nation's space warriors and allows SMDC to continue to remain as the Army's force modernization proponent for space, global missile defense and high altitude, and as the Army's operational integrator for global missile defense.

"I gave the general a brief overview of what ROC-H is and how we support homeland defense and the nation," Martin Sargent, Reagan Test Site-Huntsville director, said. "I briefed more specifically to the test side of what we do. I told him why the RTS and Kwajalein Atoll are in a great location for the support we provide. It gives flexibility to our customers to come out and be flexible while expanding the envelope of testing."

"Any time we get someone of STRATCOM's caliber to come into our facility is a good thing," he added. "It gives us a chance to show him what piece we play and how we contribute to the defense to the nation."

As the STRATCOM commander was learning about ROC-H from the experts, he was informed of its vital mission in America's challenges concerning missile defense.

"Today's visit shows the importance of SMDC/ARSTRAT and our mission and provides us an opportunity to reflect to the general what we are doing in support of STRATCOM," Timothy Kirchner, RTS-Huntsville technical director, said. "We also got some feedback on how he

sees, in the big picture, our contributions are important to him and the war fighter."

The visit to ROC-H was Kehler's first as the STRATCOM commander, and after he departed, the facility's senior military member reiterated the importance of having the unified combatant commander visit the Soldiers and civilians who play a major role in missile defense.

"The best thing we get out of today's visit is visibility directly to the STRATCOM commander for a number of missions," Lt. Col. Brian Soldon, Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander, Kwajalein support director and RTS space operation director, said. "It is very important for the four-star commander to understand what we do here, and as he told us, it's impressive. He thanked us for what we are doing and the fact that he came here was something that we appreciate."

Before leaving, Kehler took a moment to show his appreciation for what the Soldiers and civilians at SMDC do for the defense of the country.

"Thanks for what you do," Kehler said. "Every single day you do something important for all of the joint team and it is always a pleasure for me to come and visit. I think that between missile defense and space activities, those are two growth areas for the U.S. military, because of the critical importance of space for our war-fighting activities for our country's national security, and also because we see with the proliferation of ballistic missiles that there are going to be ballistic missile threats against our country, our allies and our forward forces for as far as we can see into the future. This is an important place and the Soldiers and civilians do an important job for the nation."

Leadership training available for engineers

By ANGIE CORNELIUS
UAH SMAP Center

Twenty-one technical people from AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate have completed the American Society for Engineering Management, or ASEM, Institute Edition of the Management and Leadership Professional Development Program.

The certificate program, delivered by ASEM in partnership with the University of Alabama-Huntsville Systems Management and Production Center, is being offered to introduce the technical community who are serving in management and supervisory positions to management and business con-

cepts, and provide tools that can be used in day-to-day management situations.

The six-day program included modules in management concepts and practices, motivating knowledge workers, Myers-Briggs personality analysis, team management concepts, strategic management, problem solving, social media and the technical organization, time management, systems thinking, and leadership theory and practices.

Other modules available include introduction to project management, forming and implementing security measures, and economic principles. For more information, visit the ASEM website at www.asem.org or email Angie Cornelius at CornelA@uah.edu.



Courtesy photo

Instructors from American Society for Engineering Management gather with their AMRDEC ED students and ED's director in a celebration of their graduation from the Institute Edition of the Management and Leadership Professional Development Program. From left are Rod Grubb (ASEM/UAH), James Curtin, Ron Legowik, Rob Keene, Newton Williams, Elizabeth Stough, Ellis Hurst, Pat Williams, Annette Jennings, James Thompson, Greg Pearson, Kevin Dean, Morgan Brown, Scott Smith, Brandon Parise, Vic Doumar, Mike Smith, Richard Knox, Mai Huang, Jeff Brenner, Bill Shepeck, Ronnie Goodloe, Jerry Westbrook (ASEM/UAH) and James Lackey (ED director).

Win or Lose

Skip's Picks roll in for college football

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Here are my predictions for selected games in the first week of the college football season:

Virginia Tech at Alabama – **Bama**
 Alabama A&M at Grambling – **Alabama A&M**
 Washington St. at Auburn – **Auburn**
 Georgia at Clemson – **Georgia**
 North Carolina at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
 Toledo at Florida – **Florida**
 UAB at Troy – **Troy**
 Ole Miss at Vanderbilt – **Vanderbilt**
 Rice at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**
 Mississippi St. at Oklahoma St. – **Oklahoma St.**
 La.-Lafayette at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
 W. Kentucky at Kentucky – **Kentucky**
 Austin Peay at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
 Murray State at Missouri – **Missouri**
 Presbyterian at Wake Forest – **Wake Forest**
 Illinois State at Ball St. – **Ball St.**
 Tennessee-Martin at Chattanooga – **Chattanooga**
 Indiana State at Indiana – **Indiana**
 Florida St. at Pittsburgh – **Florida St.**
 Tulsa at Bowling Green – **Tulsa**
 UNLV at Minnesota – **Minnesota**
 Towson at Connecticut – **Connecticut**
 Dayton at Youngstown State – **Youngstown St.**
 W. Carolina at M. Tenn. St. – **M. Tenn. St.**
 Jackson State at Tulane – **Tulane**
 Utah St. at Utah – **Utah**
 Monmouth (N.J.) at Montana St. – **Montana St.**
 Rutgers at Fresno St. – **Fresno St.**



Photo by Padriac Major/Alabama A&M University

Defensive lineman Corey Johnson and the Alabama A&M Bulldogs are ready for another season of competition.

USC at Hawaii – **USC**
 Morgan State at Army – **Army**
 Texas Tech at SMU – **Texas Tech**
 FAU at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
 W. Michigan at Michigan St. – **Michigan St.**
 Southern at Houston – **Houston**
 N. Dakota St. at Kansas St. – **Kansas St.**
 Northern Arizona at Arizona – **Arizona**
 Purdue at Cincinnati – **Purdue**
 Elon at Georgia Tech – **Georgia Tech**
 William & Mary at West Virginia – **West Virginia**
 Buffalo at Ohio St. – **Ohio State**
 Villanova at Boston College – **Boston College**
 Massachusetts at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**

Southern Illinois at Illinois – **Illinois**
 Louisiana Tech at N. Carolina St. – **N. Carolina St.**
 FIU at Maryland – **Maryland**
 Colgate at Air Force – **Air Force**
 C. Michigan at Michigan – **Michigan**
 Northern Illinois at Iowa – **Iowa**
 BYU at Virginia – **BYU**
 Temple at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
 Penn St. at Syracuse – **Penn St.**
 Nicholls State at Oregon – **Oregon**
 North Carolina Central at Duke – **Duke**
 Savannah State at Ga. Southern – **Ga. Southern**
 Eastern Washington at Oregon St. – **Oregon St.**
 VMI at Richmond – **VMI**
 Charleston Southern at The Citadel – **The Citadel**
 Furman at Gardner-Webb – **Furman**
 Jax. State at Alabama St. – **Jax State**
 Miami (Ohio) at Marshall – **Miami (Ohio)**
 Old Dominion at East Carolina – **East Carolina**
 Texas State at Southern Miss – **Southern Miss**
 La.-Monroe at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
 McNeese State at South Florida – **S. Florida**
 Ark.-Pine Bluff at Arkansas St. – **Arkansas St.**
 Wofford at Baylor – **Baylor**
 New Mexico St. at Texas – **Texas**
 Northern Iowa at Iowa St. – **Iowa St.**
 Wyoming at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
 Appalachian St. at Montana – **Montana**
 LSU at TCU – **LSU**
 Boise St. at Washington – **Boise St.**
 Nevada at UCLA – **UCLA**
 Northwestern at California – **California**
 Ohio at Louisville – **Louisville**
 Colorado at Colorado St. – **Colorado St.**

Registration opens for local lacrosse league

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Yes, football season is upon us. But another sport is gaining popularity across Huntsville – and it's not exactly new.

"Lacrosse is the oldest North American sport," Huntsville Lacrosse Association president Brian Russell said. "And it is the fastest growing sport in the country."

Lacrosse is a contact sport in which a ball and stick are used to score in an opponent's goal. Because it is a contact sport, padding such as shoulder pads, gloves, helmets, elbow pads and mouth guards are required for men's lacrosse. In women's lacrosse, only a mouthguard and goggles are used. It is a sport that utilizes endurance, speed, hand-eye coordination and agility.

"It's a mix between soccer, hockey and basketball," Russell said.

Lacrosse players of all ages will soon be practicing on the sports fields at Redstone,

ready to play "lax", as it is commonly known among players and fans.

"Huntsville has a lot of sports competing for their fields," Russell said. "Redstone and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation have been great about letting us use their fields."

Russell, who works for AMRDEC's System Simulation and Development Directorate, is looking for players and coaches for the HLA fall season.

Registration is open for anyone age 7 and up – beginners or seasoned players. Russell likes fall ball because it is a more relaxed atmosphere, which gives new players a chance to learn fundamentals. Games are held every other Sunday so they do not conflict with players' other activities.

Lacrosse can be traced back to the 17th century, although many modifications have been made over the years. Native American tribes played early versions of lacrosse not just as a sport, but as part of their religious and spiritual worship.

Today, almost 700,000 players participate on organized lacrosse teams each year, according to the U.S. Lacrosse organization. Four main styles exist: men's field lacrosse, women's lacrosse, box lacrosse and intercollegiate.

Russell also coaches in addition to his role as league president. He notes that while physically demanding, lacrosse is more than just a high-intensity sport – it also teaches players important life skills.

"It's not about winning or losing – there is more to lacrosse than that," he said. "It is how you act as a team. I enjoy seeing the players forming friendships and coming together as a team."

For more about the Huntsville Lacrosse Association – including registration information – go to www.huntsvillelax.org. Games begin Sept. 8.



Photo by Kristin Clark

Goalie Daniel Russell defends the goal.

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CWFC A-Team earns "A" for defense

Team turns two double plays to stop Hard Noc Hitters

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Defense was big in this elimination game at the NASA softball field.

The CWFC A-Team and the Hard Noc Hitters committed three errors apiece but generally made the routine plays. And the CWFC A-Team turned two double plays.

With these extra stops, and some timely hits, the CWFC A-Team beat the Hard Noc Hitters 8-1 on Aug. 19. The A-Team advanced while eliminating the Hard Noc Hitters in the losers bracket of the Division B tournament.

"The team did well defensively and we got key hits when we needed it," CWFC A-Team co-coach Brad Harris said. "Hopefully we'll keep this up for the remainder of the tournament."

Postseason tournaments in Divisions

A, B and C are slated to continue into September.

Winning pitcher/co-coach LaTesa Graham went the full seven innings for the third-seeded CWFC A-Team (10-5). She allowed one unearned run, five hits and one walk. She threw 41 pitches, 34 for strikes. In the top of the first inning, she retired the side on three pitches – all resulting in comebacks and easy tosses to first base.

"Our offense left a few runners on base," Graham said, "but our defense was strong today."

Their double plays came in the third and fifth innings. In the third, shortstop Vann Patton fielded a grounder, stepped on second base and threw to first baseman Justin Tidwell for the second out. In the fifth, third baseman Jason Smith fielded a grounder, relayed to second baseman Chris Campbell for the first out and then Campbell fired the ball to Tidwell for the second out.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Justin Tidwell hits a two-run single, goes 2-for-3 and scores two runs in the CWFC A-Team's 8-1 win over Hard Noc Hitters.

Tidwell hit a two-run single during the CWFC A-Team's five-run second inning. He went 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

"Our defense was pretty lights-out today," Tidwell said. "When our defense is like that, we don't have to put many hits together."

Others with two hits apiece included leadoff batter Jeremy "Germ" Lang, Smith, Greg Trammell, Campbell and Cordero Watkins. Watkins had a double and three runs-batted-in. Collectively the CWFC A-Team went 14-for-33 with six RBIs. They scored one run in the first, five in the second and two in the sixth.

Hard Noc Hitters, which finished at 8-6-1, scored their run in the seventh after two infield errors by the CWFC A-Team. Of their five hits, John Tillery and player/coach Emily Sanderson had two apiece and Josh Miller had a double. Dee Emswiler took the loss in the circle.

"We did pretty good defensively," Sanderson said. "We just couldn't get our bats going."

Marksmanship competition returns to Redstone

By **ROY JORGENSEN**
For the Rocket

The Rocket City Open is back again at last. This longtime Northern Alabama event, last held in 2010, passed into oblivion with the closing of the former host club in Lacey's Spring. The event has been resurrected by the MARS Skeet and Trap Club at Redstone Arsenal, which is the home club of Marshall Space Flight Center. What could be more logical than a bunch of rocket scientists (and dedicated skeet shooters) hosting the RCO in a town known as Rocket City, at a post where many of our space vehicles and missiles were designed and first tested? Some traditions just can't be allowed to die!

The inaugural RCO at Redstone Arsenal was held Aug. 2-4 at the MARS Skeet and Trap Club; and they welcomed 25 shooters from the region to re-establish this highly regarded skeet shoot. The event was opened by Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks, who fired the traditional ceremonial first shot at low 7! Marks, an avid hunter, smoked the bird using a borrowed K-80 that he was firing for the first time!

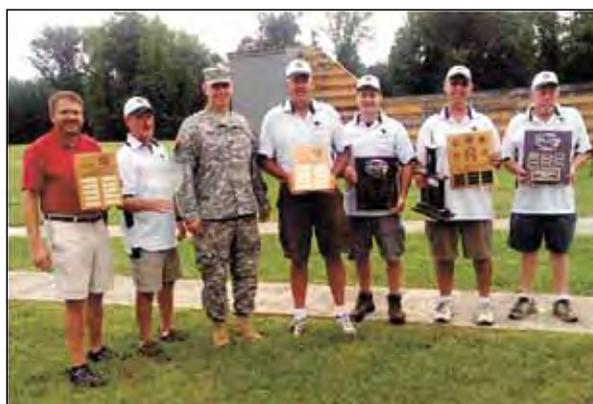
He enjoyed the experience so much that he proceeded to repeat the shot

just for fun – with the same outcome. Prior to his shooting, he wasn't informed that had he missed he would have incurred certain traditional liabilities that are associated with a miss at that station!

Having recently taken command, the colonel said he looks forward to learning more about skeet shooting and – if possible – re-establish expanded shooting opportunities at the Arsenal. He indicated a willingness to work, in partnership with Arsenal employees and tenants, to facilitate such activities (subject to budgetary limitations of course).

The club members expressed their appreciation for his refreshing outlook toward the shooting sports.

As part of the opening ceremony, the Redstone Arsenal five-man Skeet Team presented Marks with the trophies that the team had won while representing the Arsenal at both the recently held Armed Forces Skeet Championships, held at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the Alabama State Championship at Fort Rucker. The Redstone team swept the state championship, winning all five individual events as well as the High Overall Average Trophy (combined five-event



Courtesy photo

From left are FMWR's Tom Pyburn, with the state championship team trophy; Gary Hunter, with the 20-gauge team trophy; Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks; Mark Haugh, with the .410 bore team trophy; Layne Merritt, 12-gauge team trophy; Larry Krutsinger, .410-bore individual trophy and the armed forces five-man team trophy; and Alan Cotney, 28-gauge team trophy.

score).

Another tradition that must be observed is one known as the "hat shoot event," which means that fellow shooters get to shoot the hat of any competitor shooting their first straight (i.e., not missing a target) in any event.

Retired Lt. Col. Gary Hunter, who works for the Space and Missile

Defense Command, shot his first ever 100 straight in the 28-gauge event of the 2013 Rocket City Open. His 100 straight was one of two shot in that event, which ultimately earned him 28-gauge runner-up points, as well as the loss of his prized hat!

The weather proved to be the story for this event, with temperatures in the low to middle 90s and humidity the same. Even with the heat, many shooters said they posted the best scores they ever shot. This speaks highly of the efforts of the shooters and the MARS club members who worked hard to ensure that good targets would be thrown! The recent field renovations, including the installation of four new multi-column traps, were enjoyed by all.

Winners included: Ed Hope, 12-gauge event; Larry Krutsinger, 20-gauge event; Allen Winstead, 28-gauge event; Layne Merritt, .410-bore event; Winstead, high overall; and David Thompson, doubles event.

If you're interested in learning more about skeet shooting, classes are available from Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation. Call 837-0750 or 876-4868.

Hundreds enjoy sunny 20th Rocketman Triathlon

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

More than 400 athletes finished Sunday's 20th annual Rocketman Triathlon at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area.

Bruce Gennari, 47, of Brentwood, Tenn., won in two hours, three minutes and eight seconds. The former University of Alabama swimmer also won in 2011.

The Olympic-distance triathlon began with a 1,500 meter swim (nearly one mile) in the Tennessee River, followed by a 40 kilometer bike (about 25 miles) and 10 kilometer run (6.2 miles). There were 420 individual finishers, including 140 females.

More than 500 people had registered, including relay teams and the swim-bikers who didn't do the run.

"I've heard nothing but good," race director Mike Gerrity said. "The weather was perfect."

The overall female winner, for the second straight year, was Hallie Blunck, 29, of Birmingham, in 2:11:03.

"I enjoyed it," Christopher Clements, 17, of Gadsden, said. The Gadsden City High senior won his age group in 2:27:53 despite rolling his left ankle in early July during an



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Christopher Clements, 17, of Gadsden, won his age group at Sunday's 20th annual Rocketman Triathlon at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area.

easy trail run in Noccalula Falls.

"I felt good, especially with the injury to my ankle. I feel real good," Clements said.

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of

the Aviation and Missile Command and a Huntsville native, welcomed everybody to Redstone Arsenal, presented a door prize and stayed for much of the competition.

Here are the results:

Male overall: 1. Bruce Gennari (2:03:08); 2. Chad Williamson, 28, of Homewood (2:05:02); 3. Jonathan Krichev, 37, of Huntsville (2:08:05).

Female overall: 1. Hallie Blunck (2:11:03); 2. Lori Vonpingel, 28, of Birmingham (2:19:09); 3. Sara Gibson, 29, of Madison, Miss., 2:20:32.

Male age groups: 19-under - 1. Christopher Clements (2:27:53), 2. Michael Loutzenheise (2:30:42), 3. Samuel Howell (2:33:53). ... 20-24 - 1. Michael Lambert (2:23:08), 2. Drew Williams (2:39:44), 3. Steven Montross (2:39:54). ... 25-29 - 1. Blake Yarbrough (2:18:55), 2. Zachary Koch (2:24:43), 3. Herchel Portella (2:32:07). ... 30-34 - 1. Dave Grenley (2:29:36), 2. Michael Edens (2:33:02), 3. Timothy Pitt (2:36:03). ... 35-39 - 1. Derek Champigny (2:14:59), 2. Bo Parrish (2:20:06), 3. Eric Broyles (2:26:25). ... 40-44 - 1. Miles Fortas (2:16:42), 2. Christopher Gloe (2:20:14), 3. Archie Salters (2:21:55). ... 45-49 - 1. Richard Kenmuir (2:19:03), 2. Tony Allen (2:19:21), 3. Michael Probst

(2:19:55). ... 50-54 - 1. Andy Welch (2:32:20), 2. Michael Callahan (2:32:38), 3. Brent Sherman (2:38:04). ... 55-59 - 1. George Dewitt (2:26:20), 2. Nelson Crouch (2:46:44), 3. Murray Scott (2:48:31). ... 60-64 - 1. Butch Wabby (2:41:26), 2. Richard Rodenhausen (2:43:35), 3. Mike Maxey (2:44:38). ... 65-69 - 1. Warren Everett (3:03:48), 2. Jim Freeman (4:26:23).

Female age groups: 19-under - 1. Katie Kosan (3:35:02). ... 20-24 - 1. Angela Selvaggio (3:15:57). ... 25-29 - 1. Mary Zingarelli (2:57:04), 2. Lorelei Duff (3:10:07), 3. Kerstin Diesch (3:10:46). ... 30-34 - 1. Emily Johnson (2:39:32), 2. Michele Kisel (2:40:25), 3. Anne Noble (2:41:30). ... 35-39 - 1. Debbie Carey (2:27:37), 2. Chrissy Freeman (2:36:57), 3. Wendy Fejfar (2:41:43). ... 40-44 - 1. Kasandra Garner (2:39:45), 2. Dianna Cioppi (2:51:27), 3. Stephanie Farrington (2:54:16). ... 45-49 - 1. Suzanne Erickson (2:44:15), 2. Sophia Lal (2:55:03), 3. Kendrah Raney (2:55:33). ... 50-54 - 1. Jeanine Watts (2:58:35), 2. Becky Pommer-Jones (3:03:41), 3. Karen Paulukaitis (3:24:01). ... 55-59 - 1. Ruth Ference (2:52:52), 2. Mary Adamy (3:12:25), 3. Maryjon Large Moore (3:14:29). ... 60-64 - 1. Jody Coombs (3:24:09). ... 65-69 - 1. Sandy Meneley (2:56:18).

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Sports & Recreation

Scholarship golf tourney

The second annual MOAA Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled Sept. 13 at the Links at Redstone. Registration begins at 7 a.m.; and the shotgun start is at 8. This will be a four-person Scramble format. To sign up, call Brian Osterndorf 527-9380 or John Inman 425-8022. Entry forms are also available at the golf course and The Summit and informational posters are at the Exchange and in Sparkman Center. The fee is \$60 per golfer, which includes range balls, cart, golf and lunch. There will be prizes for the top three teams, the longest drive, and closest to the pin, plus door prizes. All proceeds will be applied to the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America's Student Scholarship Program. Persons or organizations interested in sponsoring or donating directly to the scholarship program should call Bruce Robinson 450-2252.

A&M sports hall of fame

The Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its 22nd Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Ernest Knight Center on campus. The Class of 2013 includes five men and two women representing the sports of football, basketball, swimming, soccer, and track and field. Advance tickets are \$40 and can be purchased through the Alumni Affairs Office, 116 Chase Road, by calling 372-5287. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For banquet information, call Sandra Lyles-Jackson 426-5458.

Buckhorn golf scramble

The Buckhorn High School softball team will hold its sixth annual Golf Scramble on Sept. 28 at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. The tournament will be follow the best ball format with prizes for first, second and third place as well as door prizes. The cost is \$260 per four-man team. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 7:30. For more information, call coach Al Rauls 604-0015 or coach Sammy Cross 683-7284.

School House 5K

The seventh annual 5K School House Run and 1K Fun Run is Sept. 14 in Huntsville to support Christmas Charities Year Round. Register by Sept. 1 to reserve your T-shirt; cost is \$20. The race starts and ends at the old W.H. Councill High School on St. Clair St. (next to the public library). The 5K begins at 8 a.m. and the Fun Run at 9. For more information, vis-

it www.christmascharitiesyearround.org. You may also register at www.imathlete.com/events/schoolhouse5k.

Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K

Team Redstone employees are invited to join the Redstone Roadrunners for the 10th annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run on Oct. 19. The 5K raises funds for the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation, which works to bring awareness to breast cancer, purchase equipment for breast cancer diagnosis and provide continuing education for the hospital's Breast Center staff. The goal for the Redstone Roadrunners is to recruit 75 team members and raise \$2,500 for the breast cancer fund. The organizer of the Redstone Roadrunners is the Garrison's Donna Johnson, a 25-year breast cancer survivor. Redstone Roadrunners has won an award for the past six years as the largest government team to participate in the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. Registration for the 5K is \$20. To register, visit the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run website at www.lizhurleyribbonrun.org, choose register with a team and then choose Redstone Roadrunners. Or, make a donation to the Redstone Roadrunners team at the following link: www.lizhurleyribbonrun.org/faf/r.asp?t=4&i=1075748&u=1075748-363766012&e=7026188916.

Golf benefit

Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers will hold its 27th annual scholarship benefit golf tourney Oct. 3 at Robert Trent Jones Hampton Cove golf course. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start following at 12:30 p.m. Tournament proceeds support scholarships for local students to pursue degrees in engineering. For more information, call Chip DeShields 800-264-6481 or email chip.deshields@ssainc.com.

Mud/obstacle run

River Bottom Swamp Romp, a five-mile, adventure run through McFarland Park in Florence, will be held Sept. 7. Times are 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in 30-minute intervals. Early registration costs \$40 for individuals, \$35 for teams, which includes a free ticket to that night's University of North Alabama football game. All registrations also include an after party and event T-shirt. To register visit riverbottomswampromp.ticketleap.com.

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. Members are encouraged to wear royal

blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from www.wearblueruntoremember.org.

Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Sons of American Revolution

The Sons of the American Revolution will meet Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library auditorium downtown. John Kvach will speak on "Revolutionary War and Modern Historic Preservation – Remembering and Saving America's Past." Refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit SAR1776.com.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359. The Confidentially Speaking Toastmasters Club 1422738 meets the first and third Thursday at noon at building 4545; potential members must have access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Shelton Torbert 313-7134 or Larry Davis 313-7127.

Military officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of Military Officers Association of America will hold a luncheon meeting today at 11 at The Summit. Scheduled guest speaker is Will Webb, president of Still Serving Veterans.

Space society

The Huntsville, Ala. L5 Society, or HAL5, a chapter of the National Space Society, will meet Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. at the main auditorium in the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. This is a general membership and planning meeting on the upcoming Astronomy Day and NSS Southeast Regional Workshop. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit chapters.nss.org/al/HAL5/.

Special Forces association

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Sept. 14 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77) in Rainbow City. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are invited. For more information, visit www.chapter92sfa.com/.

Government professionals

The Rocket City-Alabama Chapter, SGMP Society of Government Meeting Professionals, will meet Sept. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jackson Center. Barbie Baugh and Liz Blackmon will present "Dining Etiquette." All administrative, event planners, public affairs specialists, etc., are invited. Cost is \$10 planner/members and \$15 nonmembers. For more information and registration, visit www.rocketcity-alabamachapter.org.

Adjutant general corps

The Rocket City Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association has a monthly meeting every second Thursday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Welcome Center conference room, building 3443 on Honest John Road. Lunch is available at the Java Café. The AGCRA meetings are open to all military and civilian Human Resources professionals in the commuting area. You can join the Rocket City AGCRA at www.AGCRA.com. For information call retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eugene Roberts 955-6507.

Auburn engineering day

The Auburn University Huntsville Research Center will hold Auburn Engineering Day in Huntsville on Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Adtran's Mark C. Smith Conference Room, 901 Explorer Boulevard. The event will bring Auburn University researchers to Huntsville to share their capabilities in areas such as cyber, manufacturing, UAS, GPS, power, materials, microelectronics and more. Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has consistently ranked in the top 50 programs in the nation in research expenditures, a ranking

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that testifies to the college's world-class faculty and cutting-edge research. The event is geared toward companies seeking new and innovative technologies to improve an existing product or develop a new one, and research and development engineers who want to engage Auburn faculty to help develop solutions to problems. To register for the event, contact Vicki Kretzschmar at 327-3181 or VrK0002@auburn.edu. To view the day's agenda, visit ecmns.eng.auburn.edu/eblasts/eng/misc/eng-day-huntsville.html.

Field artillery group

The North Alabama-Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association holds its monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub. All current and former members as well as those interested in joining the association are welcome to attend. For more information, call Ed Poniatowski 426-8874 or email Skibert@aol.com.

Warrant officers association

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association holds its monthly meeting the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit, in the Loft Room. Come join the meeting and have lunch. For more information, visit www.redstone-warrants.com.

Miscellaneous Items

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Education test center

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test. If you speak a language and want it annotated on your records, call and make an appointment to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test. All

Soldiers and qualified DA civilians are eligible to take the DLPT. In addition to APT exams, the Education Center offers the ACT, SAT, Test of Adult Basic Education and GT Improvement exams. If you are taking college classes and need a proctor, proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders). Call 876-9764 to see if you are eligible to test and to schedule an appointment.

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Kay Vest 382-0924 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales website. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by state of Alabama, and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breedden@conus.army.mil.

Lending closet

The lending closet is stocked with basic household items to use before your household goods arrive or after you have been packed for your new assignment. Items may be borrowed for 30 days. ID cards and a copy of your PCS orders are required. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden 876-5397 or email mary.breedden@conus.army.mil. Stop by Army Community Service from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are

offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Fraud prevention

Every year, criminals find sneaky new ways to steal billions of dollars from our nation's Medicare Trust Fund. One of the most effective scams is to call a beneficiary claiming to be from Medicare and then request personal information in order to send out new cards. Seniors and beneficiaries should know that Medicare is not giving out new cards, and does not make cold calls. People can stop these criminals in their tracks by simply hanging up, and never give out any information over the phone. If you have been a victim, report it to your Senior Medicare Patrol at 716-2458.

Redstone Thrift Shop

The Redstone Thrift Shop has started putting out its holiday items, so visit

and check out its seasonal room. "We have a lot of good items and clothing to choose from," a prepared release said. Tips for Troops is looking for donations of personal items and dental supplies for Soldiers. The shop is looking for an outside storage shed or a metal storage container (almost like a pod) to store some of its items. If you would like to donate one or have one that's reasonably priced, call Sheila or Julie 881-6992. If you can get onto Redstone Arsenal, you can shop there and bring a friend. You can consign if you are a contractor, civilian employee, NASA employee or have any type of recognized badge/card, active or retired. If you are interested in consigning, stop by and pick up a packet. The shop goes by color coded tickets and changes them weekly. It also has bargain racks with clothes ranging from 25 cents and up. Business hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 9-5 and the first Saturday of the month 10-2. If you cannot make it during those times, call management 881-6992 and they will work with you. Consignment hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-11:45 a.m. unless otherwise stated on the No-List. Call the No-List 881-6915 Mondays after

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3 p.m. to see what they are not taking for that week. Donations are welcome anytime. After hours, leave them in the gray box under the pavilion.

Quartet available

The Redstone Rocketeers Quartet is available for your next party or civic event. For more information, call 998-0757.

Ride wanted

Human resources specialist Curtis Tucker and his guide dog need a ride to and from work. He lives in Whitesburg Estates, Huntsville; and he works in building 3458 on Aerobee Road. His hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with furlough Friday. Call 842-9289 or email curtis.a.tucker8.civ@mail.mil.

Library renovations

The Post Library is undergoing renovations until approximately Oct. 15. During this time, the building will not be open to the public. The project involves an upgrade to the total lighting system which includes a replacement of the ceiling grid. For updates on the library go to www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, and then click on Library. The staff, relocated to another building, may be reached at 876-4741.

Ordnance alumni

Here's a roll call for Soldiers and Army

civilians who served with the 563rd Ordnance Company in Germany. The inaugural 563rd Ordnance Company Alumni Reunion will be held Friday at the Westin Huntsville Hotel located at Bridge Street Town Centre. Activities will kick off with a reception from 4-6 p.m.; and the main event will consist of a dinner ceremony from 6-9. Join the 563rd Ordnance Company alumni in having fun, enjoying dinner, sharing stories and renewing camaraderie of years past. For more information, email Bud Pagakis at bud@pagakishouse.com or Pascual Rico pascual_rico@comcast.net.

Civil War writing contest

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table's 2013 Writing Contest is ready to launch. In 200 words or less, describe "Why is learning about the American Civil War important to America and Americans?" Contest is open to all elementary, middle and high school students (public, private, and home schooled) in the Tennessee Valley area. Electronic entries are accepted through Sept. 30. Three winners, one in each of the three student categories (elementary, middle and high school) will be announced at the Round Table's inaugural Civil War Symposium at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library's main facility on Monroe Street on Nov. 2. For more information, visit sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/.

Barbecue cookoff

The Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. announces its inaugural "Black Smoke Barbecue Cookoff" on Sept. 14 at 7 a.m. at the House of Alpha, 4301 Oakwood Ave. A \$75 fee is required for participation in the competition. Each team must identify a head cook; and there is no limit to the number of team members. Vendor opportunities are available for \$100. Admission is free to the public. "In keeping with our commitment to community service, we will also be hosting the UAB Hospital as we look to find a donor match for our own brother Sylvester Truss," a prepared release said. "Brother Truss is in need of a kidney transplant. During the cookoff, we will be collecting information from the public in an attempt to find a match for him." For more information, email blacksmokebbq2013@gmail.com.

Infantry division reunion

The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who ever served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the association and its annual reunion in Columbus, Ga., from Sept. 17-21, email secretary treasurer Bob Haynes at 2idahq@comcast.net, call 224-225-1202, or log on to www.2ida.org/Events_National.htm.

Performing arts

If you're someone who loves theatre and art, mark your calendars to attend the new theatre production "The Mourning Tree" at the Renaissance Theatre-Alpha Stage, 1214 Meridian St. It is a one-woman show written and performed by Sherrill Amber Humphrey

and directed by Ron Harris. Show times are Sept. 20-21 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at www.ThePurpleSoapBox.com.

ALC Fun Fest picnic

The AMCOM Logistics Center picnic is scheduled Oct. 3 with a rain date of Oct. 10 at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area. The theme is "ALC Fun Fest 2013" and the festivities will begin around 7:30 a.m. and go throughout the day. Activities include: softball tournament, soccer tournament, corn hole tournament, fishing tournament, car show, horseshoe tournament, bingo, spades tournament, cake walk and more. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale through Sept. 26. The caterer is Shane's Rib Shack. Call Blanca Campos 842-7832. T-shirts are available through Sept. 19 for \$11 in multiple colors. Call Ginger Calaway 842-6636. For more information, call Dimeccia Blake 313-5016 or Karen Atchley 842-4781.

Leadership award breakfast

The Redstone-Huntsville AUSA Chapter will hold its annual 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award Breakfast on Sept. 19 from 7-8 a.m. at The Overlook. The event is to recognize first sergeants from all three components of the Army, who has been the backbone of their unit when it comes to taking care of the Soldiers and family members. Attire will be duty uniform/business casual. For registration and more information, call Bill Tillman 783-8838 or email bill_tillman@msn.com.

Tea room fund-raiser

Emma's Tea Room will hold a fund-raiser

See Announcements on page 43



Photo by Jeff White

Science education panel

Gayla McMichael, of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, participates in a panel discussing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education at the 2013 Space and Missile Defense Conference. McMichael manages the STEM Education and Outreach Office at AMRDEC, which promotes a number of community outreach activities, the Army Educational Outreach Program, and the National Defense Education Program. At left is Susan Moon, assistant principal of Grissom High School. Other panelists included Becky Vansant, president of the Alabama Parent Teacher Association, and Derrick Cameron, vice president of the North Alabama Alumni Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.



Army photo by Gertrud Zach

All aboard

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Joint Multinational Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on Aug. 13 during an Air Movement Training in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Rocket Announcements

for Junior Achievement of North Alabama on Sept. 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. at its Five Points location, 401 Pratt Ave. The fund-raiser includes a champagne cocktail, hot tea, fruit, tea sandwiches and sweet treats. Proceeds will be used for Junior Achievement's entrepreneurial programs in Madison County. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Doors open at 5 p.m., and tea is served at 5:30. Registration is available at www.emmasja.eventbrite.com. Call the JA office for more information at 533-4661 or email mary.ramsey@ja.org.

Newcomers orientation

The next Team Redstone Newcomers and New Employee Orientation for civilian employees, Soldiers and military family members is Oct. 8 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Summit. Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Garrison deputy commander and CPAC director remarks, Army Community Service, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, Fox Army Health Center, Legal/JAG, Security, Management/Employee Relations, Redstone Federal Credit Union, American Federation of Government Employees, Classification/Staffing, Benefits, Payroll, Worker's Compensation, Training and Work Force Development, Equal Employment Opportunity, Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, and Safety. For information on how to participate in Team Redstone Newcomers/NEO, call Jessie McCray 313-0714 or Mary Breeden 876-5397. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by Oct. 8 in TIP at tip.redstone.army.mil/.

Medicine take-back

National Prescription Take-Back Day is Oct. 26 on Redstone Arsenal. Team

Redstone's Army Substance Abuse Program will accept unused or expired medication for safe disposal Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Exchange. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. The day is organized nationwide by the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration: Office of Diversion Control. For more information on Team Redstone's prescription take-back day, contact Wanda Denise English at 842-7465 or wanda.d.english2.civ@mail.mil.

Small business honoree

A-P-T Research Inc. announces its placement on the Inc. 5000 List again. The list represents a comprehensive look at America's independent entrepreneurs. This is the fifth time APT has made the Inc. 5000 list in the last six years and therefore achieved the additional distinction of being added to the Inc. 5000 Honor Roll, according to a prepared release. The 2013 Inc. 5000 List measured revenue growth from 2009 through 2012. A-P-T Research Inc. (Analysis, Planning, Test Research) is an employee-owned, small business, headquartered in Huntsville, which provides professional engineering services in a variety of disciplines.

Constitution celebration

The public is invited to a free Constitution Week ceremony, "Ringing the Bells Across America," on Sept. 17 at 3:30 p.m. at Constitution Village in downtown Huntsville. The Hunt's Spring, Maple Hill, Twickenham Town and Huntsville DAR chapters will celebrate the 226th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Music

will be provided by the Army Materiel Command Band. For more information, call Rhonda Larkin 701-6015 or Karol Kapustka 883-5230.

Patriot Day tribute

Team Redstone's Patriot Day Tribute is Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Redstone employees are invited to pay tribute to the U.S. citizens who were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Flying Tigers reunion

The public is invited to the 72nd Flying Tigers reunion in Huntsville on Sept. 26-29. The Flying Tigers are World War II heroes who helped the Chinese military defend against the Japanese prior to the U.S. involvement in WWII. Three Flying Tigers and the families of several others are expected to participate in the reunion hosted by the Flying Tigers Association. Kim and Matt Quinn, who are related to Flying Tigers' Chuck Baisden, are coordinating the reunion, which will include the group's Passing of the Torch Ceremony on Sept. 27 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and the group's banquet Sept. 28, where retired Lt. Gen. Dan Petrosky, a former commander at Fort Rucker and past president of the Army Aviation Association of America, will be

the guest speaker. The reunion is being supported by Quad A, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Program Executive Office for Aviation and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. For more information about the Flying Tigers, visit www.flyingtigersavg.com. For information on the reunion or to register, contact Kim Quinn at 652-4949 or kimberlyquinn@knology.net.

Innovation day

Marshall Space Flight Center invites all Team Redstone employees to its Innovation and Technology Day Expo, set for Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at MSFC's activities building 4316. The event will showcase live demonstrations and hands-on exhibits of pioneering technology and developments by various MSFC groups, and will provide opportunities for NASA and Redstone Arsenal employees to learn from each other's organizations. Lunch vendors will be on-site and buses to certain buildings will provide local transportation to and from the expo. For the latest information, including bus schedules, visit ExplorNet. The event is hosted by Marshall's Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, and Office of the Chief Technologist.

Photo by Fred Deaton, NASA

Telescope piece arrives

A major piece of the James Webb Space Telescope – the mirror's primary backplane support – arrived at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on Thursday for testing in the X-ray and Cryogenic Test Facility. The backplane is the backbone of the telescope, supporting the telescope's 18 beryllium mirrors, instruments and other elements. The composite structure is extremely lightweight and will keep the 21-foot-diameter primary mirror nearly motionless while the telescope peers into deep space. The Webb telescope is the world's next-generation space observatory and successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. ATK built and assembled the 10,000-plus parts of the backplane structure for NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency under contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation.



Courtesy photo

Kwajalein outreach

Sgt. Maj. Roderick Prisleau, senior enlisted leader at the Kwajalein Atoll, tours the islands as part of his community engagement mission.

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