

Redstone Rocket

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Retired chief makes Ordnance hall of fame

Hobbs continues service in the local community

By KARI HAWKINS
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He may have been only one man standing among the 13 honorees who were being inducted into the prestigious Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame, but retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs was not standing alone.

With him on Nov. 7 at the induction ceremony at Fort Lee, Va., were the people – family, community leaders, Soldiers of all ranks and positions, Army civilians, elected officials and friends – who have mentored, supported, encouraged and challenged the man Hobbs is today.

And who exactly is Dr. Hobbs? To the residents of Huntsville, he is the communications relations officer for its police force. To former students at Columbia High School, he is the JROTC instructor who urged them to lead lives as outstanding contributors to their communities. To Redstone Arsenal, he is a retired veteran who has left behind the many achievements of a long military career to accomplish even greater things in his civilian life. To the children and young adults he mentors, he is an example of someone who didn't let prejudice, discrimination or poverty define what he would become. To the education community, he is a highly educated professional who holds a doctorate and who often teaches classes on ethics, communications, leadership and management. And, to his friends and family, he is a man who loves God and people, who is supportive and caring, and who's always willing to run the extra mile to help those in need.

And now Hobbs is also among the 391 members who have been inducted into the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame since its inception in 1969. He is the first missile systems warrant officer in history to be inducted into a hall of fame that also includes Huntsville's Dr. Wernher von Braun.

"This award honors everyone I've ever served with. I wouldn't have gotten to where I am today without all the experiences and support I received along the way," Hobbs said. "This honor is dedi-



Courtesy photo

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs and his wife Erica celebrate his induction into the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame with Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; and Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuisition, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command and Redstone Arsenal senior commander. The two general officers attended the induction ceremony at Fort Lee, Va. Collyar wrote a letter of recommendation for Hobbs' nomination into the hall of fame.

cated to the Soldiers I worked with, and those who no longer are with us and that I served with.

"I would not have been selected if not for all the great mentors I've had, including retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Estes, who was a role model of what a warrant officer should be and I wanted to be just like him, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ayers, who nominated me. Without those three people along with my wife and family and the grace of God, this honor wouldn't have happened."

A parade was part of the induction ceremony at Fort Lee. Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuisition, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command and Redstone Arsenal senior commander; and Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, along with several career and personal friends of Hobbs and his wife were in attendance.

"I felt so honored and humbled to have this happen to me at the end of my career," Hobbs said. "I wasn't alone.

I stand on the shoulders of those folks who went before me and the great leaders who invested in me and this great city that trusts me to serve."

Coming from disadvantage

Back in 1969 when the hall of fame was established, Hobbs was a disadvantaged young boy being raised by his grandparents in Kentucky. It was at about that time when he became involved with the local YMCA, seeing it as an escape from the streets where he was taunted for being biracial and illegitimate. He later excelled as a Boy Scout, becoming the first boy of color Eagle Scout in his scouting district.

"Thank God for those experiences when I was growing up because those experiences drew me to become the man I am today," Hobbs said.

"I am a mediator, a consensus builder, a conduit that links people with resources for success. I can work with the disadvantaged because I understand where they are coming from. I can work with highly educated and successful people because I

See Hobbs on page 26



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RocketViews

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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Lori Connors

Arts & Crafts Center
“Cornbread stuffing. I did not grow up with it, but made it for the first time when I was living in New Orleans and it was awesome.”



Julie Barnett

One Stop
“Sweet potato casserole. I do the marshmallows, but I like to make a low-sugar version because the potatoes are sweet enough.”



Cathy Ponder

Air Force retired spouse
“Aside from turkey, I would have to say creamed corn.”



Nancy Green

Arts & Crafts Center
“Sweet potato casserole. It is our tradition. My mom made it every year and now I make it every year.”

Quote of the week

‘R’espect yourself and others will respect you.’
— Confucius

RedstoneRocket

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Letter to the editor

Pigeon teaches lesson on flying the coop

My daughter, Alyssa, recently called me up from college to tell me about something neat she had seen. Of course, this is college and I am a father, so naturally my parental instincts kicked in and I started thinking, “Great, what has my daughter learned at college that is not good?”

I was pleasantly surprised and excited to hear about a neat human interest ... uh ... pigeon interest story she told me about.

The day she called me from her apartment at the University of Montevallo, where she is a hall director, she had a nature encounter of the avian kind. A pretty grayish, brown and iridescent pigeon was hanging out just outside her room’s window. She noticed that it was friendly and did not seem to be too intimidated by humans, which gave her the idea to look closer at this beautiful bird. Once she took a closer inspection she saw that it had a band around its foot and that meant it was a special bird. Even though she didn’t try to catch the bird she noticed that there was a telephone number on the band and was able to take it down.

Alyssa called the number and told the gentleman about the bird she had found. She was surprised to hear him say, when asked, that he was located in Napa Valley. She said “Like Napa Valley, Calif.?” Too which he responded, “Yup, near Oakland and San Francisco.”

He went on to tell her that he belonged to an organization that races pigeons and

that this particular bird, which she began calling “Fernandez,” went missing three weeks prior during a race. He said it matter-of-factly and that gave her the impression that this happens often. He said that sometimes the birds get in with other groups of birds and get off track a little. (I’ll say. That’s about 2,383 miles, according to MapQuest. I don’t know of an application that measures it as the “pigeon” flies.)

When asked what she should do with “Fernandez” (I’m sure she didn’t tell him she named him that) he said just leave him outside and that he would eventually find his way home. Or, he suggested, she could catch him and keep him if she liked.

Alyssa then did what she always does where great decisions have to be made and called her dad! “Dad, what should I do?” ... “Do you want him?” ... “I can catch him.”

I love nature and love helping animals out, but in this case I sided with the owner of the bird and said to leave him alone. Fernandez would find his way back home. I advised her to leave some bread or cracker crumbs for Fernandez. My nature loving, artsy daughter gave Fernandez some crumbs and went on her way to her next class. When she returned, sorrowfully or thankfully depending on whose frame of mind you are considering, Fernandez had “flown the coop.”

Here’s to you, Fernandez, on your trip back home. May the odds (and wind) be



Courtesy photo

Fernandez the racing pigeon found his way to the University of Montevallo.

ever in your favor!

Victor Luna

LOGSA Support Operations

Author’s note: According to Wikipedia, pigeon racing is the sport of releasing specially trained racing pigeons, which then return to their homes over a carefully measured distance. The time it takes the animal to cover the specified distance is measured and the bird’s rate of travel is calculated and compared with all of the other pigeons in the race to determine which bird returned at the highest speed. One of the latest methods of tracking some pigeons is with the use of Radio Frequency Identification tags.

By the numbers: Residential fires

The National Fire Prevention Association provided the following statistics:

3,000 Americans die in home fires annually.

40 percent of those deaths occur between December and February.

500 home fires each year from 2006-10 were caused by Christmas trees.



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Getting to know you

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY
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Name: Christopher Colster

Position: Public affairs officer, Garrison

Where do you call home?

Home is wherever I sleep at night. I'm originally from Columbia, Mo., but have been moving around since I joined the Army. I have really enjoyed living in Madison, Ala., and am really glad to call it home now. I can envision being here for a very long time.

What do you like about your job?

I was an Army infantry officer for many years and then I was pulled, kicking and screaming, into the public affairs world. Turns out that I love it. Many of our Soldiers and professional civilians shy away from publicity but they have a great story to tell. So, I really like to tell the "Army story" and how our Soldiers and civilians are improving the world that we live in. My old unit was comprised of "quiet professionals" and if I didn't tell the world of the great work that they were doing, a lot of it would be left unsaid. It's the same thing at Redstone – there's a mystique about this place and it's awesome to highlight some of the great professionals and the amazing work that they do every day.

What are your goals, personal, professional or both?

My most immediate goal is to become more involved in the Team Redstone community. It's hard to be "the new guy" so finding my place has been a little challenging. Social media has been huge – meeting new people and figuring things out – so send me friend requests! It's really a small, complicated community here and it's been fun to figure out how it all works.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm pretty much of a gym-rat. I love CrossFit, running and working out and really enjoy the competition. I also love to watch sports – my favorites being baseball and football. I like to get around to races, events, etc., in the community on the weekends. I love the summer time and being outside in the heat for outdoor activities.

What is on your bucket list?

I think I'll run for governor some day! Also, I've never run a marathon and would like to accomplish that soon. I'm willing to try most anything once and am having fun with new experiences. I really just try to stay open to opportunities and jump on them when I have the chance – and to enjoy every minute.



Courtesy photo

Christopher Colster relaxes with his daughters Erin, 16, left, and Emily, 15.

Comment: There is no coin-operated laundry facility on base. The billeting on post used to have coin-operated washers and dryers. With the IMG hotel running the facility, the washer and dryer machine usage is now free, but only limited to hotel guests. I am an Army retiree who is renting a housing unit on base at Redstone. For safety reasons, I prefer to do all my business on base.



Response: Currently, there are no plans to build a coin-operated laundry facility on post. However, there is a coin-operated laundry facility at the RV Campground across the street from the Commissary and Exchange.

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.

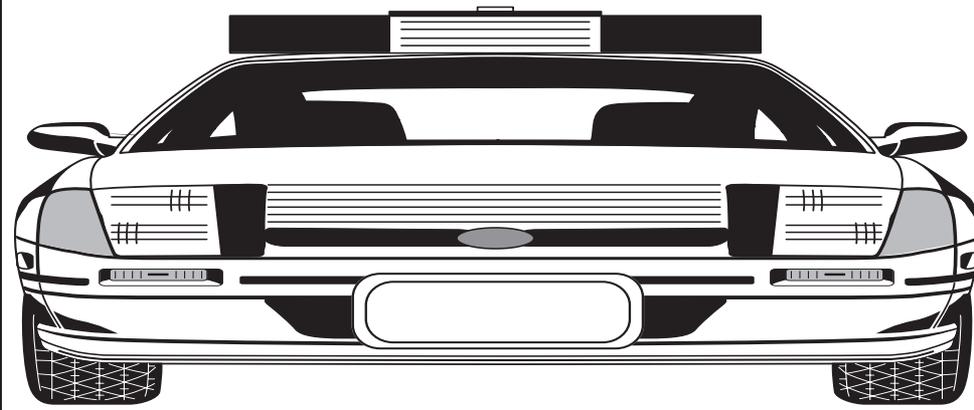
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 3-9:

- Police filed a report of damage to government property when an Exchange customer drove away from a gas pump without removing the nozzle from their vehicle.
- A one-vehicle accident without injury occurred on Vincent near Aerobee Road. The vehicle struck a deer which ran into its path.
- Police responded to Redstone Road near Gate 3 for a traffic accident without injury when a vehicle struck two deer.
- A vehicle was reported damaged while in the parking lot of building 5224.
- A vehicle was reported damaged

while in the parking lot of building 3328.

- An individual reported their retired military identification card was stolen from their vehicle while it was at their off-post residence. Investigation continues by the Athens Police Department.
- Police responded to a traffic accident without injury at the intersection of Fowler and Mills roads.
- Police responded to a person who was confused and lost at the Commissary. Officers were able to reunite the individual with a family member.
- At Gate 9, a driver was cited for a revoked license.
- An individual was processed for attempting to shoplift merchandise at the Exchange.
- Thirteen U.S. district court violation notices were issued.



AMC commander receives leadership award

By AMC Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, received the 2013 Alumni Leadership Award from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund during TMC's Leadership Institute Luncheon Nov. 11 at the Washington Hilton.

Via, a historically black college and university alumnus, was honored for his exemplary military record and lifetime achievements. He shared with the attendees his lessons, or tips for success, emphasizing what he considered to be the most important component to a successful career – leadership.

“With leadership comes great responsibility and accountability,” Via said. “To be a successful leader, you must take accountability for your actions, and your decisions, good and bad.”

Via, who commands a \$50 billion global logistics enterprise with about 70,000 Soldiers and civilians stationed throughout the United States and overseas, told students they will make mistakes.

“I’ve made many,” he said. “However, it’s through those mistakes you’ll gain invaluable experience, and these experiences will help you grow stronger as a leader.”

Via offered several points to help future leaders succeed in their future careers.

“Pursue academic excellence,” he said, noting there is no substitution for academic preparation.

“Develop and nurture your character,” he added. One can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.

Via also advised attendees to maintain their moral and ethical compass – the ability to judge right from wrong, even when no one is watching.

“Don’t lose your way,” he said. “Stay true to your-

“Don’t lose your way, Stay true to yourself and avoid straying from your foundation – your family, your school, your community.”

Gen. Dennis Via
commander, Army Materiel Command

self and avoid straying from your foundation – your family, your school, your community.”

Via told attendees to never compromise their integrity.

“Integrity is the one character trait that can never be taken from you – you have to give it away, and once lost, it can never be regained. Integrity builds trust, and trust is the very foundation of leadership.”

Work hard to be a good person, a good friend, a good classmate, a good family member and a good role model rounded out Via’s list of advice for the future leaders.

“Although a successful career is not guaranteed, I submit to you that if you follow the advice I’ve provided this afternoon, along with all the advice you received during the Thurgood Marshall Leadership Conference, you’ll be well on your way.”

Via is the first-ever signal officer in the history of the Army to be promoted to a four-star general, a rank held by only 13 other Army officials, and is the seventh African-American to be promoted to this rank. He assumed duties as the 18th commander of AMC on Aug. 7, 2012. He is a class of 1980 distinguished military graduate of Virginia State University and holds a master’s from Boston University.

“General Via is a perfect example of an HBCU



Courtesy photo

Retired Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg presents the 2013 Alumni Leadership Award to Gen. Dennis Via, Army Materiel Command's commander, at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Leadership Institute Luncheon Nov. 11 at the Washington Hilton.

graduate who has demonstrated supreme leadership throughout his career, and we are proud to honor him with this award in the presence of all the students,” Johnny C. Taylor Jr, TMCF president and CEO, said during the award announcement.

On this date in history: Nov. 20

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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In 1789: New Jersey becomes the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1866: Grand Army of Republic, a veterans organization, holds its first national convention.

In 1914: U.S. State Department starts requiring photographs for passports.

In 1917: In the first tank battle, Britain breaks through German lines.

In 1940: During World War II, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia join the Axis Powers.

In 1945: Twenty-four Nazi leaders are put on trial at Nuremberg, Germany.

In 1959: The United Nations adopts the Universal Declaration of Children’s Rights.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw, USASMDC/ARSTRAT

Veterans appreciation

Lt. Gen. David Mann, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and his wife Robyn, speak with Navy veteran Lawrence Farmer on Veterans Day at the Floyd E. “Tut” Fann State Veterans Home Nov. 11.

Tailgate fundraiser gets boost over previous years

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees sponsored a Combined Federal Campaign fundraising tailgate and car show Nov. 6.

During the command's third "tailgate party," more than 150 people were fed, and more than \$1,700 was raised for CFC, an increase over last year's fundraiser.

"Many thanks to all who came out and attended our third annual tailgate and car show supporting CFC," Lt. Col. Corey Robinson, SMDC deputy chief of staff G-1, said. "Special thanks goes to Ms. KC Bertling for coordinating an outstanding event."

The festivities included tent displays, a car show, food, competition and awards. The Commander's Cup for Best Tailgate Display was awarded to the Future Warfare Center employees; and the Command Sergeant Major's Cup for Best Cheering was snagged for the second year by SMDC's G-2 office staff.

The winners of the car show were:

Commanding general's choice: 1967 GMC Truck, Jere Singleton

Command sergeant major's choice: 1993, Ford F-150, Ken Curry

Deputy to commanding general's choice: 1946, Mercury Coupe, David Hasley

Chief of staff's choice: 1973 Porsche 914, Bob Hill

Veteran's choice: 2002 Corvette Z51, Bill Binkley

People's choice: tie between 1973 Porsche 914, Bob Hill, and 2002 Corvette Z51, Bill Binkley

Highest mileage: 1967 GMC Truck with 115,000 miles, Jere Singleton

The volunteer grill masters were Reed Carpenter, Phil Patterson, Col. John "Jack" Shedd, Col. Kevin Michaels, Col. Jeffrey Ogden, Col. Dewey Granger and Col. Lorenzo Mack.

"What great teamwork from all who helped pull off this event and from those who participated in the tailgate and car show contests," Robinson said.

Native American heritage celebrated Thursday

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
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Team Redstone will pause Thursday to remember, recognize and celebrate the contributions Native Americans have made to this country from its very beginnings, for National American Indian Heritage Month.

Marshall Space Flight Center's own Jerry Davis, a.k.a. Shadow Wolf, is the keynote speaker for Team Redstone's National American Indian Heritage Month program Thursday at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The theme for this year's observance is "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions."

Davis, a member of the Cherokee Tribe, works in construction management and inspection for operation,

maintenance and facility construction at MSFC. The founder of the Alabama-Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association, which sponsors the annual Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride, Davis worked with the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission and Alabama Legislature in the mid-1990s to designate the Trail of Tears Corridor of North Alabama. It was later added to the National Parks Service's National Trail of Tears Program.

Davis is also the owner of Shadow Wolf Inc. and the founder and CEO of the Alabama Waterfowl Association. He was also named Alabama's 2005 Conservationist of the Year.

For questions, or more information about the program, call Master Sgt. Andrew Ruffin at 450-6425.



Photo by Carrie E. David

Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-2 office employees end their cheer during the command's third annual Combined Federal Campaign tailgate and car show Nov. 6 with a "fur-low can you go" limbo. The G-2 staff won the command sergeant major's cup for best cheering.

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:

Friday movies canceled

The Friday movies have been canceled until further notice, according to FMWR.

Challenger bingo event

The Challenger Bingo Turkey Bowl is Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Doors open at 10 a.m., registers at 10:30. Ticket prices are: presale \$125, week of \$150 and day of \$175. There's a guaranteed

payout of more than \$15,000. For more information or tickets, call 955-3727.

Arts and crafts

Explore your creative side at the June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Vincent Drive. Try your hand at something new or increase your skills. The center offers a variety of classes each month. For more information, call the center at 876-7951 or email lori.j.connors.naf@mail.mil.

NCO call

The NCO Call is Thursday at 4 p.m. at Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Drive. For more information, call 876-5331.

In this section...

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Vietnam veterans thanked in commemoration ceremony

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Retired Col. Forrest Newton doesn't wear a suit very often but Nov. 12 at the Commissary was special.

Wearing his many medals and ribbons on his left lapel, he stood before attendees in aisle 7 as the keynote speaker for the 50th anniversary Vietnam War commemoration ceremony.

"I think this is one of the most important things we can do for our Vietnam veterans," Newton said.

The 63-year-old Huntsville resident served in Vietnam in 1969 with the 1st Marine Division as an infantryman and Vietnamese interpreter. After 38 years in the military, he retired from the Army in 2012 in Washington, D.C.

"It's simply time to say thank you," Newton said. "Ninety-seven percent of the Vietnam veterans were honorably discharged from the armed services."

Two-thirds of those who served in Vietnam were volunteers. "The Vietnam War was where we got the idea that we could have an all-volunteer Army," Newton said.

Some 8 million Americans served during the nearly 11 years from 1964-75. "There's 58,000 (men) and eight women who were killed during the Vietnam War," Newton said, relating the importance of thanking the families.

He encouraged everyone to thank any veteran they



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Retired Col. Forrest Newton speaks during the 50th anniversary Vietnam War commemoration ceremony Nov. 12 at the Commissary.

encounter. "It you want to feel good about yourself, thank a veteran," he said.

The Defense Commissary Agency became partners of the Vietnam War Veterans Commemorative Partnership Program in March. A decision was made to create a memorial ceremony at each commissary worldwide during the Veterans Day weekend from Nov. 9-11.

During the Commissary's ceremony, AMCOM



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Commissary store director Robin Daniel explains the symbols on the commemorative flag held by assistant store director Al Crawford.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell gave the history of Veterans Day, Garrison chaplain Lt. Col. Paige Heard delivered a prayer for veterans, and store director Robin Daniel explained the symbols on the commemorative flag.

"I'm a veteran of three wars: the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Iraq War," Newton said. "And I can tell you, the one that's had the most impact on me is Vietnam."

Fox staffers work to close loop on patient care

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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When it takes more than a visit to Fox Army Health Center to tend to a patient's health, Fox Army Health Center staff is there to help beneficiaries get the care and assistance they need.

"What we do is provide a process by which patients can get specialty care that we don't provide in this clinic," Dendy Donovan, referral management chief at Fox, said. "We provide great primary care, but when it comes to specialties like neurology or cardiology, we have to refer them out. We all work very closely together to get our beneficiaries taken care of."

If a patient needs to see a specialist, their primary care doctor at Fox will put in an order for that referral to the referral management staff, who work to determine how many appointments are authorized by Tricare and Humana, and see to it that the clinical information being sent out is correct. If questions or conflicts come up during that process, staff works to resolve those to make sure the patient gets what they really need.

Referrals go out within 7 to 10 working days of being ordered. Once the referral has been approved, the beneficiary will get a response informing them of that decision, with information regarding the name of the provider they will be seeing and their contact information, as well as how many visits they are allowed and what is covered. After they receive their letter they can schedule their appointment, if it has not already been made.

"Once they've had their appointments, we have tracking mechanisms where we can reconcile referrals, see they had appointments, and find out their results," Donovan said. "We close the loop on the continuity of care."

On average, Fox staff process 2,000 referrals a month. For beneficiaries, it is important a referral is submitted, to avoid incurring a cost for the visit.

"What we try to do is educate," Donovan said. "We educate our providers and our nurses here so they know what's covered, and they know what's not. We want to make sure people know so that they don't get into the debt collection position."

If they do get into a debt collection position, beneficiaries will get to know Paula

Twitchell. As the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator, and the debt collection assistance officer, Twitchell is there to "improve satisfaction, enhance education, interact with MTF staff members, managed care support contractors and claims processors, to resolve beneficiary concerns."

"The principle is to keep it simple by solving problems as quickly as possible so they don't end up in debt collection," Twitchell said.

At times, Fox beneficiaries may seek medical care off post, not realizing that they need to get a referral for that service, otherwise they'll incur a charge for that care. If they ignore that bill thinking they don't have to pay it, they may end up in debt collection, which is where Twitchell comes in.

"The DCAOs assist with Tricare medical claim problems which have been sent to collections, or appear negative on their credit report," Twitchell said. "We collect pertinent documentation to determine whether the collection notice is valid, and notify the appropriate provider or collection agency that the case is being reviewed, and attempt to resolve the problem. If it cannot be, DCAOs ensure the beneficiary is made aware of further options available to them."

To avoid incurring those charges in the first place, when medical care is needed, beneficiaries should call Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888 to schedule an appointment. If an appointment cannot be scheduled within the access to care, the patient will be referred elsewhere. For appointments after business hours, weekends, or holidays, beneficiaries can speak with an advice nurse to receive advice, a routine appointment or referral if indicated. Even in the case of urgent care, prior authorization is required. For emergencies involving life, limb, or eyesight, no referral is necessary but call the clinic after the episode of care so they can do a retroactive referral to ensure the bill is paid.

"I encourage Tricare Prime beneficiaries to be sure and read their Tricare Prime handbook before they seek care," Twitchell said. "There are policies, rules, regulations and guidelines that must be followed. Failure to follow the Prime Access to Care rules could cost Tricare beneficiaries more out of pocket."

For questions about Tricare or debt collection assistance, beneficiaries can call Twitchell at 955-8888 ext. 1646.

Fox outlines access to care standards

The following are Fox Army Health Center's access to care standards, as defined by Tricare Prime. If Fox cannot provide an appointment within the access to care outlined, Fox must give the patient a referral to be seen outside of the military treatment facility.

- Acute/Urgent care (high fever, earache, etc.): 24 hours

- Routine care (colds, check-ups, allergies): 7 days

- Specialty care (neurology, cardiology, etc.): 28 days

- Wellness care (physicals, pap smears): 28 days

** For all emergency care, beneficiaries should either call 911 or go to the closest emergency room.

If a patient needs a referral on the weekend, they should call the advice nurse, available 24/7, at 955-8888.

Spiritual living at Redstone

*Express joyous faith
for true thanksgiving*

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) PAIGE HEARD
Garrison chaplain

What do you think of when you hear the word Thanksgiving? Are you like many people who immediately think of turkey and football? Or do you think of shopping on Black Friday? For others it means a family get-together, listening to family stories.

Thanksgiving is much more than any of these things. True thanksgiving is not just a day for food, football and family. It's not just a holiday every fourth Thursday in November. For God's people, every day ought to be Thanksgiving Day!

In Old Testament scriptures, Psalm 100, we read about a song of Thanksgiving. It is an invitation and an invocation for people who recognize the Lord and his goodness to publicly acknowledge him. Not only does it call upon us to praise the Lord with thankfulness but it also describes to us the nature of thanksgiving.

Our thanksgiving is to be joyous (verses 1-2). "Shout joyfully to the

Lord." (New International Version). The King James Version says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Whether we translate the word "shout" or "noise," the meaning is clear. We are to vocally proclaim our joyful thanks.

In English, the word "thank" means to "express gratitude or appreciation." However, the Hebrew word "yadah" means literally "to make public acknowledgement." In the Hebrew mindset, it was never enough to thank God quietly or privately. In the mindset of Psalm 100, it must be public.

True thankfulness cannot be kept quiet. For some reason many followers of God have developed the idea that in order to worship the Lord; we must be quiet and solemn. Certainly there are times when we consider the Lord in quiet wonder, but when God's people get together, we are to "shout joyfully to the Lord!" Our joy needs to show.

Secondly, we are to worship the Lord with gladness. The Psalmist also says, "Worship the Lord with gladness." In verse 2, the NIV uses the word "Worship," but I prefer the King James and New American Standard

usage of the word "serve." It says: "Serve the Lord with gladness." Originally this referred to the service in the Jewish temple, the service of worship. However, we can certainly use this word "serve" for us today. Thankful people are serving people. We should be willing servants. God has done so much for us. We have so much for which to be thankful. I believe we can show true thankfulness through serving others. But I don't believe that people will see it as from the Lord unless it is done with "gladness."

Thirdly, we are to joyfully sing to the Lord. You can tell a lot about the life of a church by listening to the singing. When you enter a church that is spiritually alive there is intensity in the singing whether there are 10 or 10,000 people. You don't have to sing well (KJV - "make a joyful noise") but every God-follower needs to joyfully sing!

Fourthly, our thanksgiving is with purpose (verse 3). Some people are not thankful to God because they do not know God. Look closely at this scripture, "Know that the Lord is God." That is a simple but profound

Bicentennial Chapel Sunday Schedule

Catholic Mass 9 a.m.

Protestant Sunday

School 9:30 a.m.

**Protestant
Worship Service
11 a.m.**



statement. "It is he who made us, and we are his."

Have you noticed how ungrateful the world has become? No one seems to be appreciative of anything. Instead of giving thanks for the abundance we have, we just want more. Sir John Templeton, the billionaire investor, was once asked what is the secret of wealth. Without hesitation Templeton said, "Gratitude. If you're not grateful, you're not rich, no matter how much you have."

As the great shepherd, God cares for us and provides for us. When we know who God is and who we are, we give him thanks. We have a purpose - a reason to be truly thankful.

See Spiritual on page 12

Commissaries to start scanning IDs

By DeCA Public Affairs Division

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissaries will soon begin scanning customers' Department of Defense ID cards at checkouts as the Defense Commissary Agency continues its pursuit to deliver a 21st century benefit.

The commissary at Fort Lee, Va., became the first store to scan ID cards on Oct. 22 as the first part of an agency-wide rollout to all stores that began Nov. 10 and will be completed by mid-January. Redstone Commissary store director Robin Daniel said she expects to receive an implementation date soon.

Commissary shoppers are used to showing their ID cards to establish their eligibility to use the commissary. By scanning the ID at checkout, DeCA will no longer need to maintain any personal information on customers in its computer systems, such as the system used for customers who write checks. Scanning will also help improve the commissary benefit for all patrons, according to Joseph Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

"In addition to verifying customers as authorized commissary patrons, we'll gain information that will give us a better understanding of our patrons, allowing the agency to provide the commissary benefit more effectively and ef-

ficiently," Jeu said.

Cross-referenced with other DoD data, the scan data will give DeCA useful information about patron usage, by military service, along with customer demographics that does not identify specific personal data of an individual. This will eventually help the agency identify shopping needs and preferences – information that is essential in today's retail business environment. It will also allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage.

The demographic information DeCA will use is strictly limited to: card ID number, rank, military status, branch of service, age, household size and ZIP codes of residence and duty station. DeCA will not be using any personal information such as names, addresses or phone numbers.

"The methods, processes and information we'll use will not compromise our customers' privacy – they can be sure of that," Jeu said. "We're putting technology to work to better understand our customers and ensure the commissary benefit continues to remain relevant to them now and in the future."

For more information on ID card scanning, go to www.commissaries.com/documents/contact_deca/faqs/id_card_scanning.cfm.

Thanksgiving Day

Holiday hours Redstone Exchange

Facilities	THANKSGIVING DAY Thursday Nov. 28	Hours of Operation Friday Nov. 29	Hours of Operations Saturday 11/30/2013	Hours of Operations Sunday 12/01/2013
Main Store	Closed	4 a.m.-7 p.m.	6 a.m.-7 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Concession				
Alteration Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
Barber Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Barber Shop at VBC	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Flower Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
GNC	Closed	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	noon-5 p.m.
Laundry	Closed	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
Nail Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
Firestone	Closed	7 a.m.-6 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Express	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	6 a.m.-11 p.m.	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Beauty Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed
Optical Store	Closed	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	Closed
Optometrist Dr. Hartman	Closed	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	as posted	Closed
Food Court				
Anthony's Pizza/Subs	Closed	10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Charley's	Closed	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Church's	Closed	10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	11 a.m.-5 p.m.	11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
American Eatery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Café	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Burger King	Closed	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed
HR	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Spiritual

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Fifthly, our thanksgiving needs to be passionate (verse 4). We are to “enter into his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.” We are to “give thanks to him and praise his name.” Note again some of the other colorful expressive words in this psalm – “joyful,” “shout,” “serve,” “gladness.” When we come together and purposefully, publicly offer our gratitude to God, that thanks offering should be expressive. Have you ever seen those TV commercials where someone wins the Publisher’s House sweepstakes? How do the people act when the TV crew comes to their door? Do they say, “Oh, well thank you, I guess” or do they shout with jubilation? We have much more to be thankful for than a million dollar prize. We have eternal riches beyond our wildest imaginations!

Our thanksgiving needs to come from the heart. When we consider all that God has done for us, the spirit will lead us in an attitude of gratitude. With that attitude, we can express our thanksgiving with action.

We can be passionate.

Lastly, our thanksgiving needs to be perpetual (verse 5). Our gratitude should never cease because God’s blessings on us are perpetual. His goodness, mercy and truth never run out. They never end. They endure forever.

Sometimes it’s a challenge to give thanks, but I believe that is our greatest call to faith is to give thanks to the Lord even when life is hard. Let me share a great example of a man who purposely and passionately showed thankfulness to God in spite of his circumstances.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who was imprisoned in 1943 for his political and Christian opposition to the Nazi regime, was executed two years later. On the day that the sentence was carried out, he conducted a worship service for the other prisoners. One of those prisoners, an English officer who survived, wrote these words: “Bonhoeffer always seemed to me to spread an atmosphere of happiness and joy over the least incident, and profound gratitude for the mere fact that he was alive ... He was one of the very few persons I have ever met for whom God was real and always near

... On Sunday, April 8, 1945, Pastor Bonhoeffer conducted a little service of worship and spoke to us in a way that went to the heart of all of us. He found just the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment, and the thoughts and resolutions it had brought us. He had hardly ended his last prayer when the door opened and two civilians entered. They said, ‘Prisoner Bonhoeffer, come with us.’ That had only one meaning for all prisoners – the gallows. We said goodbye to him. He took me aside: ‘This is the end; but for me it is the beginning of life.’ The next day he was hanged in Flossenburg.”

We have so much for which we can be thankful. God has blessed us all immeasurably. This Thanksgiving is so much more than food and all the other festivities; it is about remembering the one from whom all blessings flow. Let us make every day a day of joyous, purposeful, passionate and never ending thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father.

Protestant women meeting

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Thursday for Bible Study classes at the Bicentennial Chapel. The meetings are from 9:30

a.m. to noon and at 6 p.m. There are three different Bible studies for the morning session and one study in the evening. Limited childcare is offered for preschool children at the chapel. A home-school program is offered through Child, Youth and School Services in building 3148. Children should be registered with CYSS located at the Community Welcome Center in building 3443. For more information about PWOC, call the Bicentennial Chapel at 842-2176 or Celeste Williams at 652-4259.

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.

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.

Middle school students view artillery opportunities

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Fifteen middle school students got a glimpse of the business side of the Army on Nov. 13.

The seventh- and eighth-graders from Chapman Schools are members of Future Business Leaders of America. They toured the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office with club adviser Jill Johnson and two other adults.

Back in the summer, Johnson had taken a professional development tour of Redstone which was arranged by Redstone's school liaison officer Barbara Williams. She received many Redstone contacts and started sending emails. The Nov. 13 tour at building 112 was one of the events resulting from that process; and it took about two months to get worked out.

"Our children are mostly potentially first-generation college students and they just need exposure to all types of job opportunities," Johnson, the career technology teacher at Chapman, said. "It was really good."

The school bus pulled up to the project office's building shortly before 9 a.m. The youngsters were escorted to a conference room where they heard from Precision Fires project manager Col. Gary Stephens, deputy project manager Dr. Charles Lind and others.

"Our business is the business side of the Army," Stephens told the students. He said the project office was happy to have them visit and appreciates opportunities to provide outreach. The young-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jim Elliott, assistant product manager for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and retired sergeant first class, describes his experience with the launchers.

sters asked about serving in the Army and the possibility of going to war.

"Every day I get to wear the uniform, it makes me proud to serve," the Soldier for 25 years said.

A short video on the Precision Fires systems was shown. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt MacKenzie, assistant product manager for sustainment for field artillery launchers, gave an overview. The youngsters were taken outside where they saw the launcher vehicles on display and heard from Jim Elliott, assistant product manager for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and retired sergeant first class.

"This is fun stuff for the children," Lind said. "It's fun stuff for the leaders of this organization to kind of share their experiences."

Mylajuwon Riley, 13, an eighth-grader, got a Precision Fires football from Stephens for asking the colonel a question in the conference room. The football had this signed message: "Stay focused, remain committed to your education and go after what you want in life. Good luck, Col. Gary D. Stephens."

Asked her impressions from the day, Riley said, "I think it's interesting. It catches your attention because they're out there fighting for their lives and they don't know if they're going to die or not. It's sad. I couldn't do it."

Ethan Williams, 12, a seventh-grader, had a different viewpoint. "I really like it," he said. "I'm really interested in the military."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt MacKenzie, assistant product manager for sustainment for field artillery launchers, gives an update.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The seventh- and eighth-graders from Chapman Schools watch a video about Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The youngsters gather with their hosts shortly before the conclusion of their tour.



Courtesy photo

Veteran appreciation

The Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation president Sam Bertling presents a special medal to former Marine Corps Korean War veteran Duane Trowbridge. The H-3-1 unit held its annual reunion in Huntsville during the Heroes Week. Twenty veterans received this specially made medal honoring their services during Korean War from 1950-53.



In this section...

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COLONEL SHARES VETERAN'S VIEW FOR CHILDREN

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Hutchison receives AUSA award

The Association of the U.S. Army has selected Michael Hutchison, deputy to the Army Contracting Command commanding general, to receive its 5th Region Civilian Exceptional Service Award. The announcement was made at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 23.

Though Hutchison was unable to attend the award ceremony, he commented that he was “truly honored to receive this award because it recognizes the hard work and dedication of the ACC-Rock Island contracting center team.” Reflecting on his former position as executive director of ACC’s Rock Island, Ill., contracting center, he said the center “does extensive work in support of operations in Southwest Asia, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, reachback support to troops on the ground, plus all of the ammo we bought. It also recognizes the work we did to build ACC-RI into the center it is today.”

Hutchison said ACC-RI is 2.5 times larger and does seven times the work today compared to 2002, when he arrived. He also worked closely with the Quad City Chamber of Commerce and the Rock Island Development Group.



Michael Hutchison

The Rock Island Arsenal chapter of the AUSA nominated Hutchison as its 2012-13 Department of the Army civilian of the year. The main criteria for this award included service not only to the Army but also to the local community, according to his nominator, Kerry Skinner, Rock Island AUSA chapter 5102. Skinner said Hutchison executed his duties as executive director in an exemplary manner, but his work with organizations such as Women in Defense, National Defense Industrial Association, and the National Contract Management Association were also recognized.

The award has five executive core qualifications: leading change, leading people, results driven, business acumen, and building coalitions. According to the nomination, Hutchison had strong examples of success in each. In leading change, the most notable was his creation of the Rock Island contracting center Reachback Division that entailed moving poor-quality contracts in Kuwait to an office in the states capable of handling the workload while keeping a liaison on ground. He was also instrumental in achieving more diversity in the workforce, doubling minority representation in two years.

Local company sends holiday boxes to troops

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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When organizing their United Service Organization winter Holiday Box service project, the local headquarters of Lockheed Martin put the call out to its workforce for 50 volunteers. They did not achieve that number.

Instead more than 80 employees volunteered to pack jumbo boxes with all the comforts of home – such as cards, snacks, movies and other treats – to show their appreciation for the Soldiers and their sacrifices. This is not surprising when considering that almost 25 percent of Lockheed Martin employees are veterans.

“The goal was to get 50 and we blew that out of the water,” Lockheed Martin’s Jeanette Alberg, who helped coordinate the event, said. “Especially with this week being Veterans Week, we had a lot of interest.”

The aerospace company invited Soldiers from Redstone Arsenal and local officials to participate in the pack-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Maj. Christopher Burton, background, commander of Headquarters & Headquarters Company AMCOM, and 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Smith help pack the holiday boxes

ing of the boxes Thursday. Each jumbo box will be distributed to 50 Soldiers in forward deployed locations. Madison mayor Troy Trulock, himself a retired combat veteran, participated in the packing and shared with the participants how much it means to Soldiers in war zones to receive a little slice of home.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Lockheed Martin employee Tara Blöse gives a touching account of what the boxes mean to deployed Soldiers. Blöse, a third-generation veteran, served in the Air Force as a major and was deployed to the Middle East.

“When you get that package, you become a child at Christmas again,” Trulock said.

The event, part of Lockheed Martin’s 50th anniversary commemoration of operations in Huntsville, was held at its historic first building on Bradford Drive,

constructed in 1963. This is not the first year that Lockheed Martin has partnered with the USO, but it is the first time that the local branch has sponsored the holiday box event. In addition to the boxes, volunteers signed USO banners with words of thanks and well-wishes.

Lockheed Martin employee Suzanne Duncan was just one of the many employees who rolled up their sleeves and quickly got to work, packing boxes with items that most people take for granted, but to a Soldier in a combat zone, can mean the world.

“Anything where I can give back to the Soldier,” Duncan said.

The USO Holiday Box was developed by the USO to bring some of the comforts of home to men and women deployed in remote locations who do not have access to traditional USO centers. The USO was created in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide emotional support to troops serving in World War II. Their mission is to continue their service and support until every troop comes home.

For more information on the USO and their Holiday Box program, go to www.uso.org/uso-holiday-boxes/.

Wanted: Uniformed heroes to shop with needy children

Church leads effort in Madison County

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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A uniform can speak a thousand words about safety, courage, honor, duty and service.

So, when uniformed heroes lend a helping hand to disadvantaged children, it can be an experience that leaves a lasting impression.

Combine those uniformed heroes with a little holiday shopping and it adds a bit of fun to that impression.

On Dec. 14, uniformed heroes in Madison County – Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and first responders – will spend a few hours helping disadvantaged children shop for holiday gifts for their families at the Target store in Madison.

The event, known as Shop With a Hero, is returning for a repeat performance thanks to the members of Flint River Baptist Church. Last year, the church raised enough money so that 300 disadvantaged children could participate in the event. This year, that number has increased to 420 disadvantaged children.

“For the children and their families, we think this program communicates hope,” Dr. Steve Bell, pastor of Flint River Baptist Church, said. “Most of these children come from difficult situations.”

But to make the day a success, uniformed heroes need to volunteer.

“Any military service member can be a part of this day,” Tom Mack, who recruits volunteers for Shop With a Hero, said. “They can be active duty, National Guard or reservists. They can be firefighters and law enforcement. Even veterans with local veteran organizations who wear a military hat or shirt can volunteer to help.

“Any hero who has a big enough heart to volunteer for this will have a big enough heart to relate to the kids.”

The only requirement is a military service uniform – or, for veterans, a military cap or shirt – and a caring heart.

Last year, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Tim Johnson wore his dress blues to the event.

“It was good to see the kids out to shop for their families and to especially see the looks on their faces when you walked up to them,” Johnson said. “It was fun to go through the store with the children. It was amazing to see how well they managed their money.”

Bell said Shop With A Hero allows his church members to connect with families in the northeastern Madison County communities it serves. It also allows the church to show its appreciation to the area’s heroes.

“We recognize our heroes. This is our way of saying ‘thank you’ for what you are doing,” Bell said. “Then, we challenge our heroes to



Courtesy photo

A Soldier helps a little girl complete her holiday shopping spree during the 2012 Shop With A Hero event. This year’s event, set for Dec. 14, hopes to recruit up to 420 uniformed heroes to help disadvantaged children shop for family gifts.

make this little girl or little boy they are helping a hero for the day.”

Last year, Bell saw that happen over and over again. He recalled a major general in his dress uniform who reached out to a young boy.

“I wondered if this officer with all this big brass on his uniform could connect with a little kid,” Bell said. “I saw him get down on his knees in front of a little boy and say ‘Hey buddy, my name is Sam. What do you want to buy? Come on, let’s go shopping.’ That is the epitome of what we are looking for.”

Another service member, a captain, helped a young boy whose family had just lost everything when their house burned down.

“After they shopped together, the captain got down on his knees, took his bars off and pinned them on the shirt of this little boy,” Bell said. “The captain told him ‘You’ve got to be the hero now for your family.’ This is a day of stories like that. It will blow you away.”

During the shopping trip, each child is given a \$100 budget to spend on holiday gifts for their family. Uniformed heroes are briefed about the “dos and don’ts” of the program about 30 minutes before the children arrive at the store.

The children are invited to participate in Shop With A Hero through the Madison County School System. Last year, they came from only one school – Hazel Green Elementary. This year, the children will come from Hazel Green, Lynn Fanning and Walnut Grove elementary schools as well as the sixth-

See Shop on page 20

Shop

Continued from page 18

grade class at Meridianville Middle School.

"The beauty of this is the schools identify the children for us so that the church doesn't have to figure that out," Bell said.

On Dec. 14, there will be a morning and an afternoon time for Shop With A Hero. The children will be greeted by the uniformed heroes and then escorted by those heroes through the store. Each child is allowed to be joined by a family member. If younger children need childcare during the shopping trip, it will be provided by Flint River Baptist

Church.

It takes about 45 minutes to help a child shop for their family. Both the morning and afternoon groups will have about two hours to shop. Uniformed heroes are asked to help one child with their shopping, but they can also volunteer to help a second child if they have the time.

Besides shopping, the children also get their photo taken with their uniformed hero, and are treated to either breakfast or lunch at Flint River Baptist Church.

Bell first organized the Shop With A Hero program while serving a church in the Atlanta area. That program grew from 105 children at a trailer park to serving more than 1,300 disadvantaged children with the help of uni-

formed first responders.

"There wasn't a military base there, so we relied on first responders," Bell said.

"The down side there was it grew to a certain point where we couldn't get enough heroes. That was a concern here, too, because next year, when we have 1,000 kids where will we get 1,000 volunteers? So, that's when we tweaked the program to incorporate the military in this area."

Bell also hopes to add corporate sponsors to support the program financially as it grows to include even more disadvantaged children.

But this year, Shop With A Hero is focused primarily on building its hero volunteer base. To volunteer, visit the website at www.shopwithahero.info or the church website at www.frbc.org.

or call Flint River Baptist Church at 828-3692. Military volunteers will be contacted by email by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Langewisch, the Aviation Branch maintenance officer for the Aviation and Missile Command, who also attends Flint River Baptist Church.

One way the program is increasing its hero volunteer base is by inviting veterans representing local veterans groups to participate. One of those veterans who has already volunteered is Bill Varnedoe, a World War II veteran who is sure to be popular with the children.

Varnedoe said it was an easy for him to pledge his support for Shop With A Hero.

"I think this is a really nice thing to do," he said.

101st Airborne alumni chapter launches

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer

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Old Abe is flying high in North Alabama.

The eagle mascot of the 101st Airborne, the legendary Army air assault division, is far from his Fort Campbell, Ky., home, but still a beloved symbol for a select group of Army veterans. Alumni of the 101st Airborne can now meet and greet at the newly formed North Alabama "Screaming Eagles" Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association.

What began two years ago as an idea dreamed up on a golf course has now culminated in the formation of an official chapter of the national association. Army Logistics Readiness Center director Mark Dille, who spent 10 years of his Army active duty career with the 101st Airborne, found himself continuously running into former "Screaming Eagles" while out and about. Over a game of golf with several former officers, he brainstormed the formation of a lo-

cal chapter where they could rekindle friendships from their days in the division.

"The 101st is built around camaraderie, friendship and brotherhood," chapter secretary Philip Thompson said. "That kinship makes this organization special."

At their October meeting, the group adopted a set of constitutional bylaws and elected leadership with the following being named to officer positions: president, Dille; vice-president, Brett Bonnell; secretary, Thompson; treasurer, Walter Redding; and sergeant at arms, Mike Carden. Officers will serve two-year terms.

While the group is still in a building phase, its main focus will be to serve as a social organization with meetings being held four times a year. In the future, they do hope to expand to include service projects, fundraisers and possibly offer scholarships. One of the main focuses of organizing the group was to band together different generations of "Screaming Eagles," according to Thompson.

"Most members want to keep it a

social organization in the beginning," Thompson said. "Once we get going, we will move toward supporting the community. Right now we want everyone to come out and enjoy themselves."

With the length of time between meetings, a closed Facebook group was created for members to share information, stories and photos of their experiences in the division.

The chapter welcomes all local 101st Airborne alumni and their spouses. All members pay \$25 per year for dues or a flat \$101 fee for a lifetime membership. Per national organization regulations, all chapter members have to be members of the national alumni organization to join the chapter.

For more information, contact Thompson at nasecsecretary@gmail.com or request to join the chapter's Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/NorthAlabamaScreamingEaglesChapter/.

Courtesy graphic

This candidate for chapter logo will be voted on by membership at the next meeting in March.



Young girls experience science, engineering

Photos by ELLEN HUDSON
Staff photographer

Girls in third- through fifth-grade participated in Girls Science and Engineering Day on Saturday at the Shelby Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The annual event is sponsored by the Women's Leadership Council.



Dr. Grace Bochenek, chief technology officer of the Army Materiel Command, addresses the girls.



AMRDEC volunteers Darren Faust and Judy Faust assist the girls in a science activity.



Sidney Peterson does a group activity involving robots.



The girls watch a video message from Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal.



E'lexiona McCarpine learns about a robot.

Colonel shares veteran's view for school children

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks is Army strong thanks to the family that stands beside him.

“While the Soldier is the one who wears the uniform and carries the weapon into battle, he or she would not be as successful without the support of this nation and their family,” Marks said. “Without the support of my wife, Laurie, and my kids, William and Jacob, I would not be where I am today. I truly thank you all for your continued sacrifice, and love that you have for our military and our veterans. Our nation is blessed to have families like you serving with me this Veterans Day, because we are Army strong.”

Marks spoke to middle schoolers at the Randolph School Nov. 12 about Veterans Day, and the importance of the nation's veterans and service members, as well as the families that support them. In the crowd of Randolph students listening to Marks' presentation were his own sons, William and Jacob.

“There is no greater service, no greater calling, than to serve in our military,” he said. “I hope each and every one of you, if you do decide to join, has a family as strong as mine.”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Col. Bill Marks, Garrison commander, speaks to students at the Randolph School about Veterans Day and the importance of the nation's service members and their families Nov. 12.

Marks explained to the students that it's common for a Soldier to sometimes be away from their family for a year at a time, “a year of missed birthdays, first steps or entire sports seasons.” Over the course of his career as a Soldier, he's missed out on a fourth of William's life, and almost a third of Jacob's.

“How does a family remain Army strong?” Marks asked. “While a service member is highly trained to accomplish his or her mission, military children and families



Photo by Ellen Hudson

In the crowd of Randolph students listening to Col. Bill Marks' Veterans Day presentation were his sons, William, left, and Jacob.

receive no formal training. They learn by doing.”

It's a job that families don't sign up or take an oath for, like their service member did, but they serve their country selflessly, just the same.

“It's not something that's asked of them, it's something that they step up to do,” Marks said. “They're not trained for it, but they do it anyway. Any time you see a veteran, look close around them and see if there is a family around them. When you thank the veteran

for their service, also thank the family for their sacrifice.”

In addition to explaining the importance of military families, Marks also explained who a veteran is, “anyone who has served a single day in our military's uniform” whether in war or peace, and shared pictures from his own experiences as a Soldier. Students also got to watch two videos on what it means to be Army strong as both a Soldier, and as a military family.

“Today we celebrate those veterans, from all branches of the military from each period of war and peace,” Marks said. “They all were willing to sacrifice everything for the freedoms that we enjoy today, and many service members never fire their weapon at the enemy, but they serve gallantly nonetheless. Many service members never stand on the ground of an enemy, but they serve gallantly nonetheless. Most service members have never shed blood on the battlefield, but they serve gallantly nonetheless.”

At the end of his presentation, students were given the opportunity to ask the colonel questions about his time in the Army. Students' questions ranged from how long he's served in the Army (23 years), to what's the biggest gun he's ever shot (a 25mm chain gun), whether he's ever jumped out of an airplane (yes, and helicopters too), and if he was scared when he deployed (yes).

Hobbs

Continued from page 1

have sought out my own education and my own success. Everything God gave me is to help other people, whether that be a young Soldier just starting his career or someone on the street who feels they've been mistreated."

In 1978, Hobbs joined the Army, with basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., and his first assignment at Fort Knox, Ky., with training as a field artilleryman. While at Fort Knox, he met his soon-to-be wife, who was raised in a military family. She helped to focus the young Soldier, and Hobbs began receiving invaluable recognition, first with honors for things like best physical fitness, best ruck marcher, Soldier of the Quarter and NCO of the Quarter, and then his induction in 1985 into the Sgt. Morales Club.

Hobbs served four years as a field artilleryman and then six years as a missile systems repair supervisor. In 1988, he received an early promotion to sergeant first class and, subsequently, a warrant officer appointment, where he held positions of training and leadership to mentor and train Ordnance Corps chief warrant officers. Besides mentoring young Soldiers on the job, he also worked with his wife to mentor kids through his church.

Wartime deployments

In early 1991, Hobbs deployed to Operation Desert Storm, serving as a platoon leader in support of the Marine Expeditionary Force. His platoon was charged with repairing and maintaining Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Bradley Fighting Missile Systems. And, he was also what was known as the "body bag officer."

"I talked to a lot of parents about the loss of their loved one. That always stayed with me because I knew they gave their life for me and others who served alongside them," he said. "It made me think 'I've got to work harder. I want to honor them by living a life of excellence and of helping others.'"

In 1992, he was selected to become a Training, Advising and Counseling officer and was assigned to Fort Rucker's 145th Aviation Regiment, where he trained warrant officer candidates during their initial phase of training.

Hobbs' second deployment came in 1996 with the 563rd Ordnance Company, which was deployed to Kaposvar, Hungary, in support of Operation Joint Endeavor under the flag of the 29th Support Group. Its primary mission was to execute the reception, staging and onward movement of troops and equipment into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"I was the officer in charge of the largest and safest Army railhead operation

conducted since World War II, and I developed new Army doctrine for establishing railhead operations," Hobbs said.

"It drew a lot of attention from the Department of the Army to know a chief warrant officer 2 was running the railhead to get supplies to the front."

In 1999, the Army assigned Hobbs to the Warrant Officer Career Center at Fort Rucker as the staff course manager, where he trained senior warrant officers in ethics, Army leadership doctrine, fitness and nutrition.

In May 2002, Hobbs was selected to be the only active duty Warrant Officer Detachment commander in the Army. In June 2004, he was selected to serve as the Personnel Proponency warrant officer at the Army's Ordnance Center and School at Redstone Arsenal. In that assignment, Hobbs reviewed and updated the instruction requirements for the Army's 14 Missile and Electronic military occupational specialties. This effort transformed and changed the methodology of training future Ordnance Soldiers. During his tenure, Hobbs also met all Ordnance warrant officer accessions, retention and mentorship goals while realigning the Ordnance Warrant Officer Corps to meet Army Transformation and Modularity requirements.

Recognizing accomplishments

Hobbs, who taught at every level of the warrant officer education system, hopes the training standards he put in place will be of benefit to the Army and its warrant officers for years to come. He is also the first warrant officer in history to earn a doctorate degree.

"My greatest mentor during my career was retired Lt. Col. William Steele, who is a Vietnam veteran and a member of my extended family. He inspired me to pursue an education and to become a warrant officer," Hobbs said.

"My biggest motivator was and still is my wife, Erica, and our two daughters, Shara, 32, and Shauna, 24. Shauna is an Army nurse and Shara, who also served in the Army, is married and has a family. And my faith in God sustained me in all of my deployments and through all of the challenges during my career."

In 2007, Hobbs retired from his Army career at Redstone Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame inductees must be retired at least two years before they can be considered for the honor. Even with all his accomplishments, Hobbs' induction into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame wasn't a sure thing. He was nominated by two friends from his Army days.

"You can do all these great things, but it takes others to provide you with special recognition," Hobbs said. "When retired Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade approached me I was very overwhelmed that he would even consider me to be on that level.

"Once the process started, retired

"This honor is dedicated to the Soldiers I worked with, and those who no longer are with us and that I served with."

Harry Hobbs

Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Ayers, as an inductee himself, got involved. Nominating someone for an award requires selfless service because there's a lot that has to be done to complete a nomination. It's a very arduous and rigorous process. That's why to even be nominated is a huge honor."

Hobbs had to be satisfied with the nomination honor for two years, as his packet was reviewed, yet not selected. Every year for four years after a nomination, the nominee is allowed to submit additional information for review. After providing the necessary documentation of military, professional and community accomplishments, it wasn't until the third review board that Hobbs was tapped for induction.

"You can have good competitive records but, so, too, do many other folks who are being looked at. Many don't ever get picked up," Hobbs said.

The Ordnance induction is one of many military awards Hobbs has received over the years, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Besides the Sgt. Morales Club, he is also a member of the V Corps Distinguished Leaders Club, Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharp, Order of St. Barbara and Audie Murphy Club. Locally, he was named Mr. Man Premier 2009, 2011 Mentor of the Year by 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville, and Madison City's Veteran of the Year in 2012. Recently, Hobbs was inducted into the Warrant Officer Rising Eagle Society by the Redstone Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association.

"I'm not one to be focused on putting a plaque on a wall and then sitting back and enjoying it," he said. "I'm not a plaque-on-the-wall kind of guy. I like to use that plaque – that recognition – to get something done. I still feel like I'm serving, but in a different capacity."

Community service

Weighing heavily in his final nomination packet was his work with the JROTC program at Columbia High School, which was the fastest growing program and one of the best in the state when he left that job in 2010; and his efforts to establish the Community Awareness For Youth annual event for Huntsville youth, which draws about 2,000 youth every year to learn about the four pillars of success: careers, health, education and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

With his induction into the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame, retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs enters an elite group of Ordnance Soldiers and civilians.



Courtesy photo

Just six days before being inducted into the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame, retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs, right, is congratulated by retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnnie Walters, president of the Redstone Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association, on his induction into the Warrant Officer Rising Eagle Society.

finances. So, too, was his participation as a men's ministry and young adult leader at Bicentennial Chapel, his work as a motivational speaker and college professor, and his leadership in coaching and mentoring Redstone's Army Ten-Miler through seven years of first-place finishes.

"The nomination is all about your military service and your life after the military. Do you continue to serve after the military?" Hobbs said.

"But I haven't been doing what I'm doing for an award. My wife Erica and I were working with youth as a young married couple. We were working with youth in our community when no one was looking because it's the Christian thing to do to give back to others and to make a community better. My faith dictates that I give back."

Soldier answers call as Catholic chaplain

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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It was a question Chaplain (Maj.) Jerry Sherbourne thought he knew the answer to, but a response that changed his life.

Deployed to Afghanistan in 2011, Sherbourne and his buddy were seated across from a Catholic priest when his friend asked the priest to explain the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, Catholics' belief that the Virgin Mary was free from all sin, including the stain of original sin left by Adam and Eve. Groaning inwardly, Sherbourne wished his friend had asked anything but that, a concept he thought he understood well and did not believe in. But when the priest began to explain by saying, "Oh, that's easy. It's all very biblical. What does, 'Hail, Mary, full of grace' mean?" – it was like a light went off in Sherbourne's head.

"All of a sudden I realized, 'Wow, that could be true,'" said Sherbourne, an Anglican priest at the time. "I thought, 'Even if I don't believe it, the Immaculate Conception, or something like it, is at least a very legitimate possible interpretation.'"

The next thing he knew, the rest of the Catholic dogmas were sounding more and more biblical as well.

Calling his wife, Heather, from Afghanistan, Sherbourne discussed all this with her frequently. One day when she responded, "Well Jerry, when you're ready, I am," Sherbourne knew it was time to make a decision.

"Shortly after that I finally said, 'Yes, I need to join the Catholic Church. I'm



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Chaplain (Maj.) Jerry Sherbourne, deputy Garrison chaplain and chaplain resources manager, will be ordained a Catholic priest at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Dec. 8, exactly two years after he made the decision to become Catholic.

going to move forward," Sherbourne said.

Unbeknownst to him at the time, the day he made his decision was Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, which celebrates the very doctrine that began his conversion. Sherbourne will be ordained a Catholic priest on Dec. 8, exactly two years later, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

in Washington, D.C.

"There couldn't be a more appropriate date or place," he said. "It's an amazing work of God."

Currently serving as the deputy Garrison chaplain, Sherbourne was ordained a deacon at Bicentennial Chapel Nov. 3.

"All these years I've been waiting for this," Sherbourne said. "It's just wonderful for me, even as a deacon, to be up around the altar. It's my environment. It's what God made me to do. It's like being finally home, like a fish in the water I was meant to swim in for the first time."

Over the past two years, Sherbourne has undergone extensive formation to prepare him for the transition from Anglican to the Catholic priesthood, including his acceptance to the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, which allows Anglicans wishing to do so, to come into full communion with the Catholic Church, as well as a formation program approved by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican.

His family too, has undergone formation, and was confirmed in the Catholic Church Easter 2012. By chance and God's will, they were confirmed by Bishop Richard Spencer, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, who has mentored and encouraged Sherbourne along his journey to the Catholic priesthood. Not originally scheduled to be at Fort Bragg for confirmation, when Spencer mentioned in passing via email to Sherbourne in Afghanistan where he was headed for the Easter vigil, Sherbourne replied, "You're going to confirm my wife tomorrow. Tell her I love her." As the bishop prepared to give her the sacrament, he relayed that message to Heather.

The most unique aspect of Sherbourne's calling to the Catholic priesthood is, of course, that he's married with six children. In order to be ordained a Catholic priest, Sherbourne had to receive a dispensation from

Pope Francis himself allowing him to be a priest while married. If his wife dies before him, his vows at ordination require him to remain celibate and not remarry.

Sherbourne's dispensation to be a married Catholic priest does not indicate a change in the Catholic Church's rules, but rather, is a provision allowed for Anglican priests wishing to become Catholic and ordained a priest in the Catholic Church.

Together with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wieslaw Dynek, senior priest at Bicentennial Chapel, Sherbourne will work to serve the Arsenal's Catholic community. Time will tell how he will balance his roles of priest, husband and father.

"One thing I have to keep in mind is a word of God that was spoken to me by one of the Catholic women here after they went on their retreat," Sherbourne said. "The nuns told them, 'Don't go home and try to live the life of a nun in your family. Your vocation is different. You are called to live a devoted life as a married woman, not as a celibate nun.'"

"I am called to live the life of a Catholic priest as a married man, which means I also have a domestic church that needs my time and attention. I will have to understand that, and the Catholic community will have to understand that, because it is what God has given me. God not only understands it, but it's his gift and blessing."

Originally from Massachusetts, Sherbourne was ordained an Anglican priest in 2000, and became an Army chaplain in 2005, after a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel at his parish in Texas kept telling him he'd make a good chaplain. Throughout his Army career, the military has taken him to Fort Campbell, Fort Benning, Fort Jackson, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Bragg and finally Redstone Arsenal, with two deployments during his years of service, once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

Retired warrant named Veteran of Year

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnnie Keeter Sr. was awarded the 2013 Veteran of the Year Award by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition during the Veterans Dinner on Nov. 8 at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

Keeter is a 32-year Army veteran who is a key volunteer for several local military organizations and events. Keeter has served 10 years as the chapter secretary and community affairs organizer for the Redstone Arsenal chapter of the Warrant Officers Association. Keeter is also known for his work as a primary organizer of the

annual Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Day parade.

In 2012, Keeter received the Warrant Officers Association's National President's Award at the national association's annual meeting. Also at the meeting, Keeter and close friend, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Max Bennett, were inducted into the "Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising" at the gold (national) level. This order is the Warrant Officers Corps recognition equivalent to the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe and the Artillery's Order of St. Barbara.

Keeter works at Dynetics Inc. in Huntsville.

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System simulation director envisions possibilities

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**

AMRDEC Public Affairs

When George Wiggs first started in modeling and simulation, computers took up entire rooms. Today, the same amount of processing power and memory that used to fill a room can fit in the palm of your hand.

“The increase in technology has really grown from when I started, in leaps in bounds,” said Wiggs, who has become the director of the System Simulation and Development Directorate for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

“I started on a little PC with a little simple mail program, and I could write simple programs to do solutions, but the main horsepower was high performance computers where you actually paid by how long it took you to run. Now our phones have probably more computing processing power than those did in the late ‘80s, early ‘90s.”

Wiggs said an entire room that used to be dedicated to run computer software now holds people instead of hardware. “We probably have 60 people sitting in that room now because we don’t need that kind of room for computers,” he said. “The size has shrunk, and the power has increased. Memory is available to do things that we couldn’t do in the ‘80s and ‘90s. ... Now you’re talking gigabytes worth of memory. It’s just opened up the realm of the possibility in terms of fidelity of the simulations.”

Wiggs brings to the SSDD director’s role more than 21 years of combined government and industry experience in weapon system modeling and simulation technology, most of which has been with SSDD. He previously served as chief of the Tactical Missiles functional area within SSDD.

His early career was as a test engineer for F100 gas turbine engines designed for F-15 and F-16 aircraft and as an analytical engineer for the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor program for the Space Shuttle at Marshall Space Flight Center.

After the cancellation of the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor program, Wiggs came over to the Army and SSDD, supporting Hellfire all-digital simulation and real-



George Wiggs

time scene generation for Hardware in the Loop. He joined the Tactical Missiles Branch as a civil servant in 2003 and became branch chief in 2010.

“It’s a very diverse directorate,” he said of SSDD and its approximately 200 workers. “We support the full lifecycle of weapon system development from concept to material solution, acquisition, deployment, sustainment and ultimately disposal, all related to modeling and simulation at a system level. There are other SMEs within AMRDEC that do component level models and component level development, but systems simulation as the name implies brings the system together.”

Wiggs said his desire is to build a culture of trust, communication and collaboration. How he’ll do that is by taking action, he said. “First of all is encourage communication within the group, make people feel comfortable communicating their thoughts and their ideas so then they can build trust and have people open up. Then with that trust, we’ll enhance our ability to increase collaboration, not only within this directorate but

across the center as a whole.”

At his first staff meeting as director, Wiggs said he told his workforce that they don’t work for him, but it’s the other way around: he works for them.

“My job is to make the environment and make it possible so you can do your job as efficiently as you can,” he said. “Your successes become SSDD successes which become AMRDEC successes which ultimately end up having successful solutions to provide to the Soldiers and deployed forces. It’s not about something I can put on my resume, it’s about what have we done for the ultimate customer which is the Soldier.”

SSDD is part of AMRDEC’s System Simulation, Software and Integration Directorate, or S3I, which is under the leadership of Bill Colson. “I believe Mr. Wiggs brings the right technical expertise, managerial experience and leadership vision to lead SSDD into the future,” Colson said.

A native of Birmingham, Wiggs has a bachelor’s in aerospace engineering from Auburn University and completed the aerospace MBA program with the University of Tennessee.

Davis set path for tomorrow's women astronauts

By **DIANA LaCHANCE**

UAH Marketing and Communications

When Dr. Jan Davis was growing up in Huntsville in the 1960s, there simply were no women astronauts. So it wasn't something the University of Alabama-Huntsville alumna ever considered becoming.

But in 1978, when the first female candidates were selected to be part of NASA's Astronaut Corps, Davis began to rethink her career path. And in 1984, while working as an aerospace engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center and attending UAH, she applied to be an astronaut.

"I think having a graduate degree – and my pilot's license at that point – it just seemed like I might have the qualifications, so I might as well give it a shot," she said. "I knew it was a long shot but I realized it could happen. It was a possibility."

In the end, Davis was not chosen from among the 5,000 people who applied that year, but she was selected three years later. And since becoming an astronaut in 1987, she has logged more than 673 hours in space over three flights: STS-47 (1992), STS-60 (1994), and STS-85 (1997).

Born in Cocoa Beach, Fla., Davis moved with her family to Huntsville when she was in elementary school. And although she's lived other places, she said, "I still think of Huntsville as my hometown."

After all, it was in the Rocket City where she got her first introduction to space travel. "I think if you grew up anywhere in the 1960s when we were going to the moon, it's in your blood, but particularly here," she said.

She attended Huntsville High School, graduating in 1971 and then went on to pursue a bachelor's in applied biology from the Georgia Tech and in mechanical engineering from

Auburn University.

"I liked the idea of using engineering to do things that help people and I was going to go into bioengineering but there were no jobs there," she said. "So I went where the jobs were." And that was Texas, where she took a job with Texaco as a petroleum engineer in tertiary oil recovery.

But two years later, shortly before she said "the bottom fell out of the petroleum industry," she was back home in Huntsville, working for MSFC and pursuing her graduate degree at UAH.

Attending graduate school was always part of Davis' plan. "Both of my parents went to graduate school and that's what I wanted for myself," she said. "So I went to school at UAH while I was working at NASA. It was convenient that they had night classes and I could work full time."

Of course, between working and studying, Davis said she wasn't able to enjoy the college experience beyond attending the occasional hockey game. But she was able to receive a practical mechanical engineering education that went beyond the textbook.

"My adviser was working with the Army so he knew what we needed from a practical standpoint for our jobs," she said. "So it was good theory and also good application." And that's still true for students at UAH today, she added.

"The contests they have, like the Moon Buggy Race, the Mini-Baja Competition, and Concrete Canoe Competition, are really good activities for students so that they can apply what they learn in school," she said. "It's important to have that real world experience."

It was after finishing her master's and beginning her doctorate that Davis applied to be an astronaut. And once she was selected for an interview, she said, "I made it my goal to finish my

Ph.D. and become an astronaut. To be competitive, you really need it."

Davis may have gone on to become an astronaut, but she said she was able to use many of the things she learned at UAH during her time in space.

"Over the three flights we had a lot of medical, materials and robotics experiments," she said. "It was hard work. We were up there for a reason and we didn't have a lot of time to just look out the window."

Her graduate work also helped her communicate with the scientists who had experiments on her spaceflights. "When you're on a mission and you're working with scientists, they respect your ability more when you have a Ph.D.," she said.

Once in a while, however, she found time to cut loose. "Weightlessness was fun," she said with a laugh. "My mom said I looked like I was right at home and that's how I felt – like I belonged there."

In 2005, after going on to serve as MSFC's director of Safety and Mission Assurance, Davis retired from NASA. "I was eligible to retire and it seemed like a good opportunity to learn how private industry worked and to expand my knowledge," she said.

But while she may now be the vice president and deputy general manager of Jacobs Engineering and Science Services and Skills Augmentation Group, she hasn't strayed very far from her original home. "I oversee the almost 700 employees who support the MSFC programs and projects," she said. "So it's a good way to still stay with NASA."

As for what she'll do next, Davis said she doesn't know for sure. But whatever it is, it will involve helping our nation's youth learn about careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math – especially our young women.

And if that means inspiring them to



Dr. Jan Davis

"My mom said I looked like I was right at home and that's how I felt – like I belonged there."

Dr. Jan Davis

become an astronaut, just as Davis was inspired by the women astronauts who came before her, "even better," she said, "because I can share that with them." She does have one piece of advice for them, however.

"Rather than going into a particular field or working somewhere just to be an astronaut, you should find something you're really passionate about and love," she said. "Because you'll do your best at things you're passionate about."

Redstone remembers President John F. Kennedy

Fifty years have passed since his assassination

By **CLAUS MARTEL**
AMC deputy command historian

Friday, Nov. 22, marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy visited Redstone Arsenal twice during his presidency, more than any other president in Redstone Arsenal's history.

Kennedy's first visit came on Sept. 11, 1962. The Army Materiel Command, and its major subordinate command at Redstone Arsenal, the then Missile Command, had only been in business for six weeks (since Aug. 1, 1962). Two Boeing 707 jets – Air Force One and Air Force Two – landed at Redstone Airfield at 9:30 a.m. Greeting the president and his party were MICOM commander Maj. Gen. Francis J. McMorrow and AMC's commander then Lt. Gen. Frank S. Besson Jr.

The president was accompanied by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance, Secretary of the Air Force Eugene M. Zuckert and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis E. LeMay. Also accompanying the presidential party were foreign dignitaries, many members of the Alabama congressional delegation and representatives from NASA's leadership.

Soldiers from Fort Benning, Ga., were brought up to Redstone Arsenal to conduct the 21-gun salute to the commander in chief. Redstone Arsenal's very own 55th U.S. Army Band played "Hail to the Chief." Soldiers from Redstone Arsenal's 291st Military Police Detachment represented the face of the Army at Redstone Arsenal to the president. More than 500 students from 13 different nations attending missile operation and repair classes at Redstone Arsenal were also in attendance. Some 150 members of the press were on hand to report and record the visit.

The trip's primary purpose was to receive an "eyes on" update on the progress of the space program. But before Kennedy received that update, his motorcade drove past a display of 13 AMC program-managed missile systems along with representatives of each system's crew. Among the systems Kennedy viewed that day were the Pershing, Nike Hercules, Sergeant, Honest John and Hawk, to name a few.

The president also received a classified update at MICOM's Research and Development Directorate (a predecessor to today's Aviation and Missile



Historical photo

President Kennedy rides in a limo after arriving at Redstone Airfield in 1963.

Research Development and Engineering Center, an element of AMC's Research Development and Engineering Command headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.). While there, the president received a briefing on the progress of future weapon systems, along with a demonstration of an Army developed laser.

The visit then shifted to visiting NASA facilities at the Marshall Space Flight Center. The Saturn rocket, which was started as an Army project in the late 1950s before being transferred to NASA on July 1, 1960, was the focus of the NASA update. The president witnessed a 30-second test firing of the Saturn.

The entire visit lasted just over two hours. The presidential jets departed Redstone Airfield before noon heading to Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Just eight months later, President Kennedy would return to Redstone Arsenal for the last time. He arrived at Redstone Airfield at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 1963 via his Army Sikorsky VH-3D presidential helicopter. He had left Muscle Shoals earlier that afternoon after giving a speech marking the 30th anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Authority or TVA.

A total of four helicopters carried the president and his guests. Alabama Gov. George Wallace, who also attended the TVA anniversary, flew with the president from Muscle Shoals. Those also accompanying the president included Alabama's two U.S. senators, John J.



Historical photo

More than 10,000 people reportedly came to the Redstone Airfield to hear the president speak May 18, 1963.

Sparkman and Lister Hill, Tennessee's two U.S. senators, Albert Gore and Estes Kefauver, along with other members of both states' congressional delegation.

Greeting the president once again was McMorrow, representing the Army at Redstone Arsenal, and MSFC director Dr. Wernher von Braun. Huntsville Mayor R.B. Searcy and Madison County Commissioner James Record also welcomed the president.

Kennedy's visit on May 18, 1963, differed in many ways from his Sept. 11, 1962, visit. This visit was first and foremost part of the local Armed Forces Day celebration. The president requested – and was granted – that no formal ceremony (normally bestowed for a commander in chief) be conducted for his second visit because of time and schedule

constraints. There were no visits to Army or NASA facilities. Though photographs and film footage of the visit show the president speaking to McMorrow and von Braun, this was a visit to the workforce of Redstone Arsenal and members of the community. More than 10,000 people reportedly came to the Redstone Airfield to hear the president speak.

The speaker's platform, located near the present air traffic control tower, had been constructed specifically for the visit. Security ropes were initially placed so that the crowd could not get any closer than 50 feet from the commander in chief. But as the limousine that carried Kennedy from the presidential helicopter neared the platform, the ropes were dropped by members of the Secret Service. The audience now stood 10 feet from the president.

Kennedy's remarks lasted five minutes – almost to the second. In the speech, Kennedy noted the Army's contributions to defense and noted NASA's responsibility to the space program.

In his closing remarks, Kennedy said: "So, ladies and gentlemen, we depend upon you, either you in the armed forces of the United States who help defend freedom, even here, of countries thousands of miles away, you who are building these missiles which not only raised an American into space, but raised the prestige and reputation of this country. I am proud to be here.

"I leave this valley, this state, this region, in which I arrived only a few hours ago, realizing once again what a strong, great country we are, what a strong great people we are, and we are all determined to keep it so."

After the president spoke, he left the platform and walked into the crowd, shaking hands and speaking to many who had waited up to four hours for the president. The May 22, 1963, edition of the Redstone Rocket noted "While the president hobnobbed with John Q. Public, a babe in arms touched him and squealed; a graying grandmother shook his hand and gulped; men were quietly awed in the presence of the man who holds the highest office in the land; teenagers scrambled in hopes of an autograph; and hundreds were close enough to stretch out a hand hoping for a touch, or just a greeting."

After several minutes, the president's security detail ushered him toward his waiting Air Force One Boeing 707. As he headed up the steps to his plane, the president waved to the crowd for what would be the last time at Redstone Arsenal.

Three months later on Aug. 24, 1963, McMorrow would die from an apparent

See Kennedy on page 34

Other presidents have visited Redstone Arsenal, too

By **CLAUS MARTEL**

AMC deputy command historian

A total of four sitting U.S. presidents – Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon and George H. W. Bush – have landed in Air Force One at Redstone Airfield. In addition, the facility has supported the visit of another president, Ronald Reagan, who landed at Huntsville International Airport.

President Eisenhower came to Redstone on Sept. 8, 1960, to dedicate NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. On the speaker's platform with Eisenhower were congressmen, Army representatives and top officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. President Kennedy came to the Arsenal twice.

President Nixon visited Huntsville on Feb. 18, 1974. He spoke at the second annual Honor America Day celebration sponsored by the Sertoma Club. He arrived at Redstone Airfield and then motored to Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville.

Although President Reagan did not land at the Arsenal, the installation's airfield was put on "24-hour alert status" to support the Presidential Flight Detachment (five helicopters and 55 personnel) that accompanied Reagan on his visit to Point Mallard in Decatur in July 1984.

In June 1990, President George H. W. Bush came to Huntsville to speak at a Republican campaign luncheon and make remarks at MSFC. Previously, Bush had arrived and departed Redstone Airfield on a visit in October 1987. On that occasion,

Bush, then vice president, toured MSFC, where he also gave a speech. Other vice presidents who have landed at the airfield include Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, who came with Kennedy in 1962; Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who toured both MICOM and MSFC on May 22, 1967; and Vice President Dan Quayle, who spent two hours in Huntsville on Aug. 2, 1989, as part of his responsibilities as head of the National Space Council.

Vice President Dick Cheney drove through the installation on Sept. 18, 2008, en route to a private fundraising event. Cheney landed at the Huntsville International Airport and used Redstone Arsenal roads to travel to a private residence in Huntsville. He was in Huntsville for three hours. No military leadership from Redstone Arsenal was invited to greet the vice president.

Among other important visitors to Redstone were first lady Ladybird Johnson, who came to the Arsenal in March 1964, and the Apollo 12 crewmen who journeyed to the installation in January 1970, less than two months after their lunar voyage. Like Reagan, Marilyn Quayle, wife of the vice president, came into the city by way of the Huntsville International Airport. In support of her visit, Redstone Airfield provided helicopters for her flights around the area to inspect the aftermath of a killer tornado that hit Huntsville on Nov. 16, 1989.

Editor's note: The publication "Redstone Army Airfield: A Tradition of Aviation Support," written by AMCOM historian Dr. Kaylene Hughes, was used as a source for this article.

Photo by Merv Brokke

Science adviser cited

Eric Edwards, right, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, presents Dr. James Sommer with the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award for his exceptional service as the Field Assistant in Science and Technology science adviser to U.S. Central Command from 2009-13.

Sommer led CENTCOM's efforts in mitigating several pervasive battlefield casualty producing threats, including identifying and recommending solutions for problems with aerostat systems and assisting in the development of a remote sniper system. His award was approved by Elaine McCusker, director of resources and analysis, Headquarters U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.



Photo by Sgt. Julio Velez, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Battalion leadership

Lt. Col. Michael Hatfield, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, passes the battalion's guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. John Drew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, during a change of command at the Fort Greely, Alaska, post gym Sept. 11 in which Hatfield took command of the battalion.



Kennedy

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heart attack at the post hospital (building 112). Six months later on Nov. 22, 1963, President Kennedy would die from an assassin's bullet in Dallas, Texas.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, 1963, Brig. Gen. John G. Zierdt, the acting commander of MICOM and Redstone Arsenal, presided over a ceremony to honor the slain president. The location was the Redstone Arsenal Parade Field (located where the present Redstone Activity Field is now located). All of the installation's senior military leaders stood with Zierdt, along with one civilian, von Braun.

Some 4,000 Soldiers massed for the ceremony designated by an Army regulation to render honors upon the death of a president. The Soldiers were joined by some 1,000 civilians and family members.

Only two officers spoke. Capt. Farley Thompson of Florence read the official order written by Secretary of Defense McNamara: "I have the sad duty of announcing to the armed forces of the United States the death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the president of the United States, who was the victim of an assassin's bullet Friday, Nov. 22. The world has lost a gallant spirit whose championship of freedom and opportunity will be recognized by history. All members of the armed forces whose welfare was his concern, can pay no better tribute to his memory than to carry on in the tradition which he shared and of which he was so proud. Colors shall be displayed at half-mast

for 30 days beginning Nov. 22 West Longitude date."

Following a brief prayer by Redstone Arsenal post chaplain Lt. Col. Wilmer R. Bottoms and a moment of silence, Redstone Arsenal's own 55th Army Band played as the troops marched off the parade field.

Since that time, not much has been mentioned in the historical record at Redstone Arsenal about Kennedy's visits. Not only does Kennedy remain the only president to address the Army workforce at Redstone Arsenal, but his tenure as president had a profound effect on AMC, its major subordinate commands, and most defense entities on Redstone Arsenal.

First, it was the president's directive that launched the study to consolidate the Army's technical services from which AMC was formed in August 1962. In October 1962 following the Cuban Missile Crisis, AMC was called on to install the first hotline between the White House and the Kremlin.

Missile defense was accelerated under Kennedy through the creation of the Nike Zeus Project Office in August 1962. Today, those efforts have expanded exponentially into today's Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency. Foreign missile intelligence efforts, once part of MICOM, were accelerated and were the foundation of today's Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center. Expanded medium range missile capabilities through the Pershing project would years later enable President Ronald Reagan to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons through the INF treaty.

PAC-3 missile seeker sees 2,000th delivery

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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The Army helped mark a milestone delivery of the latest air defense missile seeker in a ceremony Nov. 12.

Boeing celebrated its delivery of the 2,000th PAC-3 missile seeker to the Army at an afternoon event in the Boeing plant near the Huntsville/Madison County International Airport. Attendees included Boeing employees supported by Army senior military and civilian leaders, local and elected officials, and prime contractor Lockheed Martin.

“As we continue fighting our Patriot weapon systems, the PAC-3 missile is the latest fielded interceptor,” Brig. Gen. Neil Thurgood, the program executive officer for missiles and space, said. “It provides more protection further out” than previous systems, he said.

The Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile is deemed the most advanced and powerful terminal air defense missile system deployed around the globe. Boeing manufactures and tests the PAC-3 missile seeker in its state-of-the-art facility in Huntsville.

“You are outstanding, we couldn’t be prouder,” Jim Chilton, vice president



Photo by Skip Vaughn
Brig. Gen. Neil Thurgood, the program executive officer for missiles and space, speaks during the Nov. 12 ceremony at the Boeing production plant in Huntsville.

and general manager of Boeing Strategic Missile and Defense Systems, said of the more than 2,650 employees in Huntsville.

“That 2,000th seeker was ahead of schedule on cost.”

Mike Trotsky, vice president of



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Boeing workers, from left, include Jeff Campbell, Matt Laing and Jon Schneider.

Lockheed Martin Air and Missile Defense, also expressed his congratulations. “Thanks to the whole team,” Trotsky said. “It really is a team effort.”

Other speakers included Dennis Breiner, Boeing’s program manager for PAC-3; Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle; Madison mayor Troy Trulock; Madison County commission chairman Dale Strong; and Sgt. 1st Class James Sneed of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Budget has impact on energy efficiency efforts

Garrison commander participates in forum

By KARI HAWKINS

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While finding ways to increase energy efficiency is a hot subject throughout the nation and the Army, making Redstone Arsenal more energy efficient, independent and secure will be dictated by cost, according to Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks.

Speaking during a Net Zero panel discussion at the Geo-Energy-Cyber Summit 2013 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center’s Davidson Center on Thursday, Marks said moving Redstone Arsenal toward the Army’s goals for Net Zero energy and any new “energy solution must meet the installation needs, and be feasible both economically and operationally.”

Marks and co-panel participant Col. Robert Ruch, commander of

the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, told their audience about the Army’s Net Zero initiative, which involves the reduction, repurposing, recycling, recovery and disposal of energy, water and waste. Net Zero energy refers to an Army installation that produces as much energy on site as it uses. Net Zero water refers to an installation that limits the consumption of fresh water resources and returns water back to the same watershed so as to not deplete the area’s groundwater and surface water resources in terms of quantity and quality. Net Zero waste refers to an installation that reduces, reuses and recovers waste streams, converting them to resource values with zero landfill.

At Redstone, the focus is on moving toward Net Zero energy. The installation ensures that energy is available for 1,700 buildings or 19 million square feet of office space. But, to work toward Net Zero, funding must be available, Marks said, at a time when Army installations have been directed to be budget neutral.

Photo by Kari Hawkins
A Net Zero energy panel at Huntsville’s Geo-Energy-Cyber Summit 2013 provides a forum to talk about Army energy policy for, from left, Col. Robert Ruch, commander of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville; Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks; retired Col. John Hamilton, former Garrison commander and now Huntsville city administrator; and retired Col. John Olsheski, former Garrison commander and now Huntsville city councilman and Huntsville Utilities spokesman.

“The direction we have received from Army leadership is that whatever energy

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Logistics legacy continues with annual recognition

Iannone, Cox honored for 2013 achievements

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Ed Iannone and Patricia Cox had a similar reaction when their names were called during Thursday's 23rd annual Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award luncheon at The Summit.

Both were surprised and humbled.

Iannone won the Professional/Technical Award while Cox won the Management/Executive Award.

"It's about teamwork," said Iannone, a logistics management specialist in sustainment optimization and analysis for the AMCOM Logistics Center. "Taking care of Soldiers, the war fighters, is what we're really all about. It's making sure people get what they want on time and in good condition so they can use it. Logistics is all about that. And it's about teamwork."

Cox is chief of the supply support division in the logistics directorate at Lower Tier Project Office on matrix from the Aviation and Missile Command's Logistics Center.

She credited her team, "the people who I see work so hard every day for the war fighter and who are really responsible for any achievement that I'm recognized for."

"Their dedication to the Soldier, their technical com-

petence, it humbles me to work alongside them," Cox said. "They give 110 percent every day they come to work. And I'm so grateful for how hard they work and they just make my job so easy."

Nominations for the awards were solicited from Team Redstone organizations at the beginning of August. There were nine nominees for the Professional/Technical Award and seven nominees for the Management/Executive Award. The winners were selected by eight people from various Team Redstone organizations who evaluated the submission packets separately.

"Each of you can be very proud of your accomplishments," Keith Roberson, executive director of the AMCOM Logistics Center, said.

He praised the legacy of the award's namesake, Ernie Young, who helped present the awards. Young, who retired as AMCOM deputy commander, was the first recipient in 1991.

The guest speaker was John B. Smith, last year's recipient of the Management/Executive Award. "Logistics is the heart of what we do," Smith said.

About 150 people attended the luncheon. The professional/technical nominees included Iannone, Gary



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are the award's namesake Ernie Young, professional/technical honoree Ed Iannone, management/executive honoree Patricia Cox and AMCOM Logistics Center executive director Keith Roberson.

W. Brown, Rodrick Cooper, Todd Fancher, Arturo Gamboa, Shane Lege, Monna Mosser, Lisa Roberts and Terrance Wingo. The management/executive nominees included Cox, Jody Brenner, Percy Burnett, Donald Flick, Teresa Harrison, Cynthia Johnson and Robert Simpson.

Materiel Enterprise leaders address workforce

By **BOB DeMICHELE**, CECOM Public Affairs
and **KIM HANSON**, AMC Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The two senior leaders from the Army's Materiel Enterprise held a town hall at Aberdeen Proving Ground following the Army's first Joint Acquisition Sustainment Review for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems Nov. 5.

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, and Heidi Shyu, the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, addressed more than 700 members of the Materiel Enterprise workforce at APG about mission priorities in a time of budgetary uncertainty.

Speaking to employees from the Communications-Electronics Command; Research Development and Engineering Command; Program Executive Office for Command, Control, and Communications-Tactical; PEO for Enterprise Information Systems; and PEO for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Surveillance, Shyu and Via both began remarks by stressing the importance of partnership between AMC and ASA (ALT).

"Today is a special day because I'm here

with my battle buddy," said Shyu, referring to Via and AMC. "Together we are the materiel enterprise for the world's greatest Army."

Via echoed Shyu's comments, highlighting the magnitude of the materiel enterprise.

"We will succeed as a team with collaboration, trust and transparency," Via said.

Following brief opening remarks, the leaders answered questions from the audience including several focused on the current budgetary constraints and civilian manpower.

"We don't yet know what the end strength of the Army will be, but we can expect some sort of corresponding reduction to the civilian workforce," Via said. "The goal is to do as much as possible through normal attrition."

AMC intends to leverage VERA/VSIP, retirements and reassignments to downsize, and only use a Reduction in Force as a last resort, he continued.

Shyu added that ASA (ALT) and AMC are also exploring the option to shift workforce across the materiel enterprise, when skill sets and vacancies allow.

The leaders were also asked to share strategic insights on the pivot of focus on the Pacific. Via stressed the need to regain the

expeditionary edge.

"We need to ensure our systems are modernized and our Army Prepositioned Stocks are prepared, and shorten the timeline to get forces on the ground ready to operate," Via said.

Shyu emphasized the importance of establishing the next generation capability in case of conflicts in more advanced areas of the world.

"We can't operate as if we'll always have complete dominance of the battlefield," Shyu said. "We need the ability to better hit moving targets in bad environments."

The workforce also asked about the results from the JASR, the first event held between AMC and ASA (ALT) designed to identify issues and opportunities for further collaboration.

Shyu said the enterprise must garner greater efficiencies and that means that the program executive offices must be tied to the life cycle management commands and the research and development capability.

"The best way to become more efficient is to work together collaboratively," she explained.

Via described the JASR as "hugely successful," identifying three overall takeaways from the event. First, the great teaming that took place and talking across the table du-

ring the review made the event a success in and of itself.

"There has been nothing like it in more than 10 years," he said.

Second, the JASR allowed the organizations to build relationships, trust and transparency. Third, he said the review was so valuable that instead of it being a quarterly function, he and Shyu would hold JASRs monthly. The leaders now intend to chair similar meetings at Redstone Arsenal focused on the Aviation community, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., focused on the Munitions community, and Warren, Mich., focused on the Tank and Automotive community – in back-to-back months.

Via summed up the importance by saying, "As we transition out of war, we have to get it right and that means we can't do it in a stovepipe approach."

The Materiel Enterprise is one of the Army's four core enterprises and is responsible for materiel management from concept to combat. It brings together the organizations involved in providing materiel solutions for Soldiers and incorporates all the materiel life cycle functions to include research, development, acquisition, testing, distribution, supply, maintenance, industrial base operations and disposal.

Unsung heroes in flying machines helped win WWI

By **RUSS RODGERS**

AMCOM command historian

In last week's issue of the Redstone Rocket, we looked at how American pilots new to the battlefields of France began to adjust and prepare themselves for combat. Unlike their counterparts in other armies that had been engaged in fighting for over three years, the Americans arrived with a boyish élan that had since vanished from their allies. This enthusiasm would be put to the test as American pilots were initially compelled to fly in obsolete aircraft often with limited or even no armament. In this last installment, it is important for us, as we celebrate Veterans Day of 2013, to recall what these Soldiers endured in what was our nation's first major overseas war.

When the 94th Aero Squadron received its first aircraft, second-rate French Nieuport 28s, Doug Campbell spent his entire waking hours working with mechanics to prepare the machine for combat. American pilots first thought their new aircraft to be marvelous, as the Nieuport 28 was fast, maneuverable and an all-around elegant looking machine. This was especially true when compared to the "museum piece" Caudron G.3s they had trained on. But they became quickly disenchanted when the most irksome quirks of this aircraft came to the fore, for while it looked elegant it was also inordinately fragile, unable to withstand the rough handling that pilots would need to use when caught up in a desperate aerial battle. The most dangerous of these was the tendency of the Nieuport to shed its upper wing fabric, or lose the entire upper wing altogether, often with fatal results.

Capt. Jimmy Meissner, in his first aerial action, sent a German two-seater down in flames. But in a sudden need to avoid the stricken enemy machine he had been compelled to push his Nieuport into a steep power dive. With a loud crack the leading edge of the upper wing collapsed, causing most of the fabric to tear away. For a brief moment Meissner thought that he would join his opponent in death, losing his life at the very moment of his first triumph. He was fortunate to gain control of his plane and land it before the entire wing structure collapsed. Others were not so fortunate, with a number of pilots losing their lives either from pushing the Nieuport beyond its limits or falling victim to German pilots because they were too reluctant to press the elegant machine too harshly.

Despite rivalries within the Army Air Service's leadership, steady progress was made to rectify deficiencies and re-equip American squadrons with better aircraft. And yet there was so much to be learned, and this so quickly. The fighter squadrons with the Nieuport 28s were barely able to defend themselves, let alone protect observation planes they were to escort. Pilots like the youthful and reckless Quentin Roosevelt, youngest son of former President Theodore Roosevelt, found that the obsolete Nieuport 28 could only do so much,



Historical photo

The powerful French-built Spad 13 was a mainstay of Army aviation in 1918.

Beginnings of Army aviation *Last of four-part series*

especially when heavily outnumbered. His broken plane was last seen falling like a stone from the clouds on July 14, 1918.

Bomber squadrons, such as the 96th, still had difficulty navigating over unfamiliar terrain. In one instance, six of the squadron's new Breguet 14 bombers got lost and were forced to land in German territory. The first American mission over the trenches involved Maj. Lufbery, leading two other aircraft piloted by Eddie Rickenbacker and Doug Campbell. All three flew without machine guns, as they had none in the squadron due to a serious shortage of these weapons. Fortunately, they did not encounter German aircraft. Over the next few weeks the badly needed machine guns began to arrive in sufficient quantity as to provide at least one to each fighter. And thus the first American aviation missions in France were conducted in obsolete machines that were often unarmed. Yet, through the summer and fall of 1918, under the guiding hands of Gen. Mason Patrick and Col. Billy Mitchell, things improved dramatically.

By the end of the war, the Army Air Service had taken delivery of more than 6,600 aircraft, most of them built by the French, and the armament shortage had been largely resolved. The Salmson 2A2 was considered superior in the observation role, especially over the American-built DH-4s, while fighter squadrons began to receive the French first-line fighter, the Spad 13 by July 1918. It was the arrival of the Spads that helped tip the scales for the Americans.

The Spad 13 was not particularly maneuverable — one American noted that it was like "flying the famous barn door" — nor was it exceedingly reliable. But it was the fastest machine in the skies over France and it was incredibly rugged, capable of taking any punishment a pilot could throw at it. Mechanically the planes were a nightmare, largely due to shoddy workmanship by the manufacturers. Everything from fuel tanks to entire engines had to be repaired or replaced to make the machines airworthy, and it was not uncommon for pilots to experience some

major malfunction at the critical moment of combat. But when the machines were airworthy, the American pilots began to rack up their combat scores, and as their experience grew so did their confidence. Nevertheless, success in the air was in large measure due to sheer chance. Pilots such as Ham Coolidge and Robert Cates noted that so-called "dogfighting" rarely occurred. Instead, one often found themselves at the right place and time which allowed them the edge to shoot down an enemy plane. Nevertheless, there were those pilots who had a knack for creating their own luck. One of those was Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker.

Rickenbacker had been a successful Indianapolis race car driver before the war, at one point earning the modern equivalent of more than \$700,000 annually. When he entered the Army he initially served as a chauffeur at Gen. Pershing's headquarters, but soon got himself transferred to the Air Service. His suggestion that the Army recruit race car drivers as fighter pilots was ignored, but his instincts in retrospect appear to have been correct. Other pilots noted that what made Rickenbacker so successful was his ability to judge speed and distance in a rapidly changing environment, also an essential for a successful car racer. In this regard, the Spad 13 was tailor-made for a pilot like Rickenbacker, who felt that the best technique for success was the rapid approach and close engagement, followed by a swift exit away from other enemy aircraft. With a keen eye and accurate gunnery, Rickenbacker chalked up one of the most rapid scores in combat aviation history. After the war he continued his interest in aviation, later moving on to run Eastern Airlines and receive the Medal of Honor for his efforts during World War I.

2nd Lt. Frank Luke, of the 27th Aero Squadron, was another who quickly racked up an impressive score, but he did this not through exceptional gunnery but by taking on the dangerous job of busting German observation balloons. On the surface balloons, being filled with hydrogen and thus very combustible when hit, might seem like easy targets. But these platforms were heavily guarded with anti-aircraft guns and machine guns, and pilots who went after such targets had to fly through a nightmarish gauntlet of shot and shell. Regardless, in just two weeks in September 1918, Luke flamed 15 balloons and downed four aircraft, before his own stricken plane forced him down in German territory where he died in a gunfight with those intending to capture him. Ironically, only a week prior he had told his squadron mates that he would never be taken alive, and when the full story of how he died became known after the war he was conferred with the Medal of Honor.

But while men like Rickenbacker and Luke flew the Spad 13, there were a handful of American pilots who, with the 148th Aero Squadron, flew Sopwith Camels. Capt. Elliot White Springs was one such pilot, and he like many others found the Camel to be both a terror and delight to fly. Due to its unique id-

iosyncrasies the Camel was capable of easily killing a novice pilot, having one of the highest accident rates of any aircraft during the war. Springs had his own mishaps with the Camel, but also shot down 11 German aircraft in two months including one on Sept. 24, 1918, during a wild melee that pitted 15 Camels of the 148th against 20 German Fokker D-VIIs. In that action the Americans came out on top, shooting down seven German aircraft with a loss of none of their own. Another who participated in this action was Capt. Field Kindley, who just a month prior had forced down a Fokker D-VII that may have been piloted by Lothar von Richthofen, brother of the famed Red Baron who would finish the war by shooting down 40 Allied planes. Kindley would end the war by shooting down 12 enemy planes and balloons, only to die two years later in a flying accident. In contrast, Springs would survive the war to become a successful writer.

And then there were pilots like Wilbert "Wilbur" White. When White signed up to join the U.S. Army Air Service, he was unusual for a pilot as he was already married with two children and settled into a comfortable career. While in France, he served with the 147th Aero Squadron and by early October 1918 was an ace with seven victories to his credit. Maj. Harold Hartney, commander of the 1st Pursuit Group, decided that White needed a chance to go home on leave to see his family. On Oct. 10, with Hartney's leave notice in his pocket, White decided to go on one last patrol. In the combat action that followed, White's guns jammed. Having pulled away from the action he observed a Fokker D-VII hot on the tail of one of his new pilots and without hesitation flew his Spad into the enemy aircraft. The German pilot was able to bail out, but White, without a parachute, crashed to his death. Though recommended for the Medal of Honor, White only received an oak leaf cluster for his Distinguished Service Cross.

And thus, just under 100 years ago, Army aviation made its first major impact in war, downing more than 750 enemy machines in less than a year. As we reflect on memories evoked by Veterans Day, we should ask, were the pilots who flew these early machines heroes, and did they consider themselves to be heroes? Or, were they instead ordinary men serving in extraordinary times and circumstances? In retrospect, it would appear that it was a little of both. They were indeed ordinary Soldiers in many ways, and yet there was something uniquely special about them, and they knew it. They sang of it in their mess hall songs, displayed it in their odd gallows humor that few outside combat units understand, and demonstrated it in their aggressive aerial tactics. They flew machines that many today would consider to be barely airworthy, pushing them beyond their design limits in combat against opponents who displayed the same skill, courage and sacrifice as themselves. This last testimonial is enough to make them all heroes.

Army, academia unite for Soldier training technologies



Photo by Merv Brokke

Army Research Laboratory engineer Jeff Hansberger, right, uses an iPad to demonstrate an ARL-developed app to the president of the University of Alabama-Huntsville, Robert Altenkirch, center, during an October tour of the Manned/Unmanned Collaborative Systems Integration Laboratory. The Work Observer app supports data collection of networked interactions across people and technology. Participating in the tour included Tom Davis, ARL weapons branch chief, left, and Shankar Mahalingam, back right, UAH College of Engineering dean.

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

The Army Research Laboratory is planning to use data collected from the new Manned/Unmanned Collaborative Systems Integration Laboratory at the University of Alabama-Huntsville to develop systems that will train Soldiers in effective teaming of manned and unmanned systems.

The establishment of the lab is a collaboration between ARL, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and the university.

Leading the effort for more than a decade has been Tom Davis, chief of the Weapons Branch of the Army's Research Development and Engineering Command.

The partnership with UAH supports a major goal of ARL to partner with academia to advance scientific knowledge, and Davis hopes the lab will allow UAH to expand its research capabilities in related research.

The Army will benefit from the university partnership, Davis said, by leveraging the vast research experience UAH has in the areas of engineering, psychology, and modeling and simulation to bet-

ter inform the Army acquisition process related to optimum Soldier-System interface design.

The establishment of the Manned/Unmanned Collaborative Systems Integration Laboratory is the culmination of more than a decade of efforts. The project dates back to Davis' role as the lead human factors engineer in support of the Robotics Systems Joint Project Office, located at the time at Redstone Arsenal.

Davis was part of an interdisciplinary engineering team tasked to develop virtual trainers to support tactics, techniques and procedures for Soldiers and Marines using robotic systems being developed by the RS JPO. The team identified the AMRDEC's Army Game Studio at Redstone Arsenal as a plausible entity to develop virtual trainers, in hopes of leveraging the studio's gaming expertise.

The Army Game Studio, which develops the America's Army videogame and products, is part of AMRDEC's Software Engineering Directorate.

After development of the first training simulator, Davis said RS JPO management recognized the need to have an integrated approach to allow Soldiers and

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Energy

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projects we pursue, either renewable or security related, must be budget neutral," Marks said. "This is especially hard in this region, with the support we receive from the TVA, where our power is readily available and relatively inexpensive when compared to other regions of the U.S."

In addition, new energy technologies must fit the region.

"We are not Nevada or southern California when it comes to solar. We are not China Lake (Naval Air Weapons Station in California) when it comes to geothermal. We are not the Midwest when it comes to wind," Marks said.

"Although we are not in the prime geographic location for any of these, there are possibilities here. This is especially true with the improving solar technology. As the cost of local energy goes up, the cost of renewable energy options come down."

And lastly, Marks said, with world-wide missions in place at Redstone organizations, the decisions regarding the installation's energy programs "must never impact our nation's missions negatively."

The Army has named 16 installations as being targeted for Net Zero status in

either energy, water, waste or all three. Although Redstone is not one of those installations, the Garrison is still working toward moving closer to Net Zero goals.

Recent new construction has provided opportunities for energy efficiency. The last 10 construction projects on Redstone have either been LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified, are LEED certifiable, or close to LEED standards. Even recent renovation projects have provided opportunity to improve energy efficiency.

"We currently have many projects either being developed or executed throughout the entire energy systems, from replacing less efficient systems with more efficient ones all the way to implementing greater monitoring and controls on facilities or within the overall utility system," Marks said.

"As examples, we are implementing more efficient lighting retrofits, installing more efficient HVAC systems, installing building automation control systems to implement unoccupied setbacks and schedules, and improving the building envelope systems where economically feasible."

In developing energy programs for Redstone, Marks said there are three competing forces – security, cost and sustainability.

"Sustainability was the original goal

of using renewable energy," he said. "Security is the primary local concern to ensure that current and future operations are as resilient as possible. Cost is where the rubber meets the road. What can we afford?"

The need to improve the security and resiliency of energy support systems became obvious with the April 27, 2011, tornado outbreak in Alabama.

"That changed our understanding of how resilient our systems were. Due to separate tornadoes that broke the regional TVA distribution network, both feeds to Redstone went down," Marks said. "This occurred when installation organizations were providing real time support to astronauts in space – we even had a shuttle in the air at the time – and on the space station, and with our deployed war fighters."

Redstone Arsenal has two feeds of electricity to the installation from TVA, one from the east from Guntersville Dam and the other from the west from Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. These two feeds do provide redundancy within the energy supply. In addition, Redstone has three primary electrical substations that allow for the rerouting of power from either source to supply the whole installation.

April 27, 2011, was "an unforeseen knockout. It took nine days for the entire

power load to be restored," Marks said. "We learned during this time what was most critical globally between organizations, not just per individual organizations. We also learned how hard it was to manually control the distribution of power."

As a consequence, the Garrison is looking at increasing the power visibility and controls beyond the primary substations. It has also reviewed critical mission loads and determined a need of 20 megawatts of electricity to maintain operations of the installation's critical infrastructure.

While becoming a Net Zero installation is a difficult challenge, Marks emphasized that continuing to work toward Net Zero is a long-term goal.

"Net Zero is possible on Redstone if unlimited funding was available," he said. "Since the funding is not growing, I believe we take a more focused path. Although we may not completely achieve Net Zero in the short term, we will continue with that vision for the future."

Other speakers on the Net Zero panel included retired Col. John Hamilton, former Garrison commander and now Huntsville city administrator; and retired Col. John Olshefski, former Garrison commander and now Huntsville city councilman and Huntsville Utilities spokesman.

Training

Continued from page 40

Marines to train operating both air and ground teleoperated systems – including ground robots and unmanned aerial systems. This need was driven by the increased use of unmanned aerial systems in Iraq and Afghanistan. Davis said this was the start of the interdisciplinary engineering team brainstorming to develop what would later be named the Unmanned/Manned Collaborative System Integration Laboratory.

ARL worked with the Army Game Studio to develop the laboratory for the RS JPO. However, shortly after the laboratory was complete, the RS JPO was relocated from Redstone Arsenal to Warren, Mich., as part of a Base Realignment and Closure. Since 2009, Davis has worked behind

the scenes to reproduce the laboratory at Redstone. This was a challenge, Davis said, due to the present budgetary environment. In 2012, he was able to secure \$80,000 for the project.

“To be honest, my management didn’t believe I could build a laboratory as I described with such a small amount of money,” Davis said. “However, Mr. Frank Blackwell, who is over the America’s Army Game Studio, understood the potential of the Unmanned/Manned Collaborative System Integration Laboratory and worked with my limited budget.”

One of the first projects to use the new laboratory will be a series of studies funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to investigate the benefits of customizable display interfaces, which are tailored to Soldier’s preferences, while operating unmanned aerial systems. Davis said the research will provide key scientific data to inform the Army’s design of

universal ground control stations.

ARL is also anticipating good returns on the access to UAH students to participate in research studies. “The students here represent that population that is coming into the military, representing the games generation, and with them we hope to relate the research we do here,” Davis said.

ARL research psychologist Jeff Hansberger is one of several in Davis’ research group at Redstone who will be using the lab to conduct research. Hansberger is preparing experiments to be conducted in the lab that will explore how to design the next generation of control interfaces for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

“One method we are experimenting with is the idea of cognitively tailoring the interface to each specific user of the system so that the information presented to the person is tailored to the way he or she specifically prefers to have information presented and organized,” Hansberger explained. “We are looking forward to collaborating with UAH on a series of these types of experiments beginning at the end of 2013.”

Another research effort that will use the lab is the Virtual Collaboration Environment for Crisis Response project in the three-dimensional online

community Second Life. “ARL has created a VCE in Second Life where we have conducted experiments on the use of virtual environments to improve collaboration among different types of organizations such as military, government, industry, and non-profit for large scale crises like Hurricane Katrina or a biological outbreak,” Hansberger said. “We hope to expand the VCE for Crisis Response project by improving the collaborative environment, include mobile devices, and apply social network analysis in future efforts.”

Davis said the SIL would not have been possible without the help of AMRDEC and America’s Army Game studio. “Frank Blackwell and his folks worked with the very limited budget I had to build the SIL,” Davis said. “They researched the needed computer specifications, network hardware and software. In addition, they assembled and configured the SIL at our UAH lab space. For sure, AMRDEC’s America’s Army Game studio was instrumental in the success of the SIL.”

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

Matthews catches star as Vandy football standout



Courtesy photo

Jordan Matthews, a senior, is a standout wide receiver for Vanderbilt University with the Southeastern Conference record for career receiving yards. He is the son of ACC-Redstone's Rod Matthews.



Courtesy photo

Madison proclamation

Madison mayor Troy Trulock presents a proclamation Nov. 12 honoring Redstone's Ten-Miler Team, which has won seven straight titles in the government division and five straight titles in the all-comers division at the annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington. From left are Trulock, coach Harry Hobbs, assistant coach Skip Vaughn and Conrad Meyer.

ACC-Redstone worker's son sets conference receiving mark

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

Like many dads, Rod Matthews used sports as a way to bond with his two sons as they grew up. Years later, one of those sons is setting records in college football's Southeastern Conference.

Matthews' son Jordan, a senior playing wide receiver at Vanderbilt University, recently broke the SEC record for career receiving yards, eclipsing Georgia's Terrence Edwards total of 3,093 yards. As of Nov. 6, Jordan has 3,172 yards with four games to go. He's also less than 500 yards shy of the SEC single-season receiving yards record and a little more than 20 catches shy of the SEC single-season record for receptions.

"The back yard was our field of dreams," Matthews, director of cargo contracts, Army Contracting Command-Redstone, said. "I taught them football, baseball and basketball there. My sons were each other's practice partners and I was their coach. I would play quarterback while Justin and Jordan would take turns running routes and tackling each other. It was very competitive but fun."

Matthews said he saw Jordan's intensity as he played beside his older brother Justin on various teams.

"Justin was a year older so Jordan always played up with him to save us from having to support two different teams," Matthews said.

Playing with the older and bigger kids, Jordan pushed himself to keep up and his father said that might have been a difference maker.

"We knew he was talented because he always excelled. I think the light bulb went off when coach (Phillip) Lolley from Auburn (director, football external relations) called during Jordan's junior year and said they wanted to recruit him.

"Vanderbilt and Mississippi State University followed suit, but once we got interest from Vandy, we put all our efforts in letting them know that was where we wanted him to go," the proud father said. "To us, him being able to play in the SEC and do it at an institution with the high academic standards of Vanderbilt was a no-brainer."

Matthews and his wife Brenda graduated from Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., and Justin is scheduled to graduate this year from Mississippi State.

Matthews acknowledged that his son is a gifted player and believes the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

"Even though I was a better football player, I went the basketball route in high school. I would like to think I would have been as good as my son if I kept playing but I would be the only one with that opinion by a long shot," Matthews said with a chuckle. "My wife and I both have a love of sports. She was a track and field athlete and played basketball. Jordan isn't always recognized for being a speed demon, but he has never been run down. Brenda was a sprinter so I have to give her credit for passing that on to him," he said.

Staunch supporters of their son, the Matthews have attended all of Jordan's games, home and away. And like most parents, they worry about Jordan's safety.

"We pray before every game but feel in our hearts he is covered by God's grace," Matthews said. "We don't let fear consume us because if we did we would be nervous wrecks. He has not sustained a serious injury since playing in college. He has not missed a game so we have no reason to expect that now, but we do have nervous moments."

As Jordan soars higher, catch after catch, Matthews and his wife do what they can to help keep the young man grounded.

"Brenda and I stress the importance of Jordan receiving his economics degree. If he is blessed with an NFL career, it will be short lived. He knows the importance of leveraging a Vandy degree with a NFL football career. We encourage both of our sons to follow their dreams and do what makes them happy in life."

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GYMNAST'S DETERMINATION OPENS OPPORTUNITY

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TEXAS A&M SHOULD SURVIVE BATON ROUGE

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Gymnast's determination opens doors of opportunity



Courtesy photo

Iowa State signee Hilary Green, daughter of Army Contracting Command operations specialist Kimberly Green, is coached by Robert Dillard.

By **DAVID SAN MIGUEL**

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

In the gym, Hilary Green is known to be fearless and driven. Not even the beehive of activity one expects of 20 to 30 gymnasts in various stages of practice distracts the 5-foot-3, 116-pound gymnast. She hesitates only to focus on what her coach advises for a better routine. Her brown eyes fixate on the balance beam before her and with all the strength and grace of a polished athlete, she explodes onto the 4-inch-wide, 16.5-foot-long apparatus and executes a flawless series of back hand-springs, flips, turns, layouts and then sticks the dismount.

It's a focus and drive that Robert Dillard, her mentor and coach at the Calvin Twisters Gymnasium in Decatur, said sets her apart from her peers here and at James Clemens High in Madison, where she'll graduate in May.

Dillard should know. He's coached gymnastics since 1965 when he started a youth program at Northeast YMCA in Birmingham. This was followed by

a 10-year stint at Jacksonville State University, where he established the women's gymnastics program, then 14 years at Auburn University, where he coached the women's gymnastics team to consecutive wins at the NCAA and Southeastern Conference championships.

"She's what I call the real deal. The kid can do just about anything she wants to do. She's super-focused," he said. "Hilary's not your average high school senior. She's one of the most focused gymnasts I've ever worked with."

It's a focus and determination Dillard attributes to her upbringing in a military environment.

"You've got to understand, she comes from a military family and she's made a lot of changes in her life. She's had to change schools, make new friends, go to different gyms," he said. "That's not easy to do as a teenager. She's weathered the storm."

That military upbringing stems from her mother, Kimberly Green, who retired from the Army in December 2010 after serving 25 years. Her last assignment was as Plans and

Operations G-3 sergeant major with the Army Contracting Command. Now an Army civilian, she boasts a bachelor's in business administration from Troy University and is employed in that same office as an operations specialist.

Growing up in Kasota, Minn., with a population of 675, Kimberly said there were few opportunities for employment outside of the stone quarry industry. Her father worked as a truck driver hauling stone and her mother worked in an electrical factory, then restaurant management business.

The eldest of seven siblings, Kimberly had higher ambitions and joined the Army Reserve to take advantage of the service's education benefits. A year later, she joined the active Army "so I could be 'employed' along with receiving the college benefits," she said.

Dillard said, "It's these same attributes – drive, determination and focus – that will serve Hilary well in her pursuit of higher learning at Iowa State this next fall."

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Texas A&M should survive Baton Rouge

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks were 347-122 for 74 percent after 10 weeks. Here are my predictions for selected games this week in college football:

Texas A&M at LSU – **Texas A&M**
 Vanderbilt at Tennessee – **Vanderbilt**
 Kentucky at Georgia – **Georgia**
 Alabama A&M at Georgia Tech – **Georgia Tech**

Chattanooga at Alabama – **Bama**
 Mississippi St. at Arkansas – **Mississippi St.**
 Rice at UAB – **Rice**
 Rutgers at UCF – **UCF**
 UNLV at Air Force – **UNLV**
 Navy at San Jose St. – **San Jose St.**
 Georgia Southern at Florida – **Florida**
 Indiana at Ohio St. – **Ohio State**
 Nebraska at Penn St. – **Nebraska**
 Michigan at Iowa – **Michigan**
 Wisconsin at Minnesota – **Wisconsin**
 Arizona St. at UCLA – **UCLA**
 Oregon at Arizona – **Oregon**
 USC at Colorado – **USC**
 California at Stanford – **Stanford**
 Michigan St. at Northwestern – **Michigan St.**
 The Citadel at Clemson – **Clemson**
 Memphis at Louisville – **Louisville**
 Virginia at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
 Old Dominion at North Carolina – **North Carolina**
 Illinois at Purdue – **Illinois**



Duke at Wake Forest – **Duke**
 Wofford at Furman – **Furman**
 Cincinnati at Houston – **Houston**
 Oklahoma at Kansas St. – **Oklahoma**
 East Carolina at N. Carolina St. – **East Carolina**
 Pittsburgh at Syracuse – **Pittsburgh**
 Coastal Carolina at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
 Hawaii at Wyoming – **Wyoming**
 Montana at Montana St. – **Montana**
 Georgia State at Arkansas St. – **Arkansas St.**
 M. Tenn. St. at Southern Miss – **M. Tenn. St.**
 UTEP at Tulane – **Tulane**
 Utah at Washington St. – **Utah**
 Colorado St. at Utah St. – **Utah St.**
 BYU at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
 Boston College at Maryland – **Boston College**
 Idaho at Florida St. – **Florida St.**
 New Mexico at Fresno St. – **Fresno St.**
 Elon at Samford – **Samford**
 Marshall at FIU – **Marshall**

SMU at South Florida – **SMU**
 Connecticut at Temple – **Temple**
 Tulsa at Louisiana Tech – **Louisiana Tech**
 La.-Monroe at South Alabama – **La.-Monroe**
 W. Kentucky at Texas State – **W. Kentucky**
 Missouri at Ole Miss – **Missouri**
 Baylor at Oklahoma St. – **Baylor**
 Kansas at Iowa St. – **Iowa St.**
 Boise St. at San Diego St. – **Boise St.**
 Washington at Oregon St. – **Washington**

Gymnast

Continued from page 44

According to Kimberly, Hilary signed to attend Iowa State on a full gymnastics scholarship Nov. 13.

"It was just a blessing that they recognized her talents," she said. "They came down here last fall, observed her performance and invited her to Iowa State. That's when they offered her a verbal commitment to join the team in 2014. She gets to attend college on a scholarship doing what she loves. I'm very excited!"

It's a reward and recognition that didn't come easy, Kimberly said.

"You have to be disciplined, have great time management skills and must be pretty dedicated to gymnastics," Kimberly said. "It takes a lot of good, hard work and mental and physical stamina."

For Hilary, this includes maintaining a 3.9 grade point average and practicing gymnastics five-days-a-week, two hours each week, her mother added.

"I really have to space my time out," Hilary said. "I don't get to do a lot of

things outside of school. I try to focus on gymnastics and schoolwork. Even after practice, I sometimes have to stay up late to get my homework done or do it at school."

She admits, however, that occasionally she will participate in various school functions.

"I try to go every once in a while to a football game. I try to stay involved," Hilary said. "But I do realize that I can't go to every one of them."

Kimberly said it's a work ethic Hilary learned early in life.

"Hilary started gymnastics when she was 5. We just put her in a tumbling class because that's all she would do, tumble around," she said. "We needed to channel her energy. She became more serious at the age of 8 when we were stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., and she started competing."

Kimberly added that Hilary's interest in the sport was at least partially derived from her older sister.

"My sister got me involved in gymnastics and I've been in it for quite a while," said Hilary. "I was probably about 12 when I saw that there were many opportunities to go to college, or maybe even the Olympics."

She admits that though getting a chance to compete in the Olympics may prove difficult, the "fact that you can earn a scholarship for what you love to do is really amazing."

Dillard illustrated the gymnast's resolve when at the Junior Olympic National Invitational Tournament held in Minneapolis, Minn., May 10-11, she pressed on despite an injury she sustained during the floor exercise.

"Hilary dislocated her big toe during the first part of her routine," he

said. "She still finished the floor exercise and eventually won the event."

"Had she been able to continue," Dillard said, "I have no doubt Hilary probably would have won the all-around."

"She's a more complete gymnast," he said. "She'll leave us this year and go on to Iowa State where I think she instantly will be a success, not only there but in the whole NIT gymnastics program. Her best days are yet to come."

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

St. Jude give thanks walk

Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, Beta Pi Chapter, Huntsville, Alabama is sponsoring the sixth annual Give Thanks Walk to raise money for the children of St. Jude and to help St. Jude fight childhood cancer. A 5K Walk will be held Saturday inside Madison Square Mall, at the food court entrance, upper level. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m.; the opening ceremony is at 8 and the walk starts at 8:30. There is no charge to participate in the walk. Registration for this family-friendly event is free and all participants are encouraged to raise money to help save kids battling cancer and other deadly diseases. Participants that pre-register online with a donation of \$35 or more can choose their shirt size and will receive a shirt on walk day. A limited number of shirts and sizes will be available at Saturday registration with \$35 or more donations to St. Jude. For more information, visit www.givethankswalk.org. Then click on "Find a Location and

Register." And click on Huntsville.

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.

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.

Space society

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, or HAL5, will have its December talk Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at Mantech Nexolve Auditorium, 655 Discovery Drive. The speaker is Chris Crumbly, NASA Space Launch System advanced development manager.

Military officers association

You are invited to a special ceremony where graduating ROTC students from local universities will receive symbolic gold bars from the Military Officers Association of America, Huntsville Chapter. This will take place at the monthly MOAA membership luncheon today at 11 a.m. at The Summit. Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for Aviation, is the featured speaker. ... The monthly MOAA breakfast is Saturday at the Steak and Shake in front of Madison Square Mall; this is a meet-and-greet affair, casual attire, no speaker.

Women in defense

Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, will be the keynote speaker at the annual breakfast meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women in Defense on Dec. 12 at

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Army photo by Maj. Jason Woodward

Sundown in Afghanistan

The sun sets at Forward Operating Base Apache, Afghanistan, while a Soldier of Task Force Gunfighter, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, checks the tail rotor of an AH-64 Apache helicopter Oct. 17.



Rocket Announcements

7:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. The cost for the breakfast event is \$20 for individual seating or \$200 for a corporate table of eight. Register for this event at: www.eventbrite.com/org/2821380376?s=1178105. Registrants can also email ppopour@garinsolutions.com with any questions regarding the event.

Administrative professionals

The International Association of Administrative Professionals, Redstone Arsenal Chapter, invites you to its monthly meeting Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center building 5400, SELA Auditorium, south main entrance. The speaker is Debbie Morgan, Alabama Division president-elect, who will give an overview of IAAP. For access to the meeting, call Al Phadella McRae 975-9487.

Resource managers

Huntsville Chapter, National Contract Management Association, plans the following events: Lunch & Learn will be held Thursday at the Redstone Federal Credit Union Training Center on Wynn Drive; registration starts at 11 a.m. and the luncheon is from 11:30-1; guest speaker

is Dr. Dorothy Huston, president and CEO for Technology Management Training Group Inc.; cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. ... NCMA Webinar on Dec. 3 at Florida Institute of Technology; cost is \$5 for members, \$10 non-members; sign-in is 10:30 a.m. and the webinars are from 11-12:30. To register and for more information about these events, visit www.ncmahsv.org.

Foreign military sales day

The North Alabama International Trade Association has announced that the Security Assistance Command will participate in a Foreign Military Sales Relationships Day for industry and business representatives Dec. 11 from 1:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. The meeting will include presentations from various FMS organizations and highlight cases being conducted in the geographic area of U.S. Forces Africa Command. A representative from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Controls will address challenges and initiatives associated with technology security and disclosure of information and release of hardware to other nations. Army Contracting

Command representatives will address expediting the contract award process. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but advance reservations are requested as spaces are limited to no more than two representatives from each business, company or corporation. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations can be made by visiting www.naita.org. For more information, call 532-3505. Cutoff for reservations is Dec. 5.

Special forces association

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Dec. 15 at the 88 Buffet, 6125 University Drive. Chapter members and all Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome. Further chapter and contact information can be obtained at www.chapter92sfa.com/.

Program management course

The Program Management PMT401

Course is designed to improve DoD acquisition outcomes by strengthening the analytical, critical thinking and decision-making skills of potential leaders of major defense acquisition programs and program support organizations. The Huntsville class will be conducted Feb. 24 through May 2. For more information, email Ann.Lee@dau.mil or apply at www.dau.mil.

Fellowship program

The SSC Fellowship Program received Army G-3/5/7 approval as Military Education Level-One Equivalent for Civilian Fellows, in accordance with Army Regulation 621-7. Therefore, the Advanced Civilian Education System course will be required for future applicants, per Army guidance. For CES training, see www.amsc.army.mil/courses.php. Next year's Army SSC Fellowship announcement will be posted soon at asc.army.mil/web/career-development/civilian/career-planning-steps/.

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Courtesy photo by Lt. Teng Ooi

Navy dedication

Dr. Barbara Pilling speaks at a dedication ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy on behalf of her late husband, Adm. Donald Lee Pilling, who was one of the academy's most successful Trident Scholars. She contributed his personal papers including books, photographs and other memorabilia. The ceremony was attended by members of the Naval Academy Class of 1965, the Mathematics Department faculty members and midshipmen.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Security network

Michael Redman, senior Information Assurance manager at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, briefs employees on cyber awareness Nov. 12. The annual training, given in multiple sessions Nov. 12-15, raises awareness of risk factors to Army information systems, networks and data, and offers mitigating and protective measures to take. The three-hour training also included briefing by other IA Policy and Accreditation Branch members: Torri Johnson, George Connelley and Jeff Peterson.

Rocket Announcements

Adjutant general association

The Rocket City Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association has its 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 Cafe. 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.

Lupus support

Do you have lupus or know someone with lupus? Join the Huntsville Support Group to learn more about lupus and receive support from others. Meetings are held every second Monday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Wellness Center at Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall, 1963 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call Lorelei Hood 667-0485 or email lfa.hsv@gmail.com.

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.redstonewarrants.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

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Courtesy photo by Clear Creek Education Foundation

Valor award

Lt. Col. Bradley Bruce, product manager for the UH-60 Black Hawk Modernization in the Utility Helicopters Project Office, is escorted through the Saber Arch by his mother, Joe Cat Bruce, at the annual Clear Creek Education Foundation gala Nov. 2 at League City, Texas. Bruce received the Valor Award, which recognizes a public servant who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Themed "The Stakes are High ... Education is our Best Bet," more than 370 attendees helped honor many individuals for their positive contributions to the Clear Creek Independent School District and raised more than \$60,000 to support academic enrichment programs. All award winners received a saber salute from the Junior ROTC at Clear Creek High School as they entered the ballroom.



Photo by DJ Montoya, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Air Force leader visits

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning thanks Lt. Gen. David Mann, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, for a brief tour and demonstration of Army space capabilities Nov. 1 at the command's operational headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Fanning saw firsthand the space-based capabilities and products Soldiers from the Army's 1st Space Brigade provide to combatant commanders and war fighters on the ground during his one-hour visit. The brigade conducts space operations to deliver decisive combat power in support of the Army and joint war fighting communities.

Rocket Announcements

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.breeden@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.breeden@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 would like to thank everyone who donates, consigns, shops and supports us all year. "Without you we would not be able to give back to the Soldiers (active and retired), their family members and community," the shop said in a prepared release. "Again thank you; may God continue to bless us all." The shop has clothing, tools, linens, toys, jewelry, sporting goods, coats, shoes, household and Christmas items for all your needs. The last day for Christmas consignments is Dec. 5. The shop will be closed for Thanksgiving, Nov. 26-28, and two weeks for Christmas starting Dec. 24 and reopen Jan. 4 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. 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 from 9-5 and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. Consignment hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-11:45 a.m. unless otherwise stated on the No-List. If you cannot visit during those times, call management 881-6992 and they will work with you. Call the No-List 881-6915 on Mondays after 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.

Financial readiness classes

Army Community Service is partnering with Regions Bank and Redstone Federal Credit Union to bring you monthly classes that will help you become more financially fit. The Financial Readiness Program will cover a different topic each month. A sample of the topics are planning for the holidays, retirement planning, preparing for tax season, budgeting, just to name a few. All

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classes will be held at building 3443, on Honest John Road, in the ACS conference room, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will need to register for each class you attend. To register, visit www.redstonemwr.com/.

Modeling/simulation event

A Modeling and Simulation “lunch and learn” will be held today from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Jackson Center in Cummings Research Park. This event is presented by VT MAK. To reserve your space, email Pete Swan at pswan@mak.com.

Soldier sponsors

The Total Army Sponsorship Program provides Soldiers with training on how to be a good sponsor to a newly arrived Soldier. A complete sponsorship training package and sponsorship guide is available to unit trainers. Contact the Relocation Readiness program manager to schedule training sessions. Welcome packets and area information is available if you are sponsoring a new arrival. 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, the ACS Relocation Readiness program manager, at 876-5397, email her at mary.breeden@conus.army.mil or stop by Army Community Service, building 3443 on Aerobee Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Second language

English as a Second Language classes and citizenship classes are available in the area. For questions about area ESL classes, immigration or citizenship, call Mary Breeden, the ACS Relocation Readiness program manager, at 876-5397, email her at mary.breeden@conus.army.mil or stop by Army Community Service, building 3443 on Aerobee Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Shopping with heroes

Servicemembers along with police officers and firefighters are being recruited to volunteers as “Hero” escorts for disadvantaged children from low income families during a shopping event at the Target store on Highway 72 in Madison beginning at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 14. The heroes are asked to wear their military uniforms. Servicemembers can sign up at www.shopwithahero.info or by calling 828-2692. Each child will be given \$100 to shop for their families. The heroes will help guide the children in their purchases. The event is sponsored by Flint River Baptist Church.

Commissary news

The Commissary’s holiday hours for
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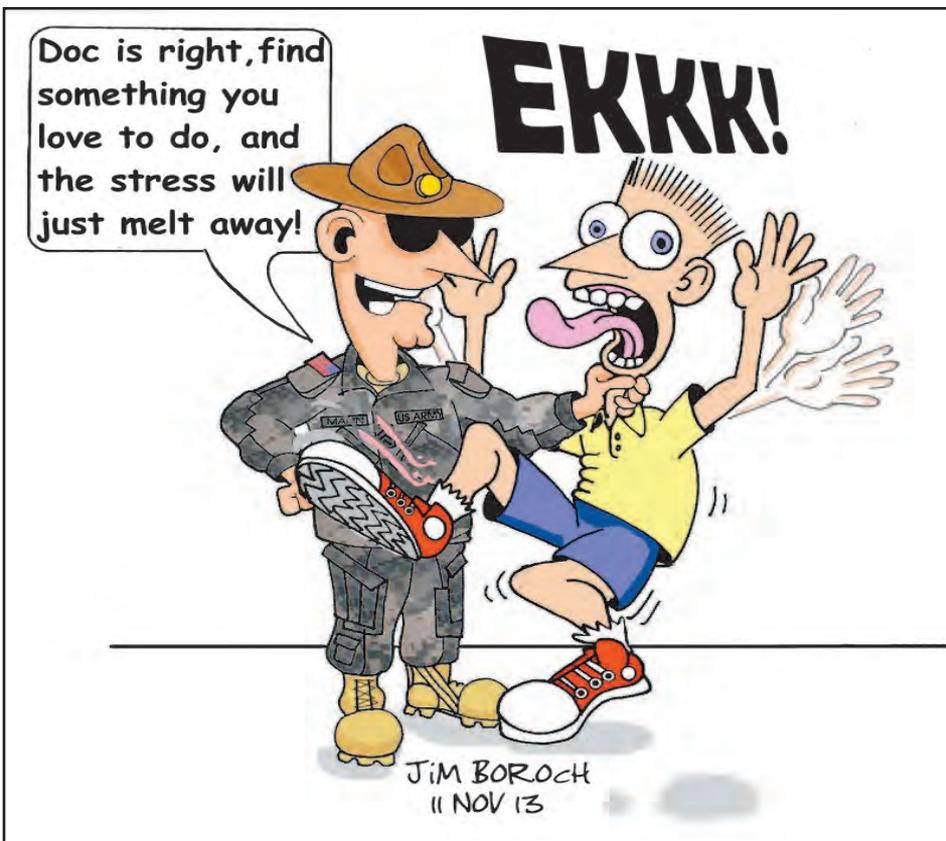


Photo by DJ Montoya, SMDC/ARSTRAT

First sergeant departs

Col. Gregory Bowen, deputy commander for support, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, left, awards 1st Sgt. Joshua Ochs, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, SMDC, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal before a relinquishment of responsibility Oct. 30 at SMDC’s operations headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Ochs was honored for his tenure as first sergeant of HHC and for his volunteer service in the Colorado Springs community from April 2011 through October 2013. His next assignment is with U.S. Central Command.

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Thanksgiving are as follows: Sunday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 28 closed; Friday, Nov. 29 from closed; and Saturday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Redstone holiday gala

The inaugural Redstone Arsenal Black Tie Holiday Gala is Dec. 19 from 5 p.m. to midnight at Saturn Hall at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "Dance the night away and celebrate the holidays," a prepared release said. "Enjoy dinner and live music by Pink Cadillac." Cost is \$75 per person. For tickets contact Capt. Heather Davidson 450-8200, heather.c.davidson5.mil@mail.mil, or Capt. Sara Baharloui 450-7720, sara.k.baharloui.mil@mail.mil. For more information about child care, taxi service and special hotel rates, visit www.facebook.com/teamredstone.

Children's theater

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater will present "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 6-15 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Performances are 7 p.m. Dec. 6, 12 and 13; and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 8 and 14, with a

final closing performance 2 p.m. Dec. 15. For tickets and information, call 539-6829 or visit fantasyplayhouse.com.

Military libraries workshop

The 56th Military Libraries Workshop will blast off Dec. 9-11 at the Von Braun Center downtown. This workshop is sponsored by the Military Libraries Division of the Special Libraries Association, with support from the SLA Alabama Chapter. The local hosts are the Redstone Scientific Information Center and the Army Materiel Command Library Program. For more information, and a link to the registration page, go to military.sla.org/mlw2013/.

Native American month

Team Redstone's National American Indian Heritage Month Program will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's theme is "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions." The keynote speaker is Gerald D. Davis, proprietor of Shadow Wolf Inc. For program information and special accommodations, call Master Sgt. Andrew Ruffin 450-6425.

Nutcracker performance

All active and retired military and

their families are invited to a free performance of The Nutcracker presented by the Huntsville Community Ballet on Dec. 12 at the Von Braun Center. There will be a pre-performance holiday concert presented by the Army Materiel Command Band at 6 p.m. and then The Nutcracker will begin at 7. The evening's special guests will be Vietnam veterans. All active and retired military should show their military ID card at the door for free admission. Vietnam veterans should ask for David Carney at the door.

Exchange news

Soldiers can now enjoy instant access to current hit television shows like Modern Family, Sleepy Hollow, Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. and more with an exclusive discounted subscription to Hulu Plus through

the Exchange. "Through this new offering, troops and their families in CONUS and at select OCONUS locations (Afghanistan, Italy and Kuwait to start) can view the latest and best of U.S. programming, wherever they are called to serve," Exchange general manager Roberto Montalvo said. To get the Exchange's exclusive Hulu Plus offer and a 10 percent savings for the first year of service, authorized shoppers can subscribe through www.shopmyexchange.com/hulu. In the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and Guam, this program is available to on- and off-base subscribers. Hulu Plus is an on-line video subscription service that offers current hit TV shows, classic series, award-winning movies and more. Hulu Plus subscribers can access

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premium programming anytime on Internet-connected TVs, smartphones, game consoles, set top boxes and additional devices, in HD (when available).

Virginia Tech alumni

The Virginia Tech Alumni Chapter of North Alabama will hold "An Evening With the Commandant" at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Columbia High School auditorium. This free program features retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. For more information, call 348-4435, email HSVHokies@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/1389080564668013/.

Holiday gala fundraiser

The 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter, extends a community-wide open invitation to its 14th annual Holiday Gala and Black Tie Fundraiser. The event is Dec. 28 from 6-11 p.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Reception is scheduled from 6-6:45 while the formal program runs from 7-11 and will include dinner, live entertainment, recognition of our Men of Tomorrow, and recognition of civic and community leaders in the areas of: Mentoring, Economic Empowerment, Education and

Health & Wellness. Tickets are \$62.50 per seat and \$500 per table of eight if purchased Dec. 6. Ticket prices increase to \$75 per seat and \$600 per table of eight if purchased after Dec. 6. For more information, call Freeda McDowell at the chapter's business office 536-8050 or James Matthewson Jr. 714-8921.

Craft show

The annual Christmas Craft Show, sponsored by the Northeast Alabama Craftsmen's Association, is Dec. 6-8 at the Von Braun Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission fee. A \$20 gift certificate will be given away every two hours during the show. For more information call show chairman Annie Hannah 880-7967, chairperson Shirley Petitti 883-2199 or publicity Elizabeth Crum 423-4312.

Thanksgiving dinner

Inside-Out Ministries in Madison invites Madison residents to a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Bob Jones High School. There will be three separate serving times - 4, 5 and 6 p.m. Call Inside-Out Ministries at 325-5193 to make a reservation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Colonel's thanks

Retiring Col. Bob Pastorelli publicly thanks his father, World War II veteran James Pastorelli, during his retirement ceremony Friday. The colonel gave his Bronze Star from Operation Desert Storm to his 93-year-old father, pinning it on his lapel at the close of the ceremony. The colonel served more than 28 years in the Army. Pastorelli said "my career made me who I am today," and that all the people he and his family met during his years of service, especially during the last five years at Redstone Arsenal, "will always be in our hearts." Pastorelli came to Redstone in 2008 to serve as Garrison commander during a time of tremendous installation growth, and went on to serve as chief of staff of the Security Assistance Command and then as the executive officer to the executive director for the Army Materiel Command's commanding general. In the background is Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command, who officiated the retirement ceremony. Pastorelli was awarded a Legion of Merit during the ceremony. He and his wife Anna and son Bobby will remain in the Huntsville community.

