

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

October 22, 2014

Vol. 63 No. 42

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Vietnam vet receives Silver Star after 45 years

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

Team Redstone gathered Friday to honor a local veteran with the third highest military award for valor, the Silver Star, for his actions in Vietnam.

Retired 1st Lt. Phillip Fikes, of Huntsville, was awarded the Silver Star after 45 years during a formal ceremony hosted by Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"I am so very proud and deeply honored to finally complete the mission and carry out the orders to present the Silver Star," Via said during the ceremony.

Via noted that Vietnam veterans did not always get the honor they deserved.

"Today's ceremony reminds us that our Vietnam veterans were patriots who served with honor, and will forever be deserving of our respect," he said.

Fikes, a native of Winfield, entered the Army in 1967 and arrived in Vietnam in January 1969. He was assigned to lead First Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment – called the River Raiders. His mission was to secure the area in and around the Mekong Delta.

"I believe my purpose there was to help my fellow Soldiers get home safely," Fikes said. "To do what we were asked to do, and at the same time come home safely to our families. I knew the decisions I made impacted that outcome greatly."

Fikes said those decisions weighed heavily on him.

On May 23, 1969, Fikes and his men were called to do a reconnaissance mission and suddenly he and his unit came under intense fire from three directions. Fikes crossed 100 meters of fire-swept terrain to evacuate wounded Soldiers and led an assault on enemy positions. It was for these actions that Fikes was presented the Silver Star.

Three days later, Fikes was injured from a booby trap that took part of a thumb, busted his knee and caused permanent partial paralysis. It was during his convalescence in the hospital that he believes the citation for the Silver Star for his actions on May 23 was slipped unceremoniously into his records. When he was medically retired due to his injuries, the award was not annotated on his DD-214, and went unnoticed until a record review last year.

"While the Silver Star was presented to me, I can only accept it on behalf of the Soldiers who I had the honor and the privilege to serve with in Vietnam; so for them and for me, I say, 'thank you and God bless America,'" Fikes said.



Photo by Cherish Washington

The crowd stands to honor retired 1st Lt. Phillip Fikes for his actions on May 23, 1969. He was awarded the Silver Star after 45 years in a formal ceremony Friday hosted by Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command.



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WIN OR LOSE

Business owner learned from Army football career.

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Breast Cancer Fair promotes awareness



Photo by Master Sgt. James Eagleman, AMC command photographer

Workers attend Thursday's informational event at the Army Materiel Command.

By AMC Public Affairs

Approximately 190,000 women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year and up to 10 percent are thought to be hereditary, caused by abnormal genes passed from parent to child.

The Army Materiel Command's Wellness division sought to increase awareness on this topic Thursday by hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Fair.

The fair included vendors from Huntsville Hospital, Crestwood Medical Cen-

ter, Juice Plus, Sterling Health & Wellness and more from medical institutions across Redstone Arsenal and the North Alabama community, who shared information and demonstrations to promote awareness and education.

Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from breast cancer survivor Patty Montgomery and Clearview Cancer Institute genetic counselor Amy George.

The fair was held in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

On this date in history: Oct. 22

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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In 1746: Princeton University (New Jersey) receives its charter.

In 1836: Sam Houston is inaugurated as the first elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1897: The world's first car dealer opens in London.

In 1913: An explosion at a Dawson, New Mexico, coal mine kills 263 mine workers.

In 1938: Chester Carlson demonstrates the first Xerox copying machine.

In 1954: West Germany joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1962: President John F. Kennedy imposes a naval blockade on Cuba, beginning a missile crisis.

In 1966: USSR launches Luna 12 for orbit around the moon.

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 4488 Room A-248, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

Email: usarmy.redstone.imcom.mbx.cmdinfo@mail.mil
Email classified ads to rocketads@theredstonerocket.com

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

Rocket articles are available at:
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>
<http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil>

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The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected

Take 5



Java Cafe

- 1 Since the Java Cafe moved to its new home in the Pershing Welcome Center in June 2013, business has more than doubled.
- 2 Chicken salad, pulled pork and brisket are the Java Café's most popular menu items.
- 3 For the upcoming holiday season, the Java Café will be bringing back its popular, holiday-flavored coffee beverages.
- 4 In addition to breakfast and lunch, patrons also enjoy free wireless service and rock music on the sound system as part of the Java Cafe's mission to be the "Un-Cubicle."
- 5 The Java Cafe bakes and sells 200 cookies per week to satisfy Team Redstone's sweet tooth.

Quote of the week

'There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.'

— Colin Powell

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The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$35 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Getting to **know you**



Photo by Sabrina Forrest

Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks presents Bill Woosley an award for 40 years service at FMWR's award ceremony in October.

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer

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Name: Bill Woosley

Position: Automotive self-repair facility manager for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Where do you call home?

Born and raised in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington. And for the past 23 years, Huntsville, Alabama, has been and is my home.

What do you like about your job?

Like? I love my job! Really, I do! What's not to like or love about my job? I get to be in and around nearly all years, makes and models of vehicles. For a car lover, that's heaven! Cars are my drug of choice.

What are your goals – personal, professional or both?

To stay true to my family, friends, community, customers, employees and above all, myself. Pass on any skills and or experiences in hopes it will spark that same fire and desire in someone's eyes for vehicles as I had growing up.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

What spare time? When I can find any spare time, I love to tinker with and drive my 1967 Dodge Charger. I've driven it four times out to the Oregon coast and back. After that, it's hunting, fishing and listening to music.

What's on your bucket list?

To win the lottery of course! Actually, I hadn't given it much thought. At almost 62 years of age and being retired military, I've done things, met people and gone places some people can only dream about. However, if I should make a bucket list, at the top of my list – which wouldn't be very long – would have to be to drive a NASCAR full throttle around Talladega Speedway a few laps just to say I did. The next would probably be to pilot a dragster/funny car down a drag strip at full throttle. Only a list of two – that's it.

Comment: During aerobics, the group fitness rooms at Pagano Gym are supposed to be cooled to a specific temperature (I believe 68 degrees). However, during the aerobic class the rooms heat up excessively. Install a thermostat to monitor the temperature on a regular basis, and adjust the temperature accordingly (if possible).



Response: We received your ICE card in regards to the aerobic class. There is not a separate system that would control air only in the group fitness rooms. Depending on the number of students and type of class, it can get muggy in there. A job order has been submitted requesting mounted fans to help circulate the air. Keeping the door closed usually helps as well. We have also asked our team to call in a work order to check to see if any adjustments can be made. Thanks for bringing your concern to our attention.

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 from Oct. 5-11:

- Oct. 5: Police stopped a driver for speeding on Goss Road. An NCIC check revealed a suspended driver's license. The driver was cited and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.
- Oct. 6: A traffic accident occurred in the parking lot of building 5222 when a driver backed into an oncoming vehicle.
- Oct. 6: Cash and personal items were stolen from a purse at Pagano Gym.
- Oct. 7: Police received a report of unexploded ordnance in the Martin Road area near Gate 7. The item was examined by a munitions specialist and determined to be an inert training aid.
- Oct. 7: While moving some items in the parking lot, an Exchange employee was struck by a vehicle driven by another Exchange employee. There were no injuries.
- Oct. 8: A traffic accident occurred in the parking lot of building 3711 when a driver backed into another vehicle.

- Oct. 9: A visitor for a unit organization day was processing through the Visitors Center when it was discovered she had a warrant for her arrest from Madison. She was detained and released to a Madison police officer.
- Oct. 10: A driver approached Gate 9 asking for directions. When asked, he could not produce his driver's license. An NCIC check revealed the license was suspended. He was cited and the vehicle got released to a licensed driver.
- Oct. 10: As a contractor's employment was being terminated, it was revealed he had a warrant for his arrest from Arab. Arab police declined to take custody and the contractor was escorted off the installation.
- Oct. 10: A traffic accident occurred in the parking lot of building 6260 when a driver struck a parked vehicle.
- Oct. 10: A traffic accident occurred in the parking lot of building 5220 when a driver backed into a parked vehicle.
- Citations issued included 10 for speeding, four traffic control device violations and two suspended licenses.

Weekend ceremony honors deployed troops

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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For the first time, the nationwide holiday for those service members and families who have experienced the challenges and trials of a war time deployment will be recognized in Huntsville.

This Sunday, Oct. 26, is the National Day of the Deployed. It will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Huntsville. Prior to the ceremony, there will be a meet-and-greet event at the Huntsville Depot Roundhouse beginning at 2 for participants to meet local organizations – such as A Smile For Troops and Tide for Troops – that support deployed troops.

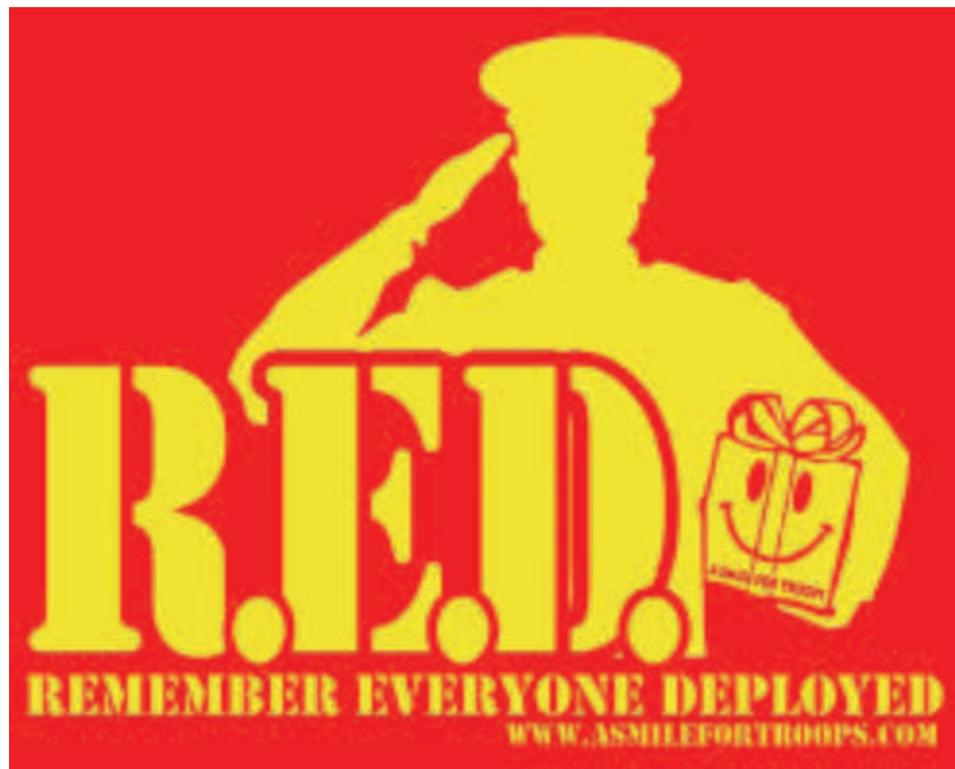
The event will recognize the 10-year anniversary of the first deployment of Alabama National Guard troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the subsequent deployments of other Alabama service members since then. All service members and their families as well as retirees, veterans and the public are invited to the event.

Sen. Bill Holtzclaw, a retired Marine with service during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and Operation Restore Hope in 1992-93, will be the guest speaker. He will also present a statewide proclamation while Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle will present a city proclamation recognizing the Day of the Deployed.

The ceremony will also include a wreath dedication for deployed Soldiers, a brick dedication commemorating the day and performances by the Army Materiel Command Band and the Lee High School chorus. Military vehicles will be on display.

During the meet-and-greet, organizations and companies will man booths at the Depot Roundhouse where the public can make purchases to send to deployed troops. WDRM Radio, which is publicizing the event, will sponsor a Treats for Troops table where people can make candy donations for troops. Other vendors at the event will sell products or collect items in support of deployed troops, including Tide for Troops, Buffalo Wild Wings, Patriot Cigars and Mary Kay Cosmetics. There will also be an area where the public can sign cards and write letters to be delivered to deployed troops.

The local Day of the Deployed Committee, led by community volunteer Kiley



Kinzer-Henry, has gained the support of Redstone's Army Community Service in organizing the event.

Those who want to volunteer to assist with the Day of the Deployed can visit the organization's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dayofthedeveloped.

Directorate cooks up big bucks for AER fund

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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To members of AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate, raising money for Army Emergency Relief is a year-round effort.

They do three picnics and one golf tournament each year for the fund, which helps Soldiers and military families experiencing financial difficulties. To them, Army Emergency Relief deserves more than an annual campaign.

"I love helping the Soldier," Matt Boenker, the directorate's AER representative, said.

The golf tournament alone has raised more than \$25,000 in four years. This year's tournament, held Sept. 25 at Colonial Golf Course, drew 32 four-member teams and raised a record \$8,939 and 94 cents.

"It's already full for next year," Boenker said. The directorate's cooking prowess, which includes grilled steaks, probably adds to the tournament's allure.

"It gets bigger and bigger every year," AER officer Kathleen Riester said.

She and Lt. Col. Tim Dalton, an AER representative from the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command where he serves as a space analyst, accepted the big check Thursday at the directorate's picnic under the NASA pavilion.

Looking ahead to next year's campaign, the AER key representative training for 2015 will be held Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. in the Army Community Service conference room at the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Members of AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate present a check to Army Emergency Relief from their golf tournament's proceeds. From left are Thongsay Vongpaseuth, Matt Boenker, Amanda Parkinson, AER officer Kathleen Riester, John Woracek, Gil Leos, Ed Oldani, Keith Jones, Rob Renyer, Darius Bland and Lt. Col. Tim Dalton, an AER representative from the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Team Redstone reinforces partnership with educators

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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It takes all of Team Redstone to ensure that students in the Tennessee Valley receive the best education possible.

Educators gathered with Redstone Arsenal leadership Thursday for the quarterly Garrison education meeting, hosted by Madison County Schools. The meeting was an opportunity for leaders to spend an hour talking about the state of education in North Alabama and the ways they can work together to strengthen local schools.

“When I talk about the things we need to do to maintain, create and strengthen the Arsenal and Team Redstone as a federal center of excellence, everything is influenced, if not directly, by a second or third order effect, by the education systems we have in North Alabama,” Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks said. “We at Redstone are going to do everything we can to bring resources to the classroom. We’ll provide people and we’ll provide emphasis on programs that help strengthen the education base. We are here to be a partner in education, it’s that important.”

Although great strides have been made in education in Huntsville/Madison County area in recent years, there’s always room for improvement, Marks said.

“I know you guys are the first people to acknowledge it, but we will never be done improving,” Marks said. “I know that we are all headed in the right direction and we’ve got the best people we could possibly have in the right positions.”

Part of the discussion centered around the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Discussion Group, which connects schools with Redstone Arsenal tenants, as well as local industry, to provide students with experts in their areas of study. Lee High School has benefited from math tutors through the program, as well as the North Alabama Center for Education Excellence, which was able to obtain panel speakers for STEM Day. Meeting attendees also received an updated Education Outreach Catalog, which lists points of contact for each organization on Team Redstone, and the education outreach opportunities they have available.

“We’ve got to continue to generate the excitement,” Marks said. “STEM is huge here. Many of the programs we have are one of a kind in the state, if not the Southeast. We need to take those programs, which are already very strong here, and broaden them to the outer reaches of North Alabama.”



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks speaks with Dr. Raymona Bevel, military student transition consultant, following the Garrison education meeting.



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

From left, Madison County Schools superintendent Dr. David Copeland, Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks and Madison City Schools superintendent Dr. Dee Fowler attend the Garrison Education meeting Thursday.

While a great emphasis has been placed on STEM programs, Marks challenged educators to not forget about the trades, such as carpentry.

“We do a great job with the higher education technical skills in terms of engineering, science and all that, but I think we can always do more,” he said. “Don’t forget those technical skills, because they are an integral part. We do need welders out on the installation – we need electricians, we need plumbers, we need all of those experts to bring their skills to bear. Those are skills that are absolutely needed in the community today. As we’re focusing a lot on the college piece for the careers, are we doing that at the expense of the trades, or are we bringing those and providing resources and emphasis on those as well?”

Although Marks challenged educators, he was also quick to applaud them for the hard work they do every day.

“There’s plenty of places around the country where people can find job satisfaction, but the quality of life, starting with the education system, is always their number one focus area,” he said. “You guys are doing a great job working together to broaden the quality of education and leading the way for the state of Alabama. You’re doing a great job and we are proud to be your partner.”

Eye on Education

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Lieutenant governor applauds Team Redstone

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey had a message Friday for members of Team Redstone – thank you.

Ivey paid a visit to Redstone Arsenal as part of her role as the chair of the Military Stability Commission. Citing the trip as “very informative,” Ivey made stops at Marshall Space Flight Center, the Army Materiel Command, AMRDEC’s Prototype Integration Facility and the Garrison before taking part in the Silver Star ceremony for retired 1st Lt. Phillip Fikes.

“I’ve been pleased to be visiting individuals up here at AMC, individuals who make a difference day in and day out; meeting the folks who renovate and modernize all to keep our Soldiers well-prepared, well-equipped,” Ivey said. “It’s been a learning experience. My job is to say thank you to the men and women who are making such a difference.”

Part of her stops across the Arsenal included meeting with Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Dennis Via, Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks, AMRDEC director James Lackey and Marshall Space Flight Center director Patrick Scheuermann. Lackey, together with PIF program manager Danny Featherston, briefed Ivey on the mission and metrics of the PIF, before allowing employees to share their work with her in their own words.

Ivey was particularly impressed by the Minotaur, which clears improvised explosive devices from the paths of Soldiers in the field, allowing any damage to come to the Minotaur, rather than cause injury or loss of life for the Soldier.

“That’s taking care of business, and the speed with which these folks are able to turn around requirements and requests is phenomenal, as compared to what it would take in just normal, routine kind of businesses,” Ivey said. “Doing whatever it takes to meet the Soldier’s demands and needs is what this team is all about. They do such a great job.”

Ivey was also impressed by the number of civilians dedicating their livelihoods on the Arsenal for both the military and NASA.

“That’s a great tribute to the men and women of Alabama who choose to live here and work in this area,” Ivey said. “I’m pleased to shake their hands and listen to their stories.”

In addition to Redstone Arsenal, Ivey is also making stops at other military installations across the state.

“As chairman of the Military Stability Commission for Alabama, meeting with our military bases and the people who make them successful, the missions that are attached to the bases, are very important so that we can keep Alabama military men and women, and all the military assets intact and safe, and hopefully add some missions to the existing sites that we have in Alabama,” Ivey said. “This is just part of that responsibility that I hold very dear and am proud to be able to execute.”

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Coogan Preston explains the Minotaur to Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey at the PIF as part of her visit Friday to Redstone Arsenal as chair of the Military Stability Commission.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility engineer T.J. LaPointe shows Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey his project that he is government product lead of. Looking on are Danny Featherston, PIF program manager, background left, and James Lackey, AMRDEC director, background right.



Enrichment program invites home school youngsters



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, Sam McFetridge, Elizabeth Taymon, Faith Blanshan, Jack Taymon and Jake McFetridge take photographs as part of CYSS' Home School Support Services Oct. 16.

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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For two hours each week, Redstone Arsenal transforms into a classroom for home school families.

Child, Youth and School Services offers Home School Support Services to any federally connected family with access to the installation each Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Students have the opportunity to expand their skills through three classes: computer technology, arts and crafts, and physical education. There is no cost for the program.

"Our families really love the program," Barbara Williams, youth education and support services director, said. "It's an extraordinary place for kids to come, learn, have fun and interact with other kids their age. The CYSS team does an outstanding job in strengthening life skills and enhancing creativity in the arts with children and teens."

Tara Taymon agreed.

"They enjoy it," said Taymon, who has two kids in the program. "It gives them some time to be around other kids. They enjoy that. Socialization is a big thing."

Last Thursday, the lesson plans for the day included taking a walk outside to take pictures before editing them in Photoshop, and playing soccer golf in the gym. The program not only gives students an opportunity to spend time with other kids, but also expand their horizons in subject and activity areas they might not do at home.

"I love that they have the opportunity to have organized P.E. and really get out and run and be with other kids, but I also love that my children are both learning techniques on the computer," said Jen-

nifer Blanshan, who has two children in the program. "Faith is learning PowerPoint, things that her dad and I work with all the time, but now she can say, 'I know how to do that.' It's not something that honestly I had thought about teaching her at a fifth, sixth grade level."

It also gives parents a two-hour break to run errands or simply have a little me time, which is beneficial not only for them, but their kids as well.

"It gives the children time to be away from me," said Kathy McFetridge, whose sons Jake, 13, and Sam, 12, have participated in the program for the past few years. "It's truthful. They're with me all daylong, and this gives them an opportunity to be with other kids, other adults in authority, doing some things they normally wouldn't get to do. You can't play baseball with two people."

For more information, call Williams at 842-9642. To register, call Central Enrollment at 876-3704.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, sports education technician Charles Suddler teaches Andrew Blanshan, Davis Bigelow and Jonathan Prowell how to play soccer golf.

Redstone Exchange displays renovation results at store



Officials participate in a ribbon cutting during Friday's grand opening at the Exchange.

Photos by **ELLEN HUDSON**
Staff photographer

The Exchange showcased its new look and improvements Friday with a grand opening.

These include new exterior and interior façades, new flooring, ceiling and shelving, new fixtures and lighting, new checkout areas, a new outdoor living area and an expanded line of brand products.

From left are Exchange sales and merchandising manager Kim Sumpter, veteran customer John Dinkel and Exchange

visual merchandiser Sheila Burhart. Sumpter and Burhart are handing out shopping bags and bottled water during the grand opening.



Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks delivers remarks at the event.

Spiritual living at Redstone

Praising God's glory happens many ways

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) GARY PAYNE
Bicentennial Chapel

Why are we here? What is the purpose for human beings in this existence? I imagine there are a lot of answers.

I heard one explanation that our existence on this planet is a sort of proving grounds. Satan, once an angel, challenged God. So, God made people to follow God – that way God would prove to Satan that people would love him.

The biggest problem I have with that is this: God does not have to prove anything to anybody. He especially does not need to prove anything to the evil one.

GOD IS. That is enough.

Another explanation for our existence comes from the Westminster Shorter Catechism (1640 AD): Q. "What is the chief end of man?" A. "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

Yet, I do not believe God made his creation so it would bring him glory. I do not believe God made angelic beings so they would worship him. I do not believe God

created people so they would praise him.

Glory comes to God because GOD IS.

God is inseparably connected to his creation. His holiness spilled onto humanity. And, surrounded by the darkness around us, we are drawn to his light. The result – Paul says it three times in the Book of Ephesians, chapter one – "the praise of his glory."

If you spent more time praising God and less time thinking about problems, what would happen?

Sometimes I praise God with words. Sometimes not. Most of the time my praise comes out in how I conduct my life. With the seal of his Holy Spirit, how can it be otherwise? When I drift from his will, the Holy Spirit works on my conscience. When I walk in his way, my life intertwines with the multitudes of others who also live to the praise of his glory.

Editor's note: This is the last of a two-part series. Part one appeared in the Redstone Rocket on Oct. 15.

Protestant women's ministry

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel. The group gathers at 9:30 a.m. for fun, fellow-

ship, refreshments, Bible studies, free child care and home-school programs. For more information about the Bible study and upcoming fellowship opportunities, check out the PWOC Facebook page at facebook.com/PWOCRSA. Questions can be emailed to pwocrsa@gmail.com.

Women's Bible study

Every Wednesday morning, beginning at 9:30, a non-denominational women's Bible study is held at the Bicentennial Chapel. The Bible study, taught by Barbara Neidermeyer, begins with fellowship and prayer time followed by the Bible study and concluding with sharing time.

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.

Weekday Mass

The weekday Mass at Bicentennial Chapel is at noon every Tuesday through Friday, and on Holy Days of Obligation at 6 p.m. (or as announced).

Bicentennial Chapel Sunday Schedule

Catholic Mass 9 a.m.

Protestant
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship
Service 11 a.m.



Jewish holidays

According to the Garrison chaplain's office, the following Jewish High and Holy Days are being celebrated by Jewish communities in the local area: the Festival of Ingathering (Atzeret) begins tonight and continues through Friday (followed by Jewish Sabbath). For more information regarding service schedules in Huntsville, call Spc. Mark Silverberg at 842-2173.

Editor's note: For more information about what goes on at Bicentennial Chapel, call 876-6874 or email james.c.stratton5.civ@mail.mil.

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:

Hunter safety

The Redstone Hunter Safety Orientation is scheduled Nov. 4 and 18 at 4:30 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive. This is a mandatory free class for people who want to hunt on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-4868.

Basketball registration

Child, Youth and School Services basketball registration is open through Oct. 31 for ages 4-17. The \$40 fee includes uniform. Games are played in January and February. For more information or to register, call 313-3699.

Free movie Friday

A free movie is shown every other Friday at Heiser Hall, building 3712, on Patton and Aerobee roads. This Friday's movie is "RoboCop," rated PG-13. Doors open at 5 p.m. for refreshments with the movie starting at 6. Remember, this is a free movie with snacks all sold

for a nominal fee. For more information call Staff Sgt. Peta-gaye Lakharam, president of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, at 955-8220.

Home schooled support

CYSS' Home School Support Services is held Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., where students have the opportunity to expand their skills in computer technology, arts and crafts, and physical education while interacting with other home schooled children. Anyone who is federally connected with access to the installation is eligible to utilize the free program. For more information, call Barbara Williams at 842-9642. To register, call Central Enrollment at 876-3704.

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 artscrafts@sp.redstone.army.mil or nancy.l.green31.naf@mail.mil.

Homeless veterans receive weekend refuge

Operation Stand Down gives comfort, safety

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Ron Stocker was simply giving back for all that has been given to him.

Serving homeless veterans as a volunteer at the 2014 Operation Stand Down, Friday through Sunday, at the True Light Church of God in Christ in Huntsville, the Redstone Arsenal electrician was feeling more than blessed, knowing that not long ago, that homeless veteran was him.

"If I can help one person this weekend through my stories, my testimony – it'll all be worth it," Stocker said.

Stocker is the success story, the very path Stand Down organizers want to see every veteran they serve take.

"I have this great love and trust that we can do a good job, that we can be here for our homeless veterans, that we can provide them comfort and safety for a three-day Stand Down, provide them all they need so they can go from here and try to be a good part of the community," said Harold Stogsdill, chairman of the board for Operation Stand Down Huntsville. "It is our desire and hope that one day, Stand Down won't be necessary if we get all our homeless veterans off the streets. That doesn't mean we're going to quit. That just means we'll move our direction to just handling veterans, period."

Today Stocker is simply that, a veteran, who voluntarily joined the Army in March 1974, serving for six years, including six months in Vietnam, and nine years after that with the National Guard. Upon retiring from the Department of



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Huntsville city administrator John Hamilton, a retired colonel, presents a proclamation on behalf of mayor Tommy Battle.

Corrections in Michigan after 20 years of service in 2006, Stocker cashed in his 401k and moved to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he lived in paradise for four years, until he moved to Stevenson, Alabama, to be closer to his son and grandchildren. When his son got divorced and headed back to Michigan, Stocker was all alone in Alabama.

Three months later, the drinking started. Moving to Huntsville to be closer to mass transportation, Stocker slept under bridges, anywhere to avoid staying in shelters that required a breathalyzer for admittance.

"One thing led to another," Stocker said. "I tried to blame it on whoever I could, other than myself. I tried to follow a path, then I'd stray. Get back on the path, try to follow it, and then I'd stray again. This went on for a long time, until finally I said, 'This is not working for me. I'm going the wrong direction. I've done everything that I can think of that I can



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Stand Down volunteer Briana Trusdell helps serve in the food line.

do to change me.' It wasn't working.

"Pride is good to have, but sometimes you've got to give in to that pride. Don't worry about what anybody else thinks or says, because ain't nobody going to take care of you, but you. Ain't nobody going to take care of Ron but Ron. Nobody else will. You can't depend on them. You can depend on yourself 100 percent, and if you can't, something's wrong."

After some health scares, and simply getting fed up with himself, Stocker handed his life over to the ultimate power – God.

"I told God, 'I'm ready. Let's do this. What I've been doing hasn't been helping. Let's try it your way and see what happens,'" Stocker said.

That way brought him to Operation Stand Down in Huntsville, where he was able to connect with the resources necessary to get his life back to where he wanted it. The annual Stand Down provides homeless veterans three days of

rest and relaxation in a safe haven, where they receive hot meals, a new sleeping bag, in addition to clothes and toiletries, as well as crucial services needed to get them back on their feet, such as legal assistance, help finding a job and housing, and basic care, including showers, a haircut, medical and dental care.

"I didn't have a clue what to do next when I left the military," organizer Stogsdill said. "If I needed something, I had to figure it out on my own. We're there to try to fill gaps and point the veterans in the right direction and get them that help."

With the help of Operation Stand Down and that of Priority Veteran, which helps veterans find housing, today Stocker has an apartment and not only a job, but a good one at that. He's not only able to pay his bills, but has money left over.

See Refuge on page 12



Photo by Ellen Hudson

An unidentified veteran takes advantage of the opportunity for a safe place to sleep.

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Refuge

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“This is all because of Stand Down, God, and me wanting to make a change,” Stocker said. “It can be done, because I did it. There’s no excuse for anybody for not doing it. You don’t chastise them, you don’t judge them. That’s not our job. But it can be done. I don’t want to hear no excuses why it can’t be done, because it can. The help is out here for you.”

That help is there all year-long. While the Stand Down is three days, the nonprofit has set up shop at 4000 Marie Avenue, Suite B, near the KFC on Jordan Lane, to assist veterans year-round. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., veterans can stop by to take a shower and receive a fresh change of clothes, as well as assistance with their disability and Social Security paperwork. If there’s a service Operation Stand Down can’t provide, the organization will point them in the right direction.

About 60 homeless veterans had checked in for the Stand Down as of the opening ceremony Saturday morning. Huntsville city administrator retired Col. John Hamilton presented organizers with a proclamation on behalf of mayor Tommy Battle.

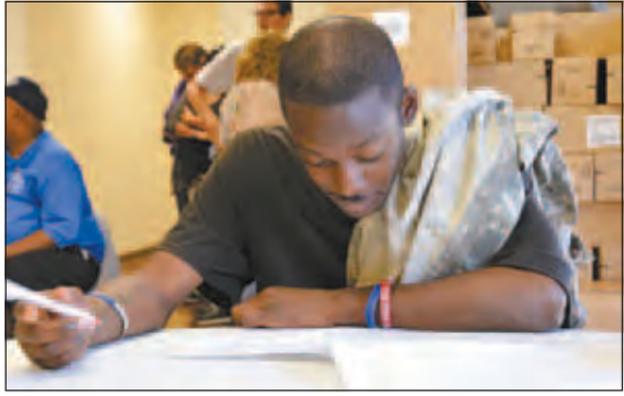


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jonathan Smith registers at the event for homeless veterans.

“We are a nation that enjoys incredible freedoms, and that liberty we enjoy has been purchased over the decades and over the centuries by a very small percentage of our population, who has raised their hand and said, ‘Send me,’” Hamilton said. “They’ve raised their hand and said, ‘I will make a difference for my nation and for this world,’ and they have done that consistently, and they’ve done that incredibly well.”

“We owe them a debt of gratitude. We owe them a great many things. The work that will be done here is incredibly important, but it’s just the beginning of the things that we owe to our veterans to help them continue to succeed in life as they had in service to our nation, and to our military. So to our veterans, thank you for your service. It does not go unnoticed. I promise you.”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Playing the board game Monopoly are, clockwise from left, volunteer Elizabeth Flachdart, veteran Terry Fuller and volunteers Kaileen Towery and Bradley Bright.

Event commemorates 50th anniversary of Vietnam War

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Many of the heroes of the Vietnam War cannot speak for themselves today. But with the help of retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti and local veterans organizations, the Tennessee Valley residents will never forget their sacrifice.

“The real heroes of that war were the men and women who gave all, who gave their lives, and those also who were severely wounded, who came back to America, and were severely handicapped and had to struggle to find their way,” said Libutti, who served two tours in Vietnam and was wounded three times. “The other folks who were real heroes were the families who sent their sons and daughters, husbands and wives off to war, and lived every day with the anxiety of losing them.”

All are invited to commemorate and remember the Vietnam War at the 2014 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series, Nov. 3 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive in Huntsville. Libutti will serve as this year’s guest speaker, with his presentation beginning at 11. Admission to the event is free and open to the public, and includes complimentary breakfast and lunch. To register, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.

“For those of us who were young men and

women at that time, to go fight for our country in support of our ally, South Vietnam, to arrest or halt the spread of communism in Southeast Asia was an honorable thing to do,” Libutti said. “Many thousands of us did.”

The event, planned largely by veterans, for veterans, in conjunction with the Commemorative Partner Program, is sponsored this year by The Boeing Company. The Commemorative Partner Program, of which several North Alabama organizations are a part of, aims to honor and thank Vietnam veterans and their families, through events and activities planned across the country. On May 25, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed May 28, 2012 through Nov. 11, 2025 as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

“We have two main purposes,” said organizer Kathleen Byrne, with Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation. “Number one is to honor veterans and number two is to educate younger generations about the war. As we get further away from the event, less people are going to be out there letting people know how it was. Now is the time to capture that, to really get those memories, that firsthand knowledge of being in the field that you’re not going to get in history books.”

In addition to Libutti’s remarks, the event will also include Vietnam era memorabilia, including a Huey helicopter, re-enactors in Vietnam era uniforms, music from that time peri-



File photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, members of the Rolling Thunder Ernie Marone, Butch Cross and Bill Woodall attend last year’s 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series at the Jackson Center.

od, as well as video and photos. Exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served at 10, lunch at 12:30.

The event is not only a place for Vietnam veterans to gather and remember, but also for them to share their stories with younger generations.

“This lets the kids know what was going on back then, because I don’t believe it’s really



File photo by Ellen Hudson

Vietnam veteran Ed Kennedy showcases his collection of Vietnam War memorabilia at last year’s 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series.

taught in schools anymore,” said organizer and Rolling Thunder member Hal Swanson. “It brings the whole issue to the forefront. The public begins to understand what was going on, and hopefully we bring in some of the Vietnam vets who don’t like to talk about it, or even hear about it for that matter.”

For questions about the event, email vietnamevent@irtc-hq.com.

Nonprofit creates venue for teenagers

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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It is not easy growing up in the digital age.

A NASA contractor is aiming to make those coming of age years a little easier for local teens with her new youth organization, Building Relationships in Community, or The BRIC. The BRIC will sponsor its first block party from 6-9 p.m. Saturday in downtown Huntsville on the north side of the square.

“The BRIC will be a safe place, a venue with concerts, coffee bar, WiFi, gaming and mentorship opportunities for kids in grades 7-12. We are currently raising support and awareness for a permanent location. In the meantime, we’ve decided to start hosting pop-up events so that we can build the community of teens who will frequent The BRIC,” founder Rachel Rutledge said. “Our purpose is to give teenagers an alternate place to hang out other than a parking lot. This is for all teens, average and at-risk – because all teens today are at-risk.”

The BRIC is excited to host B. Haley, drummer for Christian music star tobyMac, the Cains Trio and Charley Cain Band for Saturday’s event. Live



music will be an important part of The BRIC and Rutledge hopes to have both professional musicians and local youth bands perform at future events.

Rutledge, the parent of teens, has long wanted to create an outreach for youth. With the Internet playing such an integral part in today’s teenagers’ lives, Rutledge is hoping that when faced with challenges – both on and offline – The BRIC will provide youth a safe place “to just be,” she said.

Rutledge and her husband John are modeling The BRIC after a similar youth organization in Nashville. Rocketown was created by music superstar Michael W. Smith in 1994 and expanded after the 1999 Columbine school shooting. Today, over 800 teens participate in Rocketown programs each week.

The organization has applied for 5013c3 status and is looking for permanent locations, but Rut-

ledge said both endeavors take time and money.

“Each pop-up costs between \$3,000 to \$5,000,” she said. “We cannot do this without the support of the community and individuals.”

Rutledge welcomes teenagers and parents to come out Saturday to The BRIC’s first pop-up event. Parents are invited to stay, or “they can drop their kids off and go have dinner,” she said.

Although The BRIC is still in construction, Rutledge is excited about the possibilities for the future.

“Some teens don’t have anywhere to turn,” she said. “The BRIC is a place of acceptance and belonging.”

For more information about The BRIC, visit its website at thebric.info. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheBRIC. To support The BRIC with a donation, go to www.gofundme.com/clolz.

Editor’s note: This is part of a series related to volunteers who are making the Tennessee Valley a better place to live and work.

Building Our Community

Hunting season on target at Redstone Arsenal

Hunters advised to focus on safety

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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If you are a hunter on Redstone Arsenal, there are two things you need to know: one, you are privileged to be able to hunt on a large area of land with abundant wildlife; and, two, you must always follow the federal and state laws along with Arsenal requirements to maintain that privilege.

Likewise, if you work, live or play on Redstone Arsenal, it is to your benefit to be aware of hunting season; to stay in working, living and recreation areas, and to not wander into remote areas set aside for hunting.

"The Redstone Arsenal community needs to understand that deer season has started," said Bill Moreland, manager of Outdoor Recreation for Redstone's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"If you see a vehicle on the side of the road, be aware that hunters could be in the area and that perhaps the deer in that area are moving more. Hunters in the woods always get the deer moving and deer strikes on cars have the potential to increase."

Hunters are allowed to hunt on Redstone Arsenal on weekends and on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, from sunrise to sunset. Although the hunting season varies with the different wildlife, generally hunting on Redstone begins in September and continues through April. Of the hunting season, deer season is the most popular, Moreland said.

Bow and spear hunting for deer began Oct. 15 and continues through Jan. 31. Firearm hunting for deer begins Nov. 22 and continues through Jan. 31.

First-time hunters must attend a mandatory hunting orientation class before they can get a hunting permit to hunt on Redstone. Those classes began in September and continue on Nov. 4 and 18 at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139, on Sportsman Drive. Repeat hunters must complete an online refresher briefing available at www.redstonemwr.com under the Recreation and Leisure tab and then under the Outdoor Recreation tab. They must take the completion certificate from the briefing to Outdoor Recreation to get their permit.

"In the orientation class, we go over unexploded ordnance safety, the new phone system that we use that's called Hunt Trac, and the dos and don'ts of hunting on Redstone Arsenal," Tom Pyburn of Outdoor Recreation said.

About 40 hunters have attended each of the orientation classes. By the time the firearms season begins there will be about 500



Photo by Kari Hawkins

From left, Outdoor Recreation manager Bill Moreland, game warden Kelly Smith and Outdoor Rec's Tom Pyburn gear up for the hunting season.

deer hunters registered to hunt on Redstone Arsenal, Moreland said.

"The biggest draw is white-tailed deer season," Pyburn added. "And gun season brings out the majority of hunters."

Hunters also must have a state hunting license and must get their firearms approved through the Directorate of Emergency Services, building 3623. A firearms form available from Outdoor Recreation must be filled out with a listing of all firearms a hunter may want to bring on the installation. It takes about five days for DES to review the form and approve it.

At the hunter orientation classes, hunters always ask about the kinds of weapons they can hunt with on Redstone.

"They can hunt with traditional archery equipment, bows, cross bows, shotguns and muzzle loaders. For squirrel hunting, we allow pellet guns. But we do not allow hunting with rifles or pistols. They are not allowed on Redstone Arsenal," Pyburn said.

Redstone game warden Kelly Smith said the first rule of hunting is to "always identify your target before you shoot. Make sure you can see your target clearly and utilize all your safety equipment."

Hunters also ask about the regulations regarding what they should wear while hunting.

"A cap and vest of hunter orange is required," Moreland said.

Hunters should ensure they have all the required safety gear, even if that means returning home for something they have forgotten or going to Outdoor Recreation to make a special purchase, Smith said.

"A deer hunter needs a safety harness. Hunters should wear hunter orange and have a plug in their shotgun," he said. "They really need to follow the safety guidelines because, if they don't, they are not only unsafe, but sure enough that's when I'll come across them and I'm going to check to make sure they have their safety equipment."

If they don't pass the game warden's inspection, hunters will get a citation that not

only comes with a steep fine but also with a hunting suspension. They will face the same harsh penalties if they violate other hunting laws, such as hunting at night or hunting with a firearm in bow season.

"For the most part, most hunters are law abiding by nature and they are ethical folks. Hunters are some of our best stewards of wildlife," Smith said.

Another major review item in the hunter orientation class is what hunters should do if they discover unexploded ordnance.

"We advise them that unexploded ordnance, particularly in range areas, can be very dangerous. They should not go into restricted areas or range areas," Moreland said.

"If they do find unexploded ordnance, they should follow the three R's—recognize, retreat and report. If possible, they can try to mark the site (such as by tying a piece of rope or a red bandana around a tree). Then they should leave the site and call 911."

Outdoor Recreation now uses Hunt Trac for assigning hunters to hunting areas. With the Hunt Trac system, hunters can call in and choose their hunting area for the day. If they decide to move into another hunting area, they again call Hunt Trac and communicate that change. When they leave the area for the day, they also must call Hunt Trac to notify Outdoor Recreation.

"Hunt Trac saves time and gas. It's for convenience," Pyburn said.

However, that doesn't keep most hunters from visiting the Outdoor Recreation area.

"Hunters love Redstone Arsenal because of the cost, convenience and security. It is very costly to hunt at a private hunting club. Here you don't have that expense and you have a very large area for hunting," Moreland said.

"But they especially love it for the camaraderie. Many of the hunters have hunted out here 30 or 40 years, and they like to come in, and check on each other, share stories and see what others are bringing back from the hunt."

Hunting areas can change from week to week depending on the missions of Redstone tenants.

"We put a range report on our website so they can see what areas are open and what areas are closed for the week," Pyburn said.

It is required that hunters always communicate back to Outdoor Recreation when they have left their hunting area.

"If they don't clear out with Outdoor Recreation at the end of the day, then we will assume something has happened to them. So, then I go out looking for them. We never assume they're OK. We always assume something has happened," Smith said.

As the game warden, Smith is on the installation to ensure the safety of hunters

and the public, and to ensure regulations are followed as they pertain to wildlife and hunting season.

"This is not an adversarial relationship," he said. "I'm here to make sure everyone has fun hunting safely and by regulation."

Hunters also need to be aware of their surroundings, with special attention given to the physical conditions of the area, the weather and the proximity of populated areas.

"We have swamps, mountains, hills. It's just an Alabama typical hunting area," Moreland said. "But we are also hunting in an urban environment. People live and work on Redstone Arsenal. We are hunting in an urban setting so we have to be extra careful."

Outdoor Recreation hosts youth hunts to promote hunting among youth ages 9 to 15. In addition, youth are allowed to hunt deer with firearms a week prior to the normal firearm hunting season.

Besides managing the Arsenal's hunting grounds, Outdoor Recreation also offers a full range of services for the hunter, including a store where supplies can be purchased.

"We are a one-stop shop. When you harvest a deer at Redstone, you field dress it in the woods, prepare it for the cooler here at Outdoor Recreation, age it in our cooler for three days, then cut up and package it right here. We have all the supplies and equipment you need to do that, and we can provide guidance and assistance to those who are not experienced with the process," Moreland said.

2014-15 Redstone Arsenal Hunting Seasons

Species	Dates
Raccoon	Now-Feb. 28
Mourning Dove	Now-Nov. 9; Dec. 7-31
Rabbit	Now-Feb. 28
Squirrel	Now-Feb. 28
Deer – Bow, Spear	Now-Jan. 31
Quail	Nov. 8-Feb. 28
Snipe	Nov. 14-Feb. 28
Deer – Firearms	Nov. 22-Jan. 31
Waterfowl	Nov. 27-Jan. 25
Goose	Nov. 27-Jan. 25
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	Nov. 28-Jan. 20
Woodcock	Dec. 18-Jan. 31
Turkey	April 1-30
Youth hunts:	
Deer	Nov. 14-17
Waterfowl	Feb. 7-8
Turkey	March 28-29
Disabled hunt:	
Turkey	March 31

Quilts given to veterans represent thanks

National effort growing among Alabama quilters

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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They reflect the nation's patriotic colors. They often showcase a traditional pattern – Ohio Star, Fence Rail, Churn Dash and Log Cabin, to name a few. Many feature patriotic images, such as a Bald Eagle, U.S. flag or a praying Soldier. And all carry the Quilts of Valor label.

But these quilts are most remembered for the combat veterans they honor.

Wrapped in their very own Quilt of Valor, veterans across the nation have been receiving tangible gifts of love and appreciation from quilters since this nationwide grassroots program started in 2003. To date, more than 106,000 patriotic quilts – representing the prayers, healing thoughts and gratefulness of their makers, have been presented to veterans who have fought for the nation in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and other conflicts around the world.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” Quilts are awarded at many different levels: they may go to military hospitals where chaplains award them to service members; they may be awarded to entire service units returning from deployments; they may be awarded at veterans homes or they may be awarded individually.

In Alabama, the Quilts of Valor movement started with a group of quilters in the Enterprise Quilt Guild, many connected to the Soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Rucker. The movement went statewide three years ago when Elizabeth Mathews took over the responsibilities of Alabama's regional coordinator representing Quilts of Valor.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Quilter Jane Bynum kisses World War II veteran and wounded warrior Bill Amberson after presenting him with his Quilt of Valor at the Lakeside Quilters quilt show in Guntersville.

“Once I heard about it, I knew it was a mission I had to take on. It was the right thing to do,” she said.

“My dad, retired Maj. William Flynn, was a World War II and Korean War veteran.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Three veterans received Quilts of Valor at the Lakeside Quilters quilt show. They are, from left, Edward Erb, a retired Ranger who deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom four times as a contractor; World War II veteran Bill Amberson; and Vietnam War veteran Lance Wilson.

After he retired, he taught at the ordnance school at Redstone Arsenal from 1966 to 1976, and I grew up in Huntsville. He passed away in 1981. He lied about his age to get into World War II. His generation is truly the greatest generation of all time. All the quilts I make, I make in the memory of my father.”

See Quilts on page 20

Van pool gives lift to work-life balance

By TERRI STOVER

Garrison Public Affairs

Being in control of your own time and resources is important to everyone, especially if you have a long commute from one of the communities surrounding Redstone Arsenal. Workers want to feel they are in charge of their daily schedule.

Ask one of the growing numbers of Team Redstone members who are involved in van pooling about control over their workday and you will hear how commuting with others has been a change for the good.

"You have to make up your mind to do it," said Charlie Pipes, "you have to make adjustments." Pipes, a member of a van pool from the Athens area and logistics management specialist with PEO Aviation, added he has had to take part in a teleconference on his ride home. "The van pool works around work," he said.

"We make it simple, but we involve lots of communication," said Lisa Pipes, wife of Charlie and logistics management specialist with AMCOM. "If we need to make other arrangements, or will be on travel, we let each other know."

However, control over your time is not the only benefit to a van pool. Saving money is a big attraction to this way of commuting to work. Jan Morgan, member of the Guntersville/Albertville van pool and general supply specialist at SMDC, purchased a new car in 2012 and until the van pooling opportunity had already put over 37,000 miles on the car.

"I'm not putting miles on my vehicle; I'm saving \$180 alone in gas, plus wear and tear, each month," Morgan said.

"I am seeing savings all the way around," added Tom Stutzman, Administrative Office at ACC. Stutzman, member of the Athens group, gets a jump on his workday by reading his emails on his Blackberry, answering those that he can, but mentally preparing how to address others. He said not only saving money, but being able to conduct some small business tasks helps his overall work-life balance.



Courtesy photo

Tom Stutzman, Lisa and Charlie Pipes board their new van pool vehicle for their drive home to the Athens area.

There are two van pools that formed early in the process, one from the Athens area and another in the Guntersville/Albertville area. Both pools have room for others who live in those communities and are interested in joining them. The Athens group has four members, and the Guntersville/Albertville group has three members.

Other groups are forming and are always looking for members to join them. Forming a van pool does not rely on distance from the Arsenal; there is a newly forming pool in Madison. The more members in the van pool the better for all, as each member receives \$130 each month to pay toward the gas and fees for the vehicle.

The van pooling service is being provided by vRide, a Michigan-based company, providing commuters with a van, and covering associated fuel and maintenance costs. All employees have to do from there is develop their own plan that best fits their commuting needs. The company has hosted several group meetings on post to help link people in the different communities in the Tennessee Valley who are interested in saving money and time on their commute to work.

vRide is the first company to approach Redstone with this service, however, there are others across the country that also provide



Courtesy photo

Sherry Segers waves goodbye from her comfortable seat on her way home to Guntersville.

similar services. vRide is part of the Army's Mass Transportation Benefit Program. The MTBP provides eligible employees – Soldiers and civilians – reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of taking mass transportation to and from their residence and permanent duty station, with the goal of taking cars off the roads to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. All federal employees are eligible to participate in the MTBP.

There is a total monthly maximum benefit of \$130 per employee. Eligible means of mass transportation under the program includes

bus, train, subway, light rail, ferries and van pools offered through various service providers. Currently the only mass transportation available to Redstone Arsenal employees is van pooling.

Both van pools repeatedly talk about another key benefit that does not involve money or time, and that is camaraderie, or friendship. "We play games, talk, rest," said Sherry Segers, logistics management specialist with PEO Missiles and Space. "I used to ride into work with my husband before he retired. Now I have camaraderie again, it helps keep the stress down. We have accountability to each other."

Lisa Pipes said, "We support each other, we formed a family." Three of the four members knew each other and were already commuting to work together when vRide offered this service. "We have a fallback plan if this does not work out, we will continue to carpool, and our new friend, Tom, will stay with us."

Both commuting groups said there are many positives about this program. Lisa Pipes likes that this program has allowed her to "save money, meet people, and I don't have to drive all the time and so I can relax."

For more information on joining or forming a van pool call Robert Ames, vRide regional marketing manager, at (248) 885-7175 or email daniel.streater@vride.com.

Quilts

Continued from page 18

Because of her father, Mathews felt driven to show Alabama's appreciation for its veterans through Quilts of Valor. Since taking on her state coordinator role, Mathews, with the help of her co-coordinator and daughter Kristy Cantrell, has traveled the state to recruit quilters and to present Quilts of Valor to veterans.

"I go from quilt show to quilt show, from state fair to county fair, to everything where quilters will listen to our story and, possibly, volunteer their time and their talent to make a quilt for an Alabama veteran," Mathews said.

"My major number one responsibility is to locate quilters throughout the state to make Quilts of Valor for our Alabama service members. I'm always recruiting new quilters because if a request for a quilt comes from an Alabama service member or veteran we try to make sure they get a quilt made by an Alabama quilter."

Alabama Quilts of Valor have also been donated to wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"If a quilt comes in that's not designated to a recipient, then it may go to a combat veteran or wounded warrior anywhere in the nation," Mathews said.

But, with 400,000 veterans, retirees or active duty service members from Alabama, most of the Alabama quilts have an Alabama recipient waiting six to nine months to receive it. Last year, Alabama quilters donated 248 Quilts of Valor. This year, that number has already risen to 255. For such efforts, the state's Quilts of Valor program will receive this year the Soaring Eagle Award given annually to a veteran organization on Veterans Day in Birmingham, Nov. 11.

Giving the gift of a quilt

It was with pride that Mathews joined the Lakeside Quilters of Guntersville on Oct. 11 to present Quilts of Valor to three veterans at the guild's quilt show. Each quilter made the Quilts of Valor for specific combat veterans, all who attended the presentation.

Mathews told the veterans, "These are comforting quilts to thank you for your service. Any day is Veterans Day to us. You are not forgotten. You are always remembered for signing a blank check to willingly sacrifice your life for our freedoms. Our goal is to get you covered with a quilt, a tangible sign of our gratitude for your service."

The first quilt presented went to Bill "Sweet William" Amberson, a 92-year-old World War II veteran who owns Amberson's family store in Boaz. The quilt, which featured red and blue squares on a white background with a stars and stripes border, was made by quilter Jane Bynum, who has shopped at Amberson's store.

"I found out he had never gotten a Quilt of Valor, so I wanted the honor of



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Elizabeth Mathews coordinates the Quilts of Valor program for Alabama by matching patriotic quilts made by Alabama quilters with veterans from the state. Each quilt is presented to a veteran with a Quilts of Valor label sewn on the back.

making him one," Bynum said.

Bynum also machine quilted Amberson's quilt, as she has done with other Quilts of Valor that she has donated.

"I put my brother's initials somewhere in the quilting on each quilt," she said. "My brother, Billy Bolton, was killed in Vietnam in 1968, and his initials are BCB. I do this to honor him. I machine quilted all three quilts presented today and each has got his initials in it."

In Amberson's quilt, she also quilted the words, "In valor there is hope," a saying she heard in an old war movie. "When I heard those words, they sent chills in me. I knew I had to add them," she said.

After showing the quilt to Amberson, Mathews and Bynum wrapped it around his shoulders. It was given to Amberson with a kiss on the cheek from Bynum.

"The wrapping of the quilt is to signify the wrapping of our arms around you," Mathews said. "When you wrap it around yourself, please know people care and appreciate you."

Representing history

Amberson, who was accompanied by his wife Zadie and daughter-in-law Virginia, said he enjoyed receiving the quilt and the kiss.

"I love people. I love being around people and aggravating people. I enjoy life," he said.

He still carries with him the wounds of a war long ago. As an infantryman fighting in Europe on the edge of Germany, an artillery shell hit him, sending shrapnel through his shoulder and back, permanently severing the main nerve to his arms.

"All through France and Normandy and Belgium, I was following orders and trying not to get shot. I still remember the horror of Oct. 13, 1944. I wanted to live

because I was going to turn 21 a few days later," he recalled.

"I had surgery and I went home in 1946. It took years to get over the injury. But I finally taught myself to play golf."

The next presentation went to Vietnam veteran Lance Wilson of Guntersville, who received a quilt designed in today's modern quilt look with red stripes, blue pinwheels and a red star border. The quilt was made by his wife, Nancy.

"The first thing I like to say to Vietnam veterans is 'Welcome Home,'" Mathews told Wilson as she gave him the quilt. "Thank you so much for your service."

Later, Wilson said he was honored to be part of the ceremony. "No one has ever honored the Vietnam veterans that much," he said. "It's the forgotten war. I think it should be done a lot more."

Wilson was a sailor who served on ships for two years in support of the Vietnam War.

"My brother had three tours in Vietnam. He has fought a lot of demons for a lot of years because of what he went through. A lot of others are also fighting their demons. It was a really tough war. I was fortunate to come back in one piece," he said. "It changes your whole life."

Recognizing selfless service

The third quilt was presented to retired veteran Edward Erb of Huntsville, who served as an Army Ranger from 1975 to 1996, and then went on to deploy four times to Operation Iraqi Freedom as a contractor to install surveillance systems at Army posts and forward operating bases. His quilt was made by Lynn Hale, who bordered four large village scenes with red, white, blue and green borders. Hale became connected to Erb through a friend who knew Erb's wife, Bernice.

"I think it's a beautiful quilt. You can see the caring and love that went into everything from the design and the making," he said. "It's fabulous."

Erb's wife tricked him into attending the quilt show. The quilt presentation came as a total surprise to him.

"This all started when my friend showed me this quilt and I said, 'I wish my husband had one like it because he's a combat veteran,'" Erb's wife recalled.

The quilt is an original design by Hale. "It was a challenge to our guild members to make a Quilt of Valor," Hale said.

"When I was making it, I prayed over all of the sewing and the choosing of the fabric. I prayed that the veteran who got it would really like it."

To Erb, the quilt means more because it was made by a quilter who has no military background.

"Anything from outside the military where a civilian wants to understand and recognize what veterans have gone through, and they recognize the selfless service, that's just wonderful," he said.

It's those connections between the veteran and the civilian quilter that Mathews hopes to create throughout the state. She works to encourage connections by sharing the story of Quilts of Valor with quilt guilds and other groups.

"If I could get each quilt guild in the state to commit to making two to five quilts a year, we could meet the demand in our state. I have the recipients, I need the quilters," she said.

"It's making those connections, building those bridges, that happen when the quilter can meet the veteran she or he has made the quilt for. For that reason, I try to make sure my quilters are present when we wrap a veteran with the quilt they made."

Need for quilts

That need for quilt donations is even more intense going into 2015 because Mathews hopes to present 150 Quilts of Valor to the veterans of the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in July when it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

There are standards that all Quilts of Valor must meet. They must be a generous lap-sized quilt (minimum of 55 inches by 65 inches) made with quality fabrics, and machine or hand quilted. They must include a Quilts of Valor label that includes the name(s) of the quilter, and a blank space for the name of the recipient. Each quilt should be accompanied by a note from the maker to the recipient and be presented in a coordinating pillowcase or bag.

Mathews, who now lives in Birmingham, began quilting about six years ago. After making quilts for her three daughters and nine grandchildren, she committed to making Quilts of Valor and to recruiting other quilters for the effort.

"All of our quilts are 100 percent volunteer quilts. The quilter volunteers their time, their talent, their fabric and their quilting," Mathews said. "These quilters are so very special because they make quilts to comfort our service members."

Among her responsibilities as Alabama's Quilts of Valor regional coordinator is to attend the annual Quilts of Valor leader conferences. In 2013, the conference was in Nebraska City, Oklahoma, a state that Mathews remembers fondly as she was born there when her father was stationed at Fort Sill.

"One of my dad's students actually found me there and introduced himself. He said he remembered my dad. He said what my dad taught him about being a Soldier actually saved his life," Mathews recalled.

"To me, that was my sign that I am doing what I'm supposed to be doing."

Editor's note: For more information about Quilts of Valor, visit its website at www.QOVV.org. Quilters who want to volunteer can email elizabeth.mathews@govf.org.

Recognition of Gold Star family better late than never



By CARRIE E. DAVID

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and Survivor Outreach Services prove that there is no expiration on recognizing and honoring the families of fallen service members.

SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. David Mann and his wife, Robyn, presented a Gold Star pin to James Joyner during the command and SOS' fall festival Saturday at the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

"I don't have the words. I don't have the words," Joyner said. "It means so much to me. I've never had an honor like this."

Joyner read about the Gold Star license program while on Redstone Arsenal and ended up in the SOS coordinator Kerrie Branson's office seeking assistance. It took awhile because Joyner had to have special documentation to prove his relationship to the fallen service members, who were his brothers who died in July 1943 during World War II.

"I'm very grateful to be a part of the Joyner's story and finally get him recognized as a Gold Star brother," Branson said. "He told me that today was the second best day of his life, with the first being the day he married."

Mann, who is a Gold Star family member himself, said he was honored to be a part of this recognition.

"It was a privilege to not only recognize 1st Sgt. Jim Joyner for his service to the country, but more importantly to be able to recognize the sacrifice that his family has made on behalf of this country," Mann said. "You know losing his two brothers within just a couple of days of one another during World War II, I can only imagine what his family, his mother and father and brothers and sisters, must have gone through to learn of their loss. After having such a significant loss in his life, still being willing to serve his country twice in Korea and once in Vietnam, as far as deployments, speaks volumes about him and his love of his country and his willingness to serve."

Joyner said that his response during the presentation was a first for him.

"What you guys have done for me today is unbelievable," Joyner said. "Being an ex-first sergeant, that's the first time I've ever been speechless."

Branson said she works to ensure that no fallen service member is ever forgotten.

"For Jim, it's like it was yesterday," Branson said. "We finally pinned on that Gold Star pin honoring two American heroes who fought for our country, even though many years ago, and honored their brother who loved them so much and was proud of who they were. May they never be forgotten."

Mann praised the volunteers and Branson for all of their hard work supporting survivors.

"I could not be more proud and honored to serve alongside so many great volunteers, and I also want to highlight Ms. Kerrie Branson for what she has done for the Survivor Outreach Services program," Mann said. "Not only does she bring a lot of enthusiasm, but more importantly, she brings a lot of genuine compassion to her position and as a result of her untiring efforts, there are a lot of families, especially survivor families, who enjoy life a little bit more each day because of her."

Joyner praised Branson a little differently.

"A guy at the One Stop sent me to Kerrie," Joyner said. "It's nice when you meet angels, isn't it? Everybody needs them."

Photo by Carrie E. David

Robyn Mann pins a Gold Star on James Joyner during a Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and Survivor Outreach Services fall festival Saturday at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Mann is the wife of SMDC commander Lt. Gen. David Mann. Joyner officially became a Gold Star family member in remembrance of two brothers who died in July 1943 during World War II.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Product charter

Cruise Missile Defense Systems project manager Col. Terrence Howard presents the JLENS charter to incoming product director Susan Campbell in a ceremony Friday at Heiser Hall. Campbell succeeded Gary Hallinan, the product director since August 2013. JLENS stands for Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System. "I'm deeply honored to be a part of the program," Campbell said.



In this section...

LEADERSHIP FORUM FEATURES INSPIRING VETERAN
AMRDEC CONTRACTOR CITED FOR RESEARCH, ARTICLE
ACC SECURITY SPECIALIST WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

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Leadership forum features inspiring veteran

“Operational Leadership Perspective by AMCOM” will be presented Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

This event is focused on providing the AMCOM workforce and AMCOM’s Team Redstone partners with a dynamic perspective on leading in an operational environment.

Maj. Gen. Jim Richardson, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, will present opening remarks. The keynote speaker is retired Sgt. Noah Galloway, who overcame significant injury from an improvised explosive device in Iraq in 2005.

Galloway is an athlete, a motivational speaker, a writer, a personal trainer and a father of three. After Sept. 11, 2001, he enlisted in the Army and was eventually deployed to Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division in 2003.

He spent one year fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom, which he said got him “hooked” and from that moment he knew he wanted to return.

“I loved my job as an infantry Soldier,” Galloway said. “In the first year I was there, I saw the difference and progress we were making. I could not wait to return. Just the thought of going back thrilled me.”

After becoming a husband and father, he returned for a second tour in September 2005. It was only three months later when the armored Humvee he was driving struck an improvised explosive device in Yusafiah, Iraq. Unconscious for five days, Gal-

loway awoke late that Christmas Eve in Walter Reed Hospital to find out he had lost his left arm above the elbow and left leg above the knee, and had sustained significant injury to his jaw and other leg. He summed it up simply, “I was done.” His recovery was as rough emotionally as it was physically, overcoming both depression and divorce.

Since then, he has remarried and has dedicated himself to fitness, both mental and physical. Despite his injuries, Galloway has participated in the 2012 Marine Corps Marathon, three warrior Dash events, seven Tough Mudder events, a Barbarian Challenge, a dozen Spartan events, the grueling 58-hour Spartan Death Race, the Bataan Death March Marathon, three Crossfit competitions and several 5K and 10K races. His achievements and ability to overcome adversity have landed him on a cover of Men’s Health magazine as the first-ever Ultimate Men’s Health Guy. Galloway is determined to inspire others by his actions, by training like a machine and demonstrating that challenges are meant to be conquered no matter how big they might be. His website is www.noahgalloway.com.

Editor’s note: Information for this article was provided by organizers of Thursday’s event at Redstone.

Courtesy photo

Retired Sgt. Noah Galloway overcame significant injury from an improvised explosive device in Iraq in 2005.



AMRDEC contractor cited for human factors research, article

AMRDEC Public Affairs

Dr. Grant Taylor will receive the Jerome H. Ely Human Factors Article Award during the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society annual meeting Tuesday in Chicago.

Taylor is a human-systems interface technical area researcher with San Jose State University Research Foundation, and supports the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Taylor's paper, titled "Evaluation of Wearable Simulation Interface for Military Training," is the final product culminating from several years of research he conducted at the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences' Technology-Based Training Unit under the advisement of his mentor Dr. John Barnett.

Military teams often use game-based simulators on desktop computers to train squad-level procedures. A wearable computer interface that mimics the Soldier's

equipment was expected to provide better training through increased realism and immersion. The first experiment compared the training retention of the wearable interface with a desktop simulator and interactive training video. The second experiment compared the training transfer of the wearable and desktop simulators with a live training environment. Results indicated that the wearable interface was more difficult to use, and elicited stronger symptoms of simulator sickness in some participants. Similar to motion sickness, simulator sickness may include headache, dizziness or vomiting.

The research evaluated what benefits, if any, were provided from the use of more advanced simulation hardware for training infantry tactics. The new simulator evaluated was a virtual reality system with a helmet-mounted display and an instrumented replica of an M4 rifle. These systems allowed the user to naturally turn their head to look around a virtual environment, and aim and shoot their virtual weapon by moving the rifle in their hands.

Taylor's hypothesis was that the ability to perform these actions naturally, rather than through the use of a computer mouse, or standard desktop computer, would make it easier for the user to transfer their newly-learned skills from the virtual environment into the real world, thus improving the training effectiveness.

The results of two separate experimental evaluations found that the participants who trained in the new wearable system performed equivalently on subsequent evaluations to those who used the comparison system.



Dr. Grant Taylor

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The Jerome H. Ely Human Factors Award, established by the HFES in 1966, formally recognizes the single most outstanding paper published in each volume of Human Factors.

ACC security specialist wins national recognition

By Lt. Col. DAVID HYLTON

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

An Army Contracting Command civilian is the Reserve Officers Association's Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year for 2013.

Michael Knight, a security specialist on the ACC headquarters staff, finished ahead of five other nominees, representing the Army Reserve, Navy, and Army National Guard, to win the honor. He is a chief warrant officer 3 in the Army Reserve.

"I was surprised and humbled to win. It was nice to be recognized," Knight said. "But I realize that the award is really recognition of the hard work and support of the Soldiers

who worked for me."

The competition was held at ROA's annual convention in Long Beach, California. He said the board process took about 30 minutes but it seemed like an hour. The questions asked by the board were open-ended questions such as what's the hardest leadership challenge that you have faced, he said.

At the time of his nomination, Knight was deployed to Camp Sbalu-Harrison, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as an all-source intelligence analyst with the 338th Military Intelligence Battalion. He served as the se-

nior intelligence analyst for the fusion analysis cell.

After returning from his deployment he returned to his civilian position at ACC and his military assignment with the U.S. Pacific Command Army Reserve Element in Denver.

Knight was also recognized for his participation in the Kiwanis, coaching youth baseball and basketball in the Huntsville city park system and helping to lead a Boy Scouts troop.

The Novosel Award was established in 1998 to annually recognize the achieve-

ments and dedicated service of warrant officer members of the ROA. To be considered, nominees must be warrant officers in the grades of warrant officer, chief warrant officer 2 or chief warrant officer 3 at the time of the national convention. The nominee's military career, along with their community and professional activities are also part of the award considerations. The competition is available to warrant officers from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard. The Air Force no longer has warrant officers.

Courtesy photo

Army Contracting Command's Michael Knight, a chief warrant officer 3 in the Army Reserve, has been named the Reserve Officers Association's Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year for 2013



Contractor

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Therefore, they were able to make a recommendation to the Army not to utilize the new system, as it cost roughly 10-times more than a desktop computer that was capable of providing equivalent training.

“This research illustrates the importance of conducting empirical evaluations of novel training technologies,” Taylor said. “New and innovative technologies are always coveted by users, but new does not always guarantee improvement.”

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society is the primary professional organization for the field of human factors in the United States. Human Factors, the flagship journal for this organization, covers basic and applied research, quantitative and qualitative approaches to theory and literature reviews in all areas of the human factors/ergonomics discipline.

The Jerome H. Ely Human Factors Award, established by the HFES in 1966, formally recognizes the single most outstanding paper published in each volume of Human Factors.

Taylor’s award-winning article was pub-



Army graphic

Research at the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences’ Technology-Based Training Unit evaluates the effect wearable simulation interfaces have on Soldiers engaged in training.

lished in June 2013. He is a senior research scientist for the Human-Systems Integration technical area of AMRDEC’s Aviation Development Directorate, Aeroflightdynamics Directorate at Moffett Field, California. He continues to conduct applied research on the impact of new technologies on Army users, with a focus on the interfaces used to control unmanned aerial systems. His research evaluates the impact of advanced autonomous behaviors and human-machine interfaces on mission performance.

Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The importance of voting.

“Voting is the most precious right of every citizen,” installation voting officer Nicole Allison said. “And we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process.”

The Installation Voting Assistance Office will hold a Federal Voting Assistance Program town hall meeting Monday from 10 a.m. until noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. Leaders will support effective awareness of the Federal Voting Assistance Program and inform everyone of the advantages and use of the federal voting portal. They will also discuss the 32 states, including Alabama, affected by new Supreme Court rulings on the Voting Requirement Act. Guest speakers will include Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks and Linda Via, wife of the Army Materiel Command’s commander Gen. Dennis Via. Invited are Team Redstone’s military, civilians, contractors and family members.

Allison asks that everyone remember Oct. 30 is the deadline to request absentee ballots.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Installation voting officer Nicole Allison’s office is in room 114B at the One Stop, building 3494.

Facility gets boost for engine testing

By CARVIL E.T. CHALK and KENNY CHENOWETH
Redstone Test Center

The Redstone Aviation Propulsion Test and Research facility at Redstone Test Center is bulking up to test a more powerful gas turbine engine.

The facility is comprised of a control center, three test cells for testing helicopter engines and various other dynamic aircraft components, and limited workshop space. The facility's highly-trained technicians and engineers support all of the efforts required to set up, run and inspect a variety of air-breathing turboshaft and turboprop engines as well as auxiliary power units.

Designed to support a variety of air-breathing propulsion tests, RAPTR offers three major test capabilities including: the ground testing of air-breathing turboshaft and turboprop engines; condition-based maintenance studies for low cycle fatigue, seeded fault integration, component testing; and a facility capable of development, acceptance and checkout for the currently fielded Flexible Engine Diagnostic System.

To operate each of these capabilities, RAPTR test cells utilize Flexible Aviation Laboratory Control Network software to control and manage data acquisition. For example, one application of FALCN is to control test operations in the explosive atmosphere chambers at the RTC Propulsion Test Division. Developed by the Redstone Test Center, the software controls air-breathing aviation-related engines, and has been modified to be used for other testing needs inside and outside the RTC.

As part of Redstone Test Center's ongoing effort to provide developmental test capability to the war fighter, RAPTR is being upgraded to support the Army's latest helicopter engine, the General Electric YT706-GE-700. This engine was selected by the Army to power the MH-60M special operations Black Hawk helicopter. The YT706 generates approximately 30 percent more power than the T700-GE-701D used in the UH-60M Black Hawk and is controlled by a full-authority digital engine control. To accommodate the substantial power increase and to leverage the FADEC implementation, the RAPTR facility is being equipped with a specialized dynamometer and the FALCN software is being modified.

These upgrades are being coordinated by Kenny Chenoweth, logistics account manager for the RTC Test Program Integration Directorate. Chenoweth initiated this effort with the aid of RAPTR propulsion subject-matter-expert Ken Boyd



RTC photo

The Redstone Test Center's RAPTR Test Stand supports a GE T700 turboshaft engine for use on the UH-60 Black Hawk.

and the RAPTR test director Troy Bedsole, in order to provide support to the Army's special operations aviation regiment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

"The partnership of RTC with the Technology Applications Program Office and the AMCOM Logistics Center will afford fully-integrated YT706 RAPTR Test Cell support for advanced engine/FADEC diagnostics and troubleshooting and HUMs in an effort to reduce operations and support costs," Chenoweth said.

Missile defense flight test meets goal

By MDA Public Affairs

The Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Pacific Command and Navy sailors aboard the USS John Paul Jones successfully conducted a flight test Thursday night involving the launch of a medium-range ballistic missile target from the Pacific Missile Range Facility located on Kauai, Hawaii.

A medium-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. The USS John Paul Jones, positioned west of Hawaii, detected and tracked the missile with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar using the Aegis Baseline 9.C1 weapon system. Several fire control, discrimination and engagement functions were exercised. No SM-3 guided missiles were launched during this event.

Program officials will evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

Other test participants included the Sea-Based X-band Radar, Space Tracking and Surveillance System Demonstrators, Discrimination Sensor Technology, Command and Control, Battle Management, and Communications Enterprise Sensors Lab, C2BMC Experimentation Lab, and the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex located at PMRF.

The objective of the Discrimination Sensor Technology associated operation was to demonstrate that the Aegis weapon system can launch an SM-3, engage and destroy a ballistic missile solely on tracks from remote airborne sensors. For this test, an unmanned aircraft system with Multi-Spectral Targeting System was used. The engagement was simulated in real-time using a mainland test bed laboratory.

This test was designated Flight Test Other (FTX)-20. The MDA will use test results to improve and enhance the Ballistic Missile Defense System and support the advancement of Phase 2 of the Phased Adaptive Approach for missile defense in Europe to provide protection of U.S. deployed forces, our European allies and partners.

Aegis BMD is the naval component of the MDA's Ballistic Missile Defense System. The MDA and the Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

In this section...

AMC FOCUSES ON INNOVATION TO DELIVER READINESS

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AMC focuses on innovation to deliver materiel readiness

By AMC Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Fostering innovation in a bureaucratic environment can be a daunting challenge.

Military and industry leaders gathered at an Institute of Land Warfare forum during the annual Association of the U.S. Army meeting Oct. 15 to discuss the potential to harness Army innovation – particularly in a time of reduced fiscal resources.

The forum, “Delivering Innovation for the Army,” brought together key acquisition, materiel and industry experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the coming years.

Army Materiel Command deputy commander Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston was included on the panel, alongside Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) and others.

McQuiston used the lessons learned from past Gulf War deployments to illustrate the progress AMC has made in its logistics innovations.

“Take a look at where we were after Desert Storm, and all of the lessons we learned out of that massive logistical enterprise, and how much we’ve evolved in the past 13 years,” McQuiston said. “We changed our approach, started using simulations; we really opened up a lot of avenues to sustainment in theater.”

One of AMC’s most aggressive innovations, she said, has been the realignment of units with combatant commands and deployable units.

“We have reorganized to be as far forward with the war fighter as we can be,” she said. “Our logistics readiness centers are embedded with tactical units. It’s really just a launching point for the way ahead.”

McQuiston used the examples of the Rapid Equipping Force, TRADOC concept exercises and the Network Integration Evaluation as methods that can be used to help define the true logistic requirements of the future force.

“Putting the big idea out there – the big goal – will help us drive relooking our processes from the beginning to the end, from equipping to sustaining,” McQuiston said. “We need to really understand what is needed. If we can reduce our flow and streamline what we send forward so we send less of the things we don’t need, that will be a huge savings.”

One of the driving forces in encouraging and developing innovation is the workforce, McQuiston said.

“There have been many studies done on what motivates innovation,” she said. “The one that resonates with us is to have a cause ‘larger than self.’ We have that down pat – there is nothing about our military that doesn’t speak to a cause or reason larger than self.”



Courtesy photo

Army Materiel Command deputy commander Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston and Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), were part of the panel titled “Delivering Innovation for the Army,” at the Institute of Land Warfare forum during the annual Association of the U.S. Army meeting Oct. 15.

The second motivator, she said, is recognition from peer groups and the larger population of those in the research and development, science and technology industry. The third is having some level of autonomy in their work.

“As we draw down and become more centralized, that lack of autonomy may be less attractive to the workforce,” McQuiston warned. “It ties back into this year’s AUSA theme of ‘Trusted Professionals’ Trusted professionals is what we are, and what we aspire to be, but we have to take that down to our lowest levels of the workforce. The tendency is to put in more policy, more legislation, and that burdens us even more.”

As the panel addressed the importance of innovation and logistics, Shyu pointed out that across the materiel enterprise, logistics is not often valued.

“We typically concentrate on the ‘pointy end of the spear,’” Shyu said. “However, if you don’t have the logistics backbone, your pointy spear won’t last long.”

Shyu emphasized the need for innovation, noting that the Army chief of staff has said the DoD is reluctant to use the force because of the time and costs associated with its movement.

“We have to make a decision – what can we do as part of the materiel enterprise to think outside of the box? How do we deliver items now?” Shyu asked. “How can we compress the process and do that quicker during war time – and how can we change that by doing something completely different?”

McQuiston said the future must include efficiencies gained from enhancing current operations.

“Streamlining our processes makes them even more efficient,” McQuiston continued. “As we look to the future, we know how important it is to partner more and more with industry. We have an opportunity to leverage the best of our organic and commercial enterprises. We have done that well with larger companies, and we are looking for more opportunities with small businesses.”

Army football put business owner on right path

*Ross played, coached
for the Black Knights*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Former Army football coach and player Joe Ross always liked tackling new challenges.

So when he saw an opportunity to leave the sidelines and pursue his own consulting business in Huntsville in 2012, he took the ball and ran toward the end zone.

Ross, who has a Ph.D., is president of HigherEchelon, a service-disabled veteran owned small business which does leadership consulting and government contracting. The 20-employee company, started in 2009, is based in Arlington, Virginia, and has an office in Huntsville. Ross has two partners, one of whom runs the Arlington office.

Two years ago, he saw opportunities to leave West Point to work with the Army Game Studio, based at Redstone Arsenal, which is tasked with developing and maintaining the America's Army videogame series. He also saw more opportunities to be with his family and still be involved in sports through his consulting work.

"To me I had it all coming down here," Ross, 42, said. The former infantry officer coached Army's fullbacks and special teams from 2009 until the spring of 2012. He was an Army running back from 1991-94 and graduated in 1995.

"As I told my players, set high goals. Don't be afraid to go after those goals. And with every obstacle, there's a solution to get through those obstacles," Ross said. "Find the detour to your destination."

As a player, Ross was a team captain his senior year in 1994. In 11 games that year, he had 158 carries for 721 yards and three touchdowns. He also caught two passes for 20 yards and one touchdown.

As an assistant coach, he helped lead the Black Knights in 2010 to a 7-6 record which included an Armed Forces Bowl trip win over SMU.

He used the same hardnosed, overcome-any-obstacle philosophy on the battlefield as a company commander in Kosovo from May-December 2001. During Ross' tour, the secretary of the Army commended his unit for capturing two insurgents on the CIA's top 10 most wanted list. "We detained over 400 insurgents," Ross said.

After 14 years in the Army, Ross was medically retired in 2008 as a major. He had broken his back while jumping out of a helicopter at Ranger school in 1996 but didn't tell anyone. After retiring, Ross added a doctorate in organizational psychology to his master's in athletic counseling.

"Army football had one of the greatest impacts on my life. First, the friendships you develop," he said. "It's the toughest thing I've ever done in my life because of the demands and the physical energy it took. There's really no comparison to anything else. Everything else you do in life is easy compared to that. You learn discipline, pride. I think I had the best training possible to become an Army officer because of that."

He and his wife and three young children live in Harvest. His wife, Sherri, is a physician assistant at Madison Hospital. Their son JP, 10, is a fifth-grader at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, who plays football, basketball, baseball and runs track. Lilah, 8, is a third-grader; and she plays softball, basketball,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Retired Maj. Joe Ross, president of HigherEchelon, played at Army from 1991-94 and was an assistant coach there 2009-12.

See Ross on page 30

Ole Miss, Mississippi State stay on the rise

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 260-86 for 75 percent after seven weeks. Here are my predictions for this week's games in college football:

Ole Miss at LSU – **Ole Miss**
Mississippi St. at Kentucky – **Mississippi St.**

South Carolina at Auburn – **Auburn**
Alabama at Tennessee – **Bama**
Connecticut at East Carolina – **East Carolina**
Miami (Fla.) at Virginia Tech – **Virginia Tech**

South Florida at Cincinnati – **South Florida**

BYU at Boise St. – **Boise St.**
Oregon at California – **Oregon**
Rutgers at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
North Texas at Rice – **Rice**
Texas at Kansas St. – **Kansas St.**
UAB at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Memphis at SMU – **Memphis**
Minnesota at Illinois – **Minnesota**
Maryland at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
North Carolina at Virginia – **North Carolina**

San Jose St. at Navy – **San Jose St.**
VMI at Wofford – **Wofford**
UCLA at Colorado – **UCLA**
Akron at Ball St. – **Akron**
Michigan at Michigan St. – **Michigan St.**

West Virginia at Oklahoma St. – **West Virginia**

Oregon St. at Stanford – **Stanford**
Georgia Tech at Pittsburgh – **Georgia Tech**

Boston College at Wake Forest – **Boston College**

Texas Tech at TCU – **TCU**
Alabama St. vs. Alabama A&M – **Alabama St.**

Vanderbilt at Missouri – **Missouri**
UNLV at Utah St. – **Utah St.**
Temple at UCF – **UCF**
Arizona at Washington St. – **Arizona**
Syracuse at Clemson – **Clemson**
UTEP at Texas-San Antonio – **UTEP**
Wyoming at Colorado St. – **Colorado St.**
Texas State at La.-Monroe – **La.-Monroe**



Ohio St. at Penn St. – **Ohio St.**
Montana at Cal-Poly – **Montana**
USC at Utah – **USC**
Arizona St. at Washington – **Arizona St.**
Nevada at Hawaii – **Nevada**



Courtesy photo

From 2009-12, retired Maj. Joe Ross coached Army's fullbacks and special teams.

Ross

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soccer, does gymnastics and also dances. Joey, 7, is a second-grader; and he plays soccer, baseball and does gymnastics.

Ross graduated from Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland, Maryland, in 1990 after starring in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was team captain and most valuable player in basketball, baseball and track. In football he was recruited his senior year by Penn State, Syracuse, Maryland, Army, Navy and all the Ivy League schools. Ross chose Army over his other suitors because he wanted a more well-rounded experience.

“Army, in my opinion, gave me an opportunity to say when I’m 90 years old I experienced life,” he said.

Likewise, the challenge of different opportunities would also spur him to leave coaching to pursue a career in consulting.

He’s an occasional guest on a local radio Army football preview show, “Crawdad’s Countdown to Kickoff,” which airs on ESPN radio 97.7-FM each Saturday 90 minutes before the Black Knights game’s kickoff. The host is Bill “Crawdad” Crawford, an engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Army, which has lost 12 straight to Navy, was 2-4 after six games but Ross likes its outlook under first-year coach Jeff Monken.

“He’s a consistent leader, he disciplines his players, he has high standards,” Ross said. “I like the way they’re recruiting. I like their systems: the offense, the 3-4 defense and the consistent special teams. So you see the formula for success. To me, the arrow is pointed in the right direction.”

Since he’s no longer an Army assistant coach, he no longer has a recruiting role – at least not officially. He still has a recruiting pitch for young men considering playing football at West Point.

“If you want to experience life, if you want to have great challenges while at the same time having great opportunities,” he said, “there’s no other place that can give you that like West Point can.”

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 president John Perry 922-9300, ext. 214, or vice president Ivory Whitaker 313-0865/2066.

Civil War conference

A conference marking the sesquicentennial of the Civil War will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 1 at the University of North Alabama’s Guillot Student Center in Florence,

with retired Auburn University history professor James McDonough as keynote speaker. Several UNA students also will present Civil War research papers, and a secondary education-panel headed by assistant professor Gary Padgett will discuss the Battle of Shiloh from a literary perspective. Hosted by the UNA department of history and Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, the conference is open to everyone. Cost is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults, which includes lunch and the keynote speaker. Registration information is at msnha.una.edu or by email to msnha@una.edu. Deadline to preregister is 4 p.m. Oct. 30. There is no cost or registration required to attend the research-paper presentations or panel discussions.

Adjutant general association

The Rocket City Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association holds a monthly meeting every second Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Toftoy Hall building 3495 on Patton Road. You can bring a brown bag Lunch. The AGCRA meetings are open to all military and civilian Human Resources professionals in the commuting area. You can join the Rocket

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City AGCRA at www.AGCRA.com. For information call Chenita Henderson 450-5880 or email chenita.l.henderson.ctr@mail.mil.

Genealogical society

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. Mike D. Wright, historian at Marshall Space Flight Center, will speak on “Early Days of Wernher von Braun, Marshall Space Flight Center’s First Director.” Visitors are welcome. For information call 278-5533.

Caregiver conference

The Alzheimer’s Association will present a Caregiver Conference on Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Cooper House, 406 Randolph Ave. Admission is free for this event which includes door prizes and lunch. Presentation topics include Caregiving 101, The Alzheimer’s Journey, Transitioning into Residential Facilities, and Counseling for the Caregiver. To register call 800-272-3900.

Space society

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, or HAL5, a local chapter of the National Space Society, will hold a free public program Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library’s auditorium. Dr. Vladimir Florinski, associate professor, Department of Space Science and CSPAR at UAH, will talk

about “Voyager: The First Year in Interstellar Space.” A social will follow the talk at IHOP on University Drive. For information visit chapters.nss.org/al/HAL5/HAL5-NewsCalendar.shtml.

International conference

The North Alabama International Trade Association and PZI International Consulting Inc. announce that Navigating the International Landscape of People Management will be presented Nov. 6 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Huntsville. This conference, the first of its quality in the Southeast, will focus What You Need to Know to Grow Your Globally Mobile Workforce & Your Company’s Bottom Line. Companies that have current international business or are beginning to operate internationally are encouraged to attend. Registration is limited, so register today at www.naita.org. For registration information, call NAITA at 532-3505. For more information about the agenda and speakers, call PZI president Debbie McGee (704) 576-7352.

Community women’s club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club will hold its monthly luncheon Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at The Summit. The program is “Attitude of Gratitude.” Price per person is \$18. No

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vouchers will be available. RSVP for this event by noon Nov. 14. For more information or reservations, visit www.rsacwc.org, email rsacwc-reservations@gmail.com or call Fern 975-2293 or Laurie 706-464-0309. "Like" them on Facebook: Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club to stay up to date on their events.

Operational leadership forum

"Operational Leadership Perspective by AMCOM" will be presented Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. This event is focused on providing the AMCOM workforce and AMCOM's Team Redstone partners with a dynamic perspective on leading in an operational environment. Maj. Gen. Jim Richardson, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, will present opening remarks. The keynote speaker is retired Sgt. Noah Galloway, who overcame significant injury from an improvised explosive device in Iraq in 2005. For more information, visit his website www.noahgalloway.com. This course is registered in TIP. Visit tip.redstone.army.mil. Select "Search Course Catalog," find "Operational Leadership" and request the course.

Acquisition update

A "Winter Acquisition Update" will be held Feb. 19 at the Defense Acquisition University-South campus. Co-sponsored by DAU-South and the South Chapter of the DAU Alumni Association, participants will benefit from several sessions that span the AT&L spectrum. Registration will open at the end of October. For inquiries and suggestions for potential topics, email HSV.Acquisition.Update@dau.mil.

Leadership conference

The Women's Economic Development Council will hold a leadership conference Nov. 13-14 at the Westin at Bridge Street. The theme is "Your Journey to Great Leadership and Capitalizing on Your Strengths." The keynote speaker will be retired Adm. Vern Clark, former chief of Naval Operations, who will speak on "The Truth About Leadership." Each participant will receive a personalized strengths assessment results booklist. Conference sessions will be divided into three education tracks: Emerging Leader,

Transitioning Leader and Executive Leader, with topics such as Negotiating Skills: Why Women Must Ask; Leading Up and Leading Down: Succeeding All Around; and Selfless Leadership: Influencing Others to Reach Their Potential. To register, visit www.wedc-online.net/home/~conference.

Order of St. Barbara dinner

The Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville Alabama Air Defense Artillery Association and Field Artillery Association will hold its annual dinner saluting the Army Air Defense Artillery and Field Artillery branches and honoring significant individual contributions to ADA and FA through the Order of St. Barbara award presentations Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Featured speaker is Lt. Gen. David Mann, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander. Cost for active duty military is \$30 per person, \$60/couple, all others \$44/person, \$88 per couple. Register by Friday to tinyurl.com/lhdc93v.

Field artillery group

The North Alabama-Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association meets 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.

Voting town hall

The Installation Voting Assistance Office will hold a Federal Voting Assistance Program town hall meeting Monday from 10 a.m. until noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. Leaders will support effective awareness of the Federal Voting Assistance Program and inform everyone of the

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advantages and use of the federal voting portal. They will also discuss the 32 states, including Alabama, affected by new Supreme Court rulings on the Voting Requirement Act. Guest speakers will include Garrison commander Col. Bill Marks and Linda Via, wife of the Army Materiel Command's commander Gen. Dennis Via. Invited are Team Redstone's military, civilians, contractors and family members.

Miscellaneous Items

Education center

The Redstone Army Education Center's mission is to plan, prepare and implement ACES educational programs and services to support the professional career and personal goals for Soldiers, family members, Department of Army civilians and veterans. The center provides education counseling and academic advisement, GoArmyEd Support, career/academic goal counseling, group briefings, basic academic skills counseling, test administering (no proctoring) and interpretations, Army personnel tests (SIFT, TABE, AFCT), defense language tests, military testing credit evaluation, financial aid information and veterans benefits information. Visit the center at building 3495, Toftoy Hall, on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads or call 876-9761.

NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the

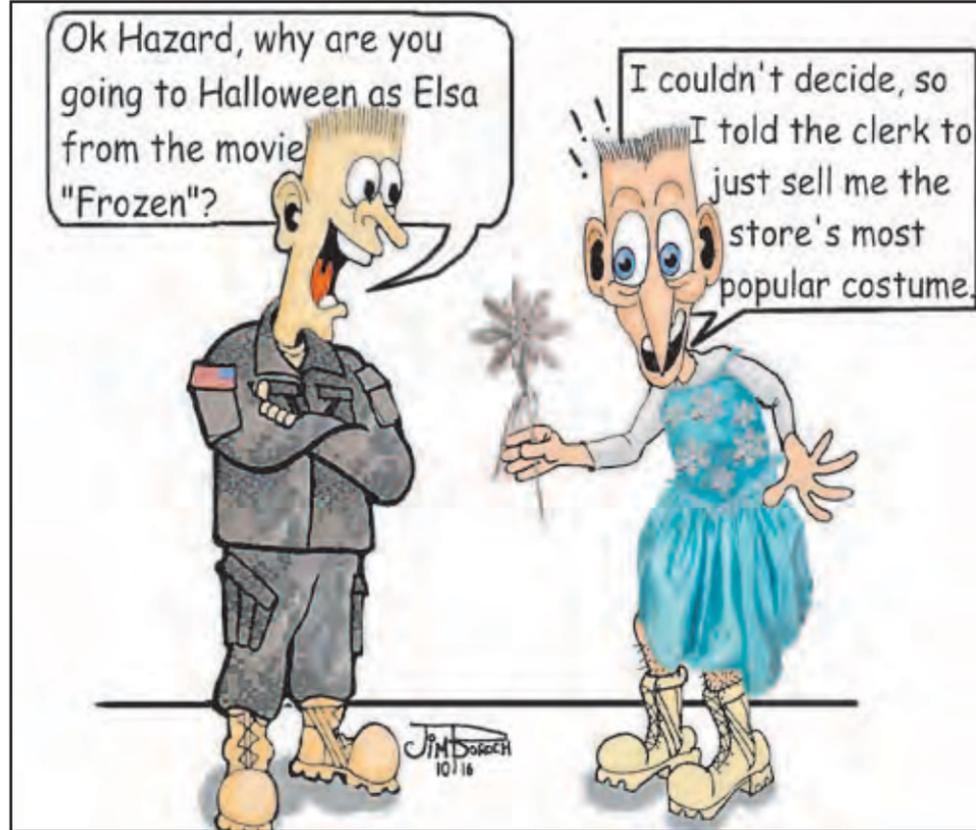
General Services Administration sales website. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by state of Alabama, and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

Motorcycle safety training

Motorcycle training is mandatory for all Soldiers who desire to ride a motorcycle regardless of riding it on or off Redstone Arsenal. All Soldier motorcycle riders are required to take the Basic Riders Course prior to operating a motorcycle. The BRC is a one-time requirement. All Soldier motorcycle riders will be required to complete advanced motorcycle training consisting of either the experienced riders course or the military sport bike riders course within 12 months following completion of the BRC. The BRC and ERC are provided on Redstone for Soldiers on a monthly or as needed basis (except during winter months). Classes will generally start in March and end in November. The Garrison Safety Office will schedule the times and dates of the training. Classes are provided at no cost to active duty military. Military will not be charged leave to attend training. Soldiers may take the civilian equivalents in lieu of the Army provided ERC or MSRC, at no expense to the government, within 12 months following completion of the BRC. The civilian equivalents include the Basic Riders Course II, synonymous with the ERC, and the Advanced Riders Course, synonymous with the MSRC. Soldier motorcycle riders are encouraged to take

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advanced motorcycle training optimally 60 days after the BRC but must complete training within 12 months. For more information, call Keith Coates of the Garrison Safety Office 876-3383.

Ordnance school reunion

A Redstone reunion is planned for alumni of the 59th Ordnance Brigade and Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, which moved to Fort Lee, Virginia. The former brigade commanders, command sergeants major, civilians, officers, warrant officers, NCOs and Soldiers will come together Friday and Saturday for a 59th Ordnance/OMEMS reunion. All previous members of the 59th and OMEMS are invited to come out and rekindle old friendships, meet new friends and share stories from the past. For more information call Lockett 990-2388, email lewis_lockett@yahoo.com; Reginald Battle 763-1439, email RCB552000@yahoo.com; Cynthia Hughes, Chugh1@hotmail.com; Deitra Floyd, msstang92@hotmail.com; Johnie Keeter, keeterw4@knology.net; or Ed Banville, edbanville@hotmail.com.

Ammunition amnesty

The Logistics Readiness Center-Redstone announces an Amnesty Day, Thursday in accordance with Army Regulation 710-2 and Garrison Policy 385-64. Amnesty Day's purpose is to allow free delivery/disposal of those abandoned/unauthorized ammunition and ex-

plosives materials that are not being stored properly and present a hazardous situation. Items must be delivered to building 8762 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go south on Patton Road, cross over Buxton Road, turn right at the first paved road, and building 8762 is on the right side. As a reminder, at that same intersection below Buxton Road, on the left, is sand-bagged amnesty barrel open 24/7 for anyone wanting to dispose of small arms/caliber munitions. For information call Kevin Waldrep, QASAS team lead, at 842-9085, email joseph.k.waldrep.civ@mail.mil.

Combat veterans fellowship

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served along with fellowship at the Combat Veteran Fellowship event hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5162, on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Legion, Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. Veterans are invited to share their memories, pictures and mementos at this event. Veterans who wear their uniform will receive a prize. Reservations should be sent by Oct. 15 to VFW5162@gmail.com with "fellowship" in the subject line, or call or text 503-3551.

Vietnam commemoration

All are invited to attend the 2014 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series, Nov. 3 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive in Huntsville. Admission is

free. The event, which will feature guest speaker retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, also includes exhibits, complimentary breakfast and lunch. Exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with Libutti's remarks at 11. To register, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com. Complimentary breakfast will be at 10, lunch at 12:30.

Logistics achievement awards

The 2014 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award luncheon is Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. at The Summit. Two awards will be presented: the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (or military equivalents). These awards are presented annually to recognize Team Redstone individuals who have made notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of logistical support, and demonstrated excellence and professionalism in his or her assigned duties in the field of logistics. Tickets will be on sale through Nov. 4 for \$17. For tickets call event coordinator Shannon McNatt 842-9064, Barbara Harris 876-3805, Alisa McBride 955-8842, Darlene Readus 876-2392, Kelly McDaniel 313-1641, Joezer Lopez 876-7966, Kim Lund 842-5586, Sandy Morris 842-1009, Suzanne Wolf 955-0135, Willis Morris 955-7180, Carla Gafford 876-2362 or Amanda Staggs 313-2041.

Acquisition opportunities

Defense Acquisition University South has available seats for classes. To see the complete list to include the DAU South offerings in

Huntsville, visit catalog.dau.mil/onlinecatalog/tabnav.aspx, and click on the blue "Low Fill Classes" link on the right side of the page. Additional training course information can be accessed by clicking on the link for the particular training course. For general inquiries, call Jacqueline Fontenot 922-8752 or email jacqueline.fontenot@dau.mil.

Redstone Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop appreciates your donations, which represent most of its profit. Unfortunately it still has people coming onto the pavilion and going through its donations and taking items. If you have donations, try to bring them in during the time the store is open or leave them as close to the door as possible without blocking the door, in a basket or in the gray box. The Thrift Shop staff said those who feel the need to take the donations are taking money from Soldiers, veterans, their family members and the community. "If you are in need of items, we are very reasonable with our pricing; come see management," they said in a prepared release. "On a happier note: We have dining room tables, and entertainment center, lots of holiday items and so much more. The Thrift Shop's phone number is 881-6992. The store is in building 3209 off Hercules Road, located behind the One Stop building. 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 machine.

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Call the No-List number at 881-6915 Mondays after 3 p.m. to see what they are not taking for that week and any announcements for the shop. Donations are welcome anytime; after hours, leave them in the gray box under the pavilion or as close to the door as possible.

Deployed ceremony

The Day of the Deployed, a national holiday recognizing service members who have or will deploy and their families, will be recognized locally Sunday with an event at the Huntsville Depot Roundhouse and Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville. All service members who have deployed and their families along with local residents are invited to this event, which will include patriotic music by the Army Materiel Command Band, vendor booths where purchases can be made to send to deployed troops and a ceremony featuring comments from state Sen. Bill Holtzclaw. The event will begin at 2 p.m. at the Huntsville Depot Roundhouse for a "meet and greet" with veterans who have deployed. It will then move to the Veterans Memorial at 3 p.m. for the ceremony. Those who want to volunteer to assist with the Day of the Deployed or who need more information can visit the Day of the Deployed Facebook page, facebook.com/dayofthedeveloped.com.

Preschool openings

Marshall Child Development Center, accredited by the National Accreditation Commission and located in building 4346 on Morris Road, has openings in its Pre-K program. The center is open to anyone on Redstone Arsenal. "We of-

fer low teacher to child ratios, we use the research based Creative Curriculum, have educated and experienced teachers, a safe and healthy learning environment, outdoor and indoor play areas, USDA approved breakfast, lunch and snack and have a proven track record of preparing children for kindergarten," a prepared release said. For more information, call 544-8609 or visit mcdc/msfc.nasa.gov.

Automated management

MEARS is a web-based, government-off-the-shelf application that automates the Configuration Management and CDRL process and is managed at Redstone Arsenal. For more information, contact MEARS program manager John Rogers at john.a.rogers.civ@mail.mil and 876-8834.

Scholarship information lunch

The Alliance for Opportunity and Development is a local nonprofit providing career technical education scholarships for low-income adults. Join them at Baumhower's Restaurant on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. to learn more about AOD scholarships. Order lunch from the menu. AOD is a CFC registered charity. RSVP to Gary Mathis 541-3765.

Defense acquisition classes

In support of the acquisition workforce, the Defense Acquisition University South Region announces its first quarter Lunch-n-Learn sessions. These standalone sessions, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., offer the flexibil-

ity of attending in-class at the South Region campus or virtually via Defense Connect Online, as well as 1.5 Continuous Learning Points per session. October topics and dates are: Reclaima Writing, today; and Learning Curve Theory, Oct. 29. Register at go.usa.gov/dcXT; DCO connection is connect.dco.dod.mil/lunchandlearn; and for schedule updates/changes, visit acc.dau.mil and click on blogs under the heading ACC Practice Center.

Subcontracting workshop

The National Contract Management Association will hold a workshop titled "Subcontract Management from A to Z" on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Redstone Federal Credit Union conference room on Wynn Drive. Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Presenters include Toni Johnson, director of contracts for Aviation & Missile So-

lutions LLC, and Lisa Salvador, subcontract administrator for Qualis Corporation. Cost of the workshop is \$250 for members and \$300 for nonmembers. To register, visit www.ncmahsv.org. For more information, call 508-0555.

Civil War field trip

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will have a field trip Friday through Sunday. This includes two nights and three days of touring from Huntsville to Montgomery, Fort Morgan and Spanish Fort and back. The tour will start at the east end of the parking lot at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, where participants will leave their cars and board the bus at 8 a.m. Friday. Cost is \$306 per person for single hotel occupancy or \$230 per person for double. For reservations or questions call Kent Wright 890-0890 or email kdwrt@netzero.net. For more information, visit www.tvcwrt.org.