

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

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Community honors Gold Star families

By KARA WALL
AMC Public Affairs

A powerful silence overcame hundreds of onlookers as the families of two fallen Soldiers laid the Gold Star wreath Monday during a Memorial Day observance at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, accompanied widow Katrina and son Matthew of Sgt. 1st Class Jason Bishop who was killed in action in Iraq in January 2006, and mother Cheryl of Cpl. Andrew Chris who was killed in action in Iraq in June 2003, as they laid the wreath on behalf of all Gold Star families.

Via addressed hundreds in attendance during the annual observance, including more than 50 Gold Star family members of fallen service members, noting that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

See Honor on page 2

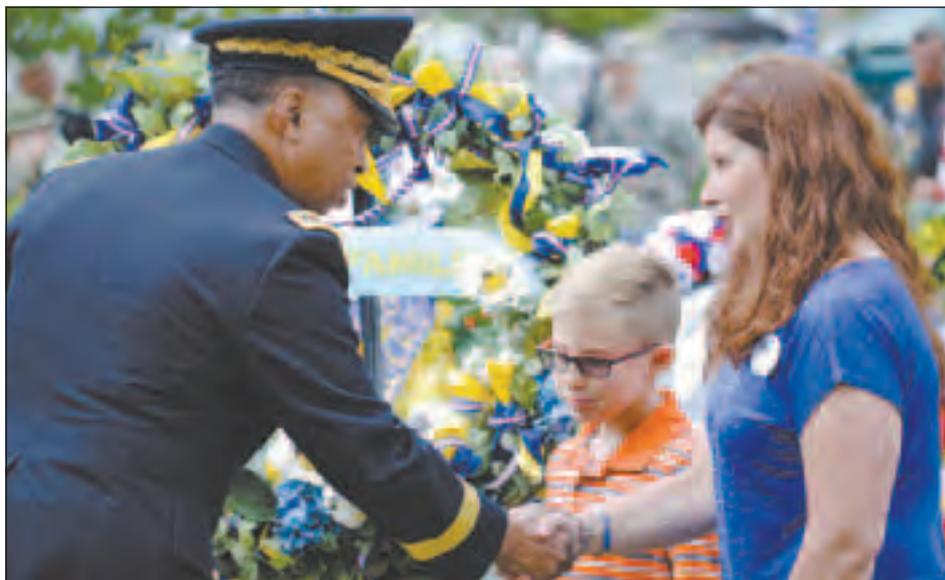


Photo by Kara Wall

Army Materiel Command's top leader Gen. Dennis Via shakes the hand of Katrina Bishop and her son, Matthew, during the Memorial Day observance at Maple Hill Cemetery on Monday. Bishop's husband Sgt. 1st Class Jason Bishop was killed in action in Iraq in January 2006.

Redstone senior commander salutes Athens heroes

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche and the communities of Athens and Limestone County will never forget.

"We will always remember — some gave, and some gave all," said Wyche, Redstone Arsenal senior commander. "Today we stop to remember them. To remember our fallen comrades, as well as their families, honor them, and remember what they lived for and what they died for. Let us all be sure that they did not die in vain by doing our part to keep this nation safe and strong."

Wyche served as the guest speaker for the Memorial Day ceremony in Athens Monday.

Having stood at the ramp many times saluting a flag-draped casket, and having spoken the words, "On behalf of the president of the United States and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service," Wyche understands the real meaning of Memorial Day.

The community of Athens, too, knows all too well the cost of freedom, having lost two of their own — Pfc. Ricky

See Athens on page 2



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Redstone Arsenal senior commander Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche speaks to the Athens/Limestone County community during their Memorial Day ceremony Monday.



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Tour d'Arsenal draws cyclists.

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Cotton Row 10K runner remembers brother.

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Senior service fellowship grads complete 10-month challenge.

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AMC commander gives update on events, priorities.

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WIN OR LOSE

Rotorheads roar in last at-bat.

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Athens

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Lee Turner, 20, in 2009, and Lance Cpl. Adam Loggins, 27, in 2007 — in Iraq. Wyche paid special tribute to the community's two fallen heroes, as well as the men and women who loved them, many of whom wiped away tears at the mention of Turner's and Loggins' names.

"This town has felt the hurt, but understands that freedom isn't free," Wyche said. "It has real sacrifices, and in the case of Adam and Ricky, their sacrifice was their lives. We honor them and their entire families for their many sacrifices. We honor all of our veterans and their families, and their many sacrifices. To their mothers, fathers, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, thank you. Thank you for that burden that you continue to carry. Thank you

for your many sacrifices, and thank you for your unwavering drive to the city of Athens, and this nation, and for reminding us that we will always be indebted to Adam and Ricky, and their families, who gave their lives for us and this country."

In addition to Wyche's remarks, the ceremony also honored the nation's fallen heroes with the placing of wreaths, a recognition of Gold Star Mothers, roll call of veterans who have died within the past year, rifle salute and Taps.

"It is so important that we take the time today to remember those who gave their lives for our country," Wyche said. "As said by president Calvin Coolidge, 'A nation which forgets its defenders will be forgotten itself.' We



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Members of the Limestone County Veterans Burial Detail participate in the Athens/Limestone County Memorial Day ceremony.

of course cannot let that happen. The people of Athens, our nation and the world itself is counting on us. And we will never, we will never forget."

Honor

Continued from page 1

"My wife, Linda, and I are humbled and deeply honored for the privilege of commemorating this Memorial Day with you," he said. "Your presence here, and the Gold Star that you wear, reminds us all of the true meaning of Memorial Day and the obligation we have to the families of the fallen, and that's something we will never forget."

Via challenged the audience to take care of Gold Star families and remember the sacrifices they've made.

"Today, in cemeteries across our nation, in small towns and big cities, Americans are remembering and honoring those who laid down their lives for their friends, for their countrymen and for our freedom," he said. "Let us remember them, all of them. Let us honor their service, and let us rededicate ourselves to our sacred obligation to care for their families who have sac-

rificed so much for our nation. For it is they, more than any others, who understand the true price of freedom."

Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle also gave remarks and said everyone is called to honor the more than 1 million lives lost in war and defense of the nation.

"The takeaway for today is that each of us are called to service. We are called to be out here today," Battle said. "As we are called to that service, we must answer that call. We must do that as a memorial, as an honor to those who have fallen."

Nearly 40 local organizations laid wreaths during the ceremony sponsored by the City of Huntsville, the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition and the Association of the U.S. Army. American Legion 237 Rifle Squad provided a rifle salute and World War II veteran Mike Vaccaro rendered honors to the fallen with the playing of Taps. The ceremony concluded as the 1st Patriot Support Corps swiftly raised the American flag to full mast at noon.

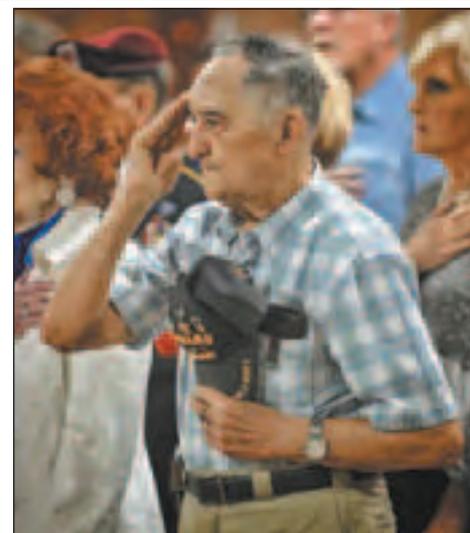


Photo by Bryan Bacon

A World War II veteran salutes the flag during the Athens/Limestone County Memorial Day ceremony Monday.

Former historical division member dies

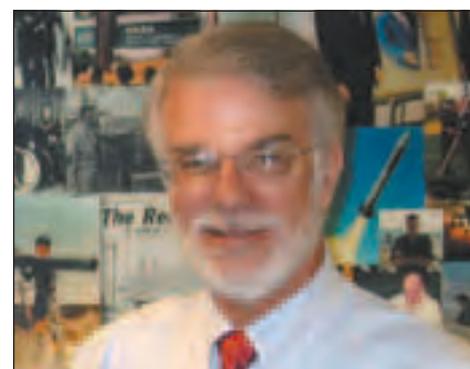
By **CLAUS MARTEL**

AMC Historical Office

Jim Bowne, a former historian in what was then the Missile Command, died April 22 in Madison. He was 75.

Bowne worked for the MICOM Historical Division from 1986 until August 1994 when he was appointed by then Maj. Gen. Jim Link as the first director of the MICOM Technology Promotion Office.

Bowne retired from the Aviation and Missile Command in April 2004. He had a master's degree in art history from the University of North Carolina.



Jim Bowne

Quote of the week

I think a college education is important no matter what you do in life.

— *Phil Mickelson*
Professional golfer

RedstoneRocket

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On this date in history: May 27

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

In 1895: British inventor Birt Acres patents the film camera/projector.

In 1896: A tornado hits St. Louis, killing 255 and leaving thousands homeless.

In 1919: The first transatlantic flight ends; and the Navy flying boat takes 11 days.

In 1921: After 84 years of British control, Afghanistan achieves sovereignty.

In 1937: The Golden Gate Bridge is dedicated in San Francisco.

In 1941: German battleship Bismarck is sunk by the British naval force.

In 1942: Dorie Miller is awarded the Navy Cross for his deeds at Pearl Harbor.

In 1943: French resistance under Jean Moulin meets secretly in Paris.

In 1944: Allies land on Biak, Indonesia, for Operation Horlicks.

In 1958: Vanguard SLV-1 is launched for Earth orbit but this attempt fails.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents from May 10-16:

- May 10: Police stopped a motorist for speeding on Goss Road. A subsequent investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated. He was arrested and detained until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level, at which time he was released with a citation for driving under the influence and another for speeding.

- May 11: Police received a report of a stolen radio charger from an office area.

- May 12: A driver at the truck gate requested access but he was unable to produce his driver's license. A National Crime Information Center check revealed the license was suspended. He received a citation and was denied access; and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

- May 12: Police stopped a motorist for excessive speed on Martin Road. An NCIC check revealed his driver's license was suspended. He received a citation and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

- May 12: An NCIC check of a driver requesting access at Gate 8 revealed he had an outstanding warrant from Hamilton County, Indiana. He was arrested and transported to the Madison County Jail pending release to Hamilton County officials.

- May 12: While conducting a Random Antiterrorism Measures inspection of a vehicle at Gate

8, police observed the driver had concealed two pistols in his waistband. The weapons were confiscated and the driver received a mandatory court citation.

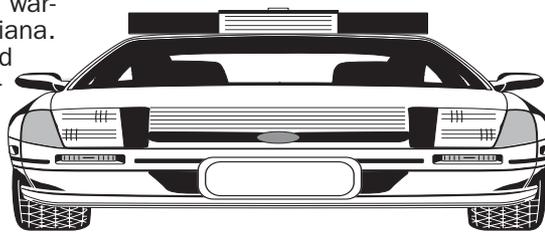
- May 13: Police investigated a traffic accident in the Exchange parking lot.

- May 15: An NCIC check of a driver requesting access at Gate 8 revealed he had an outstanding warrant from Athens. He was arrested and released to Athens authorities.

- May 15: While investigating a two-vehicle accident at Vincent and Goss roads, police discovered a rifle in one of the vehicles. The rifle was confiscated and the driver received a mandatory court citation.

- May 16: During a RAM inspection at Gate 9, police discovered that a driver had concealed a pistol in his vehicle. The pistol was confiscated and the driver received a mandatory court citation.

- Traffic citations issued included 48 for speeding, 15 expired registration, 11 improper lane change, 2 suspended/revoked driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 1 open container, 1 traffic control device violation and 1 for no insurance.



Comment: I would like to request that the water fountain on the MWR fitness/running trail be repaired as soon as possible. The water fountain is located near the intersection of Gray Road and Entac Circle. This is the only water fountain on the entire 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) trail. More water fountains are needed.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention

because we were not aware of this problem. The water fountain on the fitness/running trail has been fixed. Unfortunately we are unable to add any additional water fountains along the fitness/running trail at this time. We appreciate your understanding. Runners/walkers are encouraged to bring water with them while out, especially with warmer weather approaching.



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.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Bob Lehtonen

Getting to know you

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Willis Morris

Position: Field Support and Readiness Directorate, Operations, Aviation and Missile Command

Where do you call home?

I live in Alabama but my home is in Virginia. It doesn't matter where I lay my head at night as long as my better half is beside me.

What do you like about your job?

I like the interaction with personnel from across the COCOMs.

What are your goals - personal, professional or both?

My goal is to do the best job I can do for my organization and the Soldiers in the field while I am still around. Our war fighter support and family are number one to me.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy fishing, camping and traveling.



What is on your bucket list?

My bucket list is really not that long. I want to be the greatest Papa I can be to my soon-to-be granddaughter, go fishing, do some traveling and enjoy life in general.

Concert caps day's events

Photos by **BRYAN BACON**
Staff photographer

The Tennessee Valley concluded its observance of honoring the nation's fallen heroes Monday with a Memorial Day concert, sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army, at the Von Braun Center. The evening included various patriotic musical selections, in addition to readings, a candlelight commemoration and the playing of Taps.



Right: Eden Schnur waves her flags while watching the Memorial Day concert.



The AMC band performs inside the VBC North Hall Monday night for the Memorial Day concert.



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Remembering together

Millie Allen, left, a retired transportation and traffic manager from Redstone Arsenal visits the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville with her friend Hazel Kitchens. Kitchens' husband served in WWII.

Community Health Promotion Council: Wellness fair healthy formula

Photos by **BRYAN BACON**
Staff photographer

Members of Team Redstone visited Pagano Gym on May 19 for the 2015 Wellness Fair, part of the Army's Strong B.A.N.D.S. (Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination and Strength) campaign. The free health event was sponsored by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Fox Army Wellness Clinic, the Army Materiel Command and the Community Health Promotion Council.



Attendees line up for blood work and blood pressure checks at Pagano Gym during the 2015 Wellness Fair.



Fox Army Health Center's Heather Hough talks to attendees about diet and exercise.



Judy Frago has her blood pressure checked at the Huntsville Hospital mobile bus by registered nurse Vance Horton.

At left: Representing their organizations at the health fair are, from left, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Gaylene Wilson and Phylissa Shannon, Fox Army Health Center's Sheila DeRochemont and Army Materiel Command's Robin Warren.

Bicyclists take annual Tour d'Arsenal

Photos by BRYAN BACON
Staff photographer

Cyclists gathered May 19 for the 2015 Directors Tour d'Arsenal, hosted by the MARS Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling. Riders had the opportunity to bike through both the Army and Marshall Space Flight Center's test areas, which took them on a southern loop of the installation, following a World War II rail line.



Cyclists take to the streets of Redstone Arsenal for the 2015 Directors Tour d'Arsenal May 19, hosted by the MARS Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling.



Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Narry Tillman of AMCOM gets his bike ready for the ride.

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:

Bowling hours

Redstone Lanes is operating with summer hours: Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday from noon to 10 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Summer reading program

This year's Summer Reading Program, "Read to the Rhythm!" kickoff party will be held Saturday from 12-3 p.m. at the Post Library, and will include door prizes, refreshment and entertainment. The summer reading program began Tuesday and continues through July 18. For more information, call the library at 876-4741.

Family fishing day

The Free Family Fishing Day event is June 6 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Easter Posey Recreation Area on Shields Road. Everyone is invited to this fishing outing and cookout. Outdoor Recreation will pro-

vide free worms while supplies last. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. You can fish there all day. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-6854 or 876-4868.

Free movie Friday

This week's Free Movie Friday is "Selma," rated PG-13. A free movie is shown every other Friday at Heiser Hall, building 3712 at Patton and Aerobee roads. The 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.

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.

Comedy show canceled

Due to extenuating circumstances, the

Bill Bellamy Comedy Show scheduled for May 30 on Redstone Arsenal has been canceled. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation apologizes for the inconvenience. Tickets purchased via credit card will be refunded to the original purchaser by presenting your ticket at the MWR Ticket Office, building 3443 on Honest John Road. For questions call 876-4531. Tickets purchased via check or cash will be refunded to the original purchaser by presenting your ticket at the MWR Financial Management Office, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For questions call 876-2501.

Leisure travel

Planning a summer getaway? Leisure Travel can help. Appointment hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to

4:30 p.m. Call 313-0090 to schedule an appointment.

The Summit catering

The Summit is your one stop shop for weddings and special events. It offers on site and off site catering, and multiple event locations. Call 450-9227 or 842-9600.

Card game

Looking for a place to play Texas hold 'em? Look no further. The Firehouse Pub holds weekly Texas hold 'em games every Friday. The pub opens at 3 p.m. with play beginning at 5:30. There is a \$10 buy-in fee and a \$10 re-up fee. Prizes are awarded to the top three finishers at the end of the night. For more information, call the Firehouse Pub at 842-0748.

In this section...

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Taekwondo students get kicks in tournament

Photos by **BRYAN BACON**

Staff photographer

Taekwondo practitioners of all ages and sizes gathered Saturday to compete in the SKIES Unlimited instructional program's Taekwondo tournament at the Youth Center.



Students take a break between events.



Student Rachel Hernandez in blue pads takes on fellow student Nayeli Ubilis during the competition.



Black belt Nayeli Ubilis participates in the SKIES Unlimited Instruction program's Taekwondo tournament Saturday at the Youth Center.



Jessica Shipley performs during Saturday's event.



Students gather for the opening event of the martial arts tournament.

Vacation Bible School plus children equals fun

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

It's time to get down to the science of their faith.

Registration is now open for this year's Vacation Bible School, SonSpark Labs, at Bicentennial Chapel June 1-5, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Open to any student with access to the installation in kindergarten through sixth grade, VBS is sponsored by the chapel's Catholic and Protestant communities. For more information, or to volunteer with decorating, which begins Thursday, call 876-6874.

Set in a scientific discovery lab, this year's VBS centers around the formula $GP4U = J!$

"God's Plan for you equals Jesus," volunteer Jeanet Pascua said. "That's the formula for this VBS session – we want to help them develop that relationship with Jesus in a fun way."

That fun will include VBS staples such as Bible stories, songs, skits, crafts, games, snacks, and to fit in with the lab theme, scientific experiments – all of which teach the students about God's plan for them. By the end of the week, Pascua and fellow volunteer Cathy Smith hope students haven't just learned a little bit more about their faith, but have a thirst for more.

"You build friendships here, you build your faith here, you build a desire to want to know what this is all about," Pascua said. "This is just a taste of God's great plan for you. You need to keep coming back."

As is tradition, VBS attendees will collect monetary donations for those less fortunate than them. This year's charity, the Native American Children's Fund, provides school clothing and VBS supplies, for students in need.

"Your faith alone is not enough – it's faith in action that's important," Pascua said. "We want to help the children understand the reason behind what they're doing. Their donations will impact the



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Volunteers Jeanet Pascua and Cathy Smith prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School at Bicentennial Chapel, SonSpark Labs, June 1-5.

lives of other people in this world by giving from their heart."

The weeklong camp will also give students the opportunity to interact with other students whose faith backgrounds as Protestant or Catholic may differ slightly, but whose message at the end of the day is the same.

"We're teaching the truths that are evident in all Christian faiths – God loves us, and these are the things he did because he loves us," Pascua said. "It's a personal truth. What we are teaching, and what the children are experiencing through VBS, is from the living word of God."

Smith agreed.

"We're like cogwheels – we fit together," Smith said. "We go apart, but we're similar and we work together. We're stronger that way. We stir up and stimulate each other and it's Jesus who turns us."

"The Holy Spirit guides us and brings us right to the point where we need to be," Pascua added.

Join Us Here For Vacation Bible School

SonSpark Labs

June 1-5
Monday - Friday

8:30 - 11:30 AM
K-6th Grade

(256)876-6874 **FREE**

A colorful banner for Vacation Bible School. The banner has a blue background with yellow and red accents. It features the text "Join Us Here For Vacation Bible School" at the top, followed by "SonSpark Labs" in a stylized font. Below that, it says "June 1-5" in large pink letters, with "Monday - Friday" underneath. The time "8:30 - 11:30 AM" and "K-6th Grade" are listed. At the bottom, the phone number "(256)876-6874" and the word "FREE" are displayed. On the right side, there is a cartoon illustration of a yellow dog wearing glasses and a blue bow tie, next to a beaker containing a red liquid.

Spiritual living at Redstone

*View from the top
not as expected*

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) CHIP FIELDS

Army Materiel Command deputy chaplain

Have you ever heard someone say, "If I could just win the lottery, all my problems would be solved?"

Seriously, how many rich people do you know who live in peace?

The writer of the biblical book Ecclesiastes (whom most scholars attribute to Solomon) said, "I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me. I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men-many concubines. Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun."

Did you catch that? The man had basically won the biggest lottery in history, and he concluded that it was all vanity – no profit. Solomon had climbed to the top of his ladder, looked at all his treasures, and then proceeds to tell those coming up after him, "There's nothing up here." He had the ultimate top-down perspective.

Unfortunately, most of us don't believe him, and would rather see for ourselves. It would be tragic to spend your entire life climbing the ladder of success, only to find out when you get to the top, it was resting against the wrong wall.

Somehow we think that the days ahead will make up for what we perceive to be our present lack. We think, "When I get this or when that happens, then I'll be happy," but this is an exercise in self-deception that overlooks the fact that even when we get what we want, it never delivers what it promised. If you're not content with what you have, you will never be content with what you want.

I think Jesus said it best when he asked, "What shall it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" You have a chance today to re-evaluate your life and determine what is really most important. If you want to know how best to ascertain what is valuable, just ask yourself: "How long will this be around?"

I can tell you that only two things will enter into eternity: relationships and the word

Bicentennial Chapel Weekend Schedule

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

Protestant
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Protestant Sunday Worship
Service 11 a.m.



Commentary

Opinions contained in the Spiritual Column are that of the writer and do not represent the opinions of the Army, command, Redstone Rocket staff or civilian enterprise printer.

of God. Now there are a couple of things which, should you invest time in them, would generate a return on investment for eternity. We plan for our vacations, but we fail to plan for our biggest trip. Make sure your ladder is resting against the right wall.

Military Sunday

Indian Creek P.B. Church will hold its fifth annual Military Sunday on June 7 at 380 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville. Military guests, including active duty and retired, will be recognized at both the 8 and 11 a.m. services. Tokens will be provided as a gesture of appreciation. Everyone is suggested to wear patriotic colors. For more information, call Renee Kelly 656-4300 or Cynthia Hughes 617-0740.

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, fellowship, 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](https://www.facebook.com/PWOCRSA). Questions can be emailed to pwocrsa@gmail.com.

Weekly 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). Vigil Mass is on Saturdays at 5 p.m.

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

Army Materiel Command Band in concert season

The Army Materiel Command Band's Sonic Fusion kicks off the third season of the Athens, Tennessee, Sounds of Summer concert series at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Market Park Pavilion.

This is a return visit for the group, which drew a large crowd at last year's performance. Check out this and other upcoming performances from the band's music performance teams.

- The Redstone Rockets, a brass combo, performs at Regency Retirement Village's Summerfest in Huntsville at 11 a.m. Thursday.

- Yellhammer Brass and Staff Sgt. Michael Scarlett perform at the Aviation Flight

Test Directorate change of command on Redstone Arsenal at 9:30 a.m. Friday.

- The Redstone Rockets will play at the Read to the Rhythm Event at the Post Library at noon Saturday.

- The Arsenal Brass Quintet performs at the Cruise Missile Defense Systems 10th anniversary ceremony and reception at 1:30 p.m. Monday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

- The Big Bang Brass Band performs at the Summer Time Barbecue at 11 a.m. June 3 in the Von Braun III courtyard.

For more information on the AMC Band, its music performance teams and public performances, visit www.amc.army.mil/amc/band.html.



Photos by Terri Stover, Garrison Public Affairs

Trap shooting competition

Attendees in last week's Garrison Commanders Conference participated in a trap shooting competition. In the first photo, Lt. Col. Kimberly Peeples, Carlisle Barracks Garrison commander, takes her shot. Looking on at far right is Davis Tindoll, IMCOM Atlantic Region director. In the other photo, participants with the highest scores include, from left, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Sharkey, IMCOM Atlantic Region; Col. Bill Marks, Redstone Garrison commander; and Lt. Col. Ryan Raymond, incoming Garrison commander for Natick. During the conference, garrison commanders and command sergeants major from Atlantic Region materiel installations met with Tindoll to discuss services for tenant organizations.



AroundTown

Cotton Row 10K runner remembers brother

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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While he wasn't physically running with her, Lance Cpl. Adam Loggins was with his sister Amber Godwin every step of the way at Monday's 36th annual Cotton Row Run.

"I am definitely thinking of Adam and the things that he faced and pushed through," Godwin said. "I feel that love."

The Huntsville Memorial Day tradition has transformed from more than just a run, but a chance to honor and remember the Tennessee Valley's fallen heroes, and to let their families know that they would not be forgotten amidst the holiday's pool parties and barbecues.

"That's the strange thing about Memorial Day – it is a holiday to so many people, a summer holiday, and I celebrated that for years too – but for my family now it's a way to remember him, not just as a Marine, but as a fisherman and being outdoorsy," Godwin said. "It's a bittersweet holiday, but the easiest way for me to honor him is spending it running and spending it with the military community that understands the love and loss that you have, not just the loss. Huntsville really gets it."

Team Redstone's Survivor Outreach Services, partnered with wear blue: run to re-



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Volunteers hold flags for our fallen heroes Monday for Memorial Day during the Cotton Row Run.

member, provided a living memorial for the Cotton Row, and runners were given the opportunity to pledge their miles to wear blue: run to remember and run in honor of a fallen hero. Some Gold Star family members, like Godwin, took to the course themselves in memory of their loved one.

Loggins was killed while serving in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq on April 26, 2007. He was only 27.

"He was the runner in the family, he was the athlete," Godwin said of her little brother. "I would try to get him to help me run be-



Photo by Bryan Bacon

The start of Monday's 10K race was delayed an hour because of a downed tree along the course.

cause I wanted to run so bad, and he would get out there with me and try to help me stay motivated when I got discouraged."

Godwin, who has been running for about two years, trained for Monday's 10K with the help of Fleet Feet's Next Steps group, which not only prepared her physically for the run, but helped her work through her grief for her brother as well.

"I spent a lot of time not being able to talk about him, not being able to share that with people, and I think being in this group has helped me open up and remember more of the good things about him, instead of al-

ways the sad," Godwin said. "A lot of people start running because of emotional loss. It wasn't what drew me to it at first, but I think it helped me feel good about things."

While Godwin admits that, "it's just so strange that he's not growing old with me and my other brother," she will always remember Loggins as not only being the tough and serious stereotypical Marine, but also as her sweet little brother – kind hearted, a fisherman and chess player who liked to draw and was very witty.

"When people ask me, they always say, 'How's your mom?' and 'How's your dad?'" Godwin said. "I always think, 'This was devastating to me too.'"

A lot of people don't always appreciate what a loss it is to your family."

Time helped to heal the loss of her brother, but it's a love and loss that will never completely go away for Godwin, who offered the following advice for other Gold Star family members.

"Don't be afraid to reach out to the people who are willing to listen to you, and to find a meaningful outlet, like running or yoga or drawing, something to distract yourself and find some peace. There's a lot of things that can take that place," she said. "Running has given me that balance."

Veterans remember fallen friends, comrades

Veterans home honors heroes

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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While "Taps" always inspires a moment of silence, its solemn notes are especially poignant to those who have served – and those who have lost.

Although inclement weather kept everyone indoors, it did not dissuade residents, family and staff from gathering at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home Monday for the home's annual Memorial Day remembrance. The crowd spilled out into the hallway as tribute was paid to friends and colleagues no longer with them. Brig. Gen.

Photo by Katie Davis Skelley

Expeditionary Contracting Command's Brig. Gen. Michael Hoskin addresses the crowd at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home's Memorial Day remembrance.

Michael Hoskin, Expeditionary Contracting Command commander, was the guest speaker.

"Today is a day of reflections and remembrance ... while we pause to honor the fallen, let us not forget the sacrifice of those left behind," said Hoskin, whose



parents were also both servicemembers.

Hats were removed and tears were shed as staff members Charlotte Eason and Belinda Schrimsher read off the names of the veterans who had passed the previous year:

Joe Magnusson, Mary Shellnutt, Elmer Harris, Fred McDonald, William Neely, Maynard Pless, George Wright, Eldred Bourne, Charles Whitfield, Robert McCurley, Fred Aldridge, James Maxwell, Charles Hardy, George Redmond, James Carter, Robert Belew, E.K. Brinkley, Billy Stubblefield, Billie Holaway, James Wright, Lawrence Morton, William Kelly, Kerry Casey,

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Photo by Katie Davis Skelley

A display dedicated to all prisoners of war stands in the entrance of the veterans home.

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Command celebrates scholastic accomplishments

By MEGAN GULLY

AMC Public Affairs

As the school year drew to an end, Brig. Gen. Ed Daly, deputy chief of staff of the Army Materiel Command, traveled to University Place Elementary School to praise the students' hard work in their afterschool program May 19.

The engagement was part of the command's Adopt a School program, which was revitalized this year. Throughout the school year AMC employees spent one hour a week at University Place tutoring and mentoring students.

"Believe in yourself and dream big," Daly told the nearly 30 students. "If you work hard every day and make smart choices, there is no limit to what you can accomplish."

University Place's motto is "Where choices

matter." And Daly echoed that as he shared his secrets to success and praised the students for setting a good example for their classmates and siblings.

"You should always set the example," he said. "Others are always watching to see how hard you work and what you've achieved. Through that, you are inspiring them to do the same and becoming a role model."

The students worked one-on-one with mentors throughout the community including AMC, Village of Promise and local churches.

"I liked being a part of the program," said Jaquez Kelly, a University Place fifth-grader. "I really liked working with my mentor, who helped me with my homework and study for tests."

Daly presented the students certificates. And following his last words of advice "to take time to have fun," the group had a party.



Photo by Megan Gully

At the end of the year party, AMC's Brig. Gen. Ed Daly congratulates the students of University Place's afterschool program for their hard work.

Fann

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Fred Moffitt, Richard Shoulders, Alphonse Fournier, Theo Calvin, Verle Hill, Fred Duke, Buford Garner, Estel Lowe, Joseph Lee, Joseph Kerr, Harvey Johnson, Melvin Jones, James Cobb,

Roger Reed, John Word, Roger Larson, William Phillips, Forney Weeks, William Forbes, Ralph Smith, Theron McCluskey, Johnny Tona, Richard Kelly, John Morris, Thomas Moon, Robert Williams, R.T. Acker, Russell Edgerton, William Guillebeau, Nancy Huff, James Campbell, John Steakley, Benny Hamilton, Preston McLaughlin, Pettis

Mix, Stanley Manker, Thomas Wills, Gertrude Sparks, Nolan Bragg, Harvey Foster, James Lowery, William Harris, Phillip Lurie, Floyce Bridges, Rubert Posey, Robert Johnson, Robert Brown, Willis Branton, Robert Wyne, Donald Parker, James Williams, Roger Jensen, Robert Henderson, Earnest Brown, J.D. Matthews and William McCrory.

Upon completion of the list, "Taps" was played in honor of the veterans.

Hoskin offered words of comfort to those present, finishing his remarks with a quote from a fellow Army general, George Patton.

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

AMC Band welcomes senior enlisted Soldier

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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While they provide world-class musicianship both on and off post, they are still first and foremost Soldiers.

Which is why members of the Army Materiel Command Band, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, were chosen to lead the physical training exercises for visiting 15th Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey. Not an easy task when you have the youngest sergeant major of the Army in history – and one who is serious about fitness.

Band drummer Staff Sgt. Jeremy Baharloui had read an article about Dailey in the “Army Times” a couple of months before the visit that mentioned his commitment to physical fitness and knew that they would need to bring their best to the PT exercises. He led a larger-than-normal group of 60 through strenuous prep drills and interval training, but Dailey had a surprise for the group – what he called the “SMA Challenge,” an impromptu run through Redstone Arsenal to cap off the PT. In addition to that, Staff Sgt. Kathryn Beyer, a bassoonist

for the band and avid swimmer, led the pool PT for the group.

“I am used to working with Soldiers who can barely swim,” Beyer said. “So dealing with people who are strong swimmers was a definite challenge.”

The band in its different incarnations also performed for Dailey at both a luncheon at The Overlook and at the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army National Conference Dinner, where Dailey was the keynote speaker. As they do for many of their performances, they solicited musical requests. What they received was a little off the beaten path for Spc. Andrew Noble, sousaphone player for the band, and leader of the music arrangement team. However, they were up to the challenge and impressed Dailey with the AMC Band’s Big Bang Brass Band interpretation of one of his favorite songs, “Sail,” by electronic rock band AWOLNATION.

“We have all of this music and we



Photo by Bryan Bacon

The Army Materiel Band’s jazz combo performs at the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army National Conference Dinner May 6 in Huntsville. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey was the keynote speaker for the event.

want to perform the music that people like,” Noble said. “The high-profile gigs are more stressful but the group was really excited to play for (Dailey).”

In addition to the PT and performances, the band members had the opportunity to ask Dailey questions during the Q&A at the luncheon, where they were impressed by his knowledge and

how “every question was important to him,” Baharloui said.

“It was an honor to hear him speak,” Beyer said. “He has some great ideas and I am excited to see how he implements them.”

The band is embarking on their summer music series and the next several months will be busy ones for their 10 different musical groups as they perform across the community. Whether they play for dignitaries or shoppers at Bridge Street Town Centre, Baharloui, Noble and Beyer agree that their favorite performances are the ones where the audience is excited about the music.

“Part of being a professional musician is bringing 100 percent to every performance,” Noble said.

To learn more about the AMC Band and their summer concert series, visit their website, www.amc.army.mil/amc/band.html.

Utility helicopter golf benefit raises \$14K

By **SOPIA BLEDSOE**

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Utility Helicopters Project Office's annual golf tournament Thursday for Army Emergency Relief was its most successful ever.

Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for Utility Helicopters, presented a \$14,000 check at the Links. He thanked all the supporters, including the defense industry partners who helped raise about \$4,000 more than last year.

"Without you, we really couldn't make this happen," Todd said.

He discussed the opportunity the organization has each year to give back to those that operate and maintain the Army's aviation fleet and to and the men and women in uniform that make sacrifices every day. On the eve of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, Todd asked the group to hold in their hearts the true meaning of this special day of remembrance.

"There are a lot of folks overseas that do great work that you never hear about," he said. "Remember the Soldiers that

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

With the \$14,000 check for Army Emergency Relief are, from left, Capt. Chris Colbert, Headquarters and Headquarters company commander for the Aviation and Missile Command; Maj. Bryan Riddle, assistant product manager for the UH-60M Black Hawk; and Col. Thomas Todd, Utility Helicopters project manager.

we have in harm's way today. Remember that we have men and women right there in Baghdad, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Honduras – you name it. There are many folks deployed that never ask for any credit. There are many people you'll never know of who serve our nation and do what they do so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have every day.

"Carry that message if you would, in your communities, because they need to hear it."

The organization's charity event drew 36 teams and 144 golfers. Maj. Bryan Riddle, assistant deputy product manager for the UH-60M Black Hawk, led the campaign for the project office.

Industry partners that contributed



to the fundraiser included VT Aepeco, PeopleTec, Tecolote, Quantitech, Iron Mountain, FLIR, Hitachi (Celerant), Yulista, Wyle/CAS, General Electric,

Bonham Technologies Inc., Airbus/EADS, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Intuitive, Northrop Grumman, SESI, and S&S Logix.

Senior service fellowship grads meet challenge

Ten civilians honored during commencement

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Ten Army civilians are better equipped for leadership positions after the past year.

They completed the 10-month Senior Service College Fellowship program at Defense Acquisition University, South Region. The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2015 was held May 19 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"We're here to celebrate 10 senior government Army civilians that have gone through a pretty tough 10-month journey," John Daniels, Huntsville director for the fellowship program, said. There have now been 88 graduates since the program began in 2007.

Retired Maj. Gen. Charlie Cartwright, the commencement speaker, congratulated this year's graduates and encouraged them to overcome any fears about their future endeavors.

"So, I challenge you to raise the bar higher," Cartwright said.

Class leader Greg Snowden, deputy for Missile Defense and Space Systems Project Office within the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, thanked the Defense Acquisition University, its senior leadership



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Members of the Class of 2015 for the Senior Service College Fellowship program gather after the commencement ceremony May 19 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

and the instructors "for making our experience at SSCF a truly positive journey."

"It was a real challenge," Snowden said of the 10-month program. "We were given the opportunity to hone our leadership and acquisition skills, a chance to reflect and look at ourselves and see where we may need to make improvements and make those improvements."

Fellow graduate Donna Ragucci, chief of the small business office for the Aviation and Missile Command,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Graduates waiting to go onstage during the SSCF commencement include, from left, Donna Ragucci, class leader Greg Snowden and Tim Vinson.

recommends GS-14s and GS-15s take advantage of this training opportunity.

"It really was the best experience I've ever had educationally and professionally," she said. "The Army needs great leaders and this program develops and supports those endeavors."

The Class of 2015 graduates include Snowden, Ragucci, Tim Vinson, William Papich, Melinda Marinello, Thuan Khong, David Kemmerer, Larry Gunter, Sam Chard and Jeff Burnett.

Executive resilience course arrives at test center

By **MARILYN CAIN**
Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

Redstone Test Center has conducted an Executive Resilience and Performance Course in partnership with Team Redstone.

John Gaddy, training center manager, and Nicholas Fuller, master resilience trainers from the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Training Center in Fort Stewart, Georgia, presented course material to more than 50 Redstone Arsenal military and civilian personnel April 21.

The four-hour course was designed to educate Army leaders, both military and civilian, of resilience and performance skills as part of the Army's Ready and Resiliency effort.

Although this class was mandatory for RTC leadership, it wasn't something that Capt. John Plitsch, experimental test pilot for the Aviation Flight Test Directorate, looked forward to.



RTC photo

Nicholas Fuller, master resilience trainer-performance expert, and John Gaddy, training center manager, instruct Redstone Arsenal leaders on the Ready and Resilient Campaign.

"Well it's easy to sigh when you are pressed to step away from your daily duties to attend another mandatory training event. However, this campaign has proven to be more than mere touchy-feely 'psychobabble,'" Plitsch said.

Gaddy and Fuller provided a course overview and led a discussion on Master Resilience Training Competencies and Resilience and Performance Skills. In addition, the team instructed attendees on the skills: Hunt the Good Stuff, Goal Setting and Active Constructive Responding. Attendees included both military and civilians from the Missile Defense Agency, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the Garrison and RTC.

"In all of my CSF2 training opportunities, the instructors have portrayed themselves as thoroughly trained, well-versed, and genuinely committed to the material, which is based on decades of scientific studies and results," Plitsch said.

He said presenters often have decades of military experience and/or impressive credentials (i.e., sport psychology consultant), which gives them added credibility when presenting.

"These professionals had a sincere desire to improve the resilience and enhance the performance of our Army's most important assets, the people," he said. Plitsch said he believes, as with any self-reflection, most anyone can find areas for improvement whether in his or her spiritual life, family interactions, physical fitness or emotional stability and this class provided concepts that could be applied to them all.

"It is easy to see the benefits of this campaign," Plitsch said. "You are never done improving, and the need to be ready and resilient is enduring."

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**AVIATION COMMUNITY HONORS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT
PILOT STAYS ON COURSE FROM GEORGIA FARM TO WAR**

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Aviation community honors subject matter expert

By **SOPIA BLEDSOE**

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers.

Rick Isaacs, who has dedicated 33 years of his career and life to Army aviation, is one of the exceptional individuals in the defense industry recently recognized and presented with this honor at a local ceremony in the Sikorsky office May 20.

Isaacs has been widely regarded in the acquisition community as the subject matter expert on integrated master scheduling and was sought after not only by Sikorsky where he spent most of his career, but also by the Army.

He was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease about a year ago and has since been a strong advocate to support others with ALS disease in the Huntsville area. Last year he organized a team that raised more than \$60,000 to help find a cure for ALS.

"To say that you're appreciated is the biggest understatement that I could pos-



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe, PEO Aviation

Rick Isaacs receives the Knight of the Honorable Order of St. Michael award from Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for Utility Helicopters and outgoing senior vice president for the Army Aviation Association of America Tennessee Valley Chapter. Isaacs was honored by his friends and peers during a gathering at the Sikorsky office in Huntsville, Ala. on May 20.

sible make," said Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for Utility Helicopters within the Program Executive Office for Aviation who presented Isaacs with the Knight of the Honorable Order of St.

Michael award as the outgoing senior vice president for the Army Aviation Association of America Tennessee Valley Chapter. Todd talked about the influence Isaacs has made in Army aviation, adding that "Each time we talk about a contract, we talk about things that are really your lineage, your fingerprint, and how do we do it right."

"You have nothing but the best reputation, and a sincere and proud history with the U.S. Army. You made sure all the pieces fit together."

As the maker of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Sikorsky Aircraft leaned on Isaacs tremendously for his knowledge and expertise. "Rick came to us in manufacture and engineering with a degree in civil engineering," said Jeff Hanke, program manager for the UH-60M Black Hawk at Sikorsky Aircraft. "Anybody who has been in the factory and starts at manufacture and engineering knows that the rubber hits the road at manufacture and engineering." Isaacs was responsible for showing the company exactly how a part that the engineers had designed would fit into the aircraft.

"He has been from the ground up growing his expertise in integrated master scheduling in our company," Hanke

added. "Virtually no major scheduling happened that didn't have Rick's fingerprints on it."

A native of Connecticut, Isaacs moved his family from the area after a decision was made to establish a joint Boeing-Sikorsky office in early 2000 to support the Comanche program in Huntsville. Although the Comanche program was eventually canceled, Isaacs' attention to detail and commitment to the Army customer did not go unseen.

During the Armed Aerial Scout request for information, the Army team looked to Isaacs for his expertise in building a schedule that would allow for two competitors to go to the Preliminary Design Review phase and then compete for a Low Rate Initial Production decision. Isaacs built the schedule and the Army team used it to brief higher level leadership.

Isaacs again established himself as the subject matter expert on integrated master schedules, when he built and briefed the Taiwan, Foreign Military Sales, program integrated master schedule for more than 40 aircraft. The first four aircraft were delivered within a day of the planned schedule, a feat seldom realized

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Photos by Thomas Voight, PEO Aviation

Aviation community honors

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Starr receives the Honorable Order of St. Michael, Bronze Award from Gary Nenner, right, president of the Army Aviation Association of America, Tennessee Valley Chapter, at Starr's retirement

ceremony May 14. Over his 24-year military career, Starr worked on, trained, supervised and managed the maintenance of more than 12 Mission Design Series Army helicopter types. His tours have taken him all over the U.S. and overseas participating in numerous training exercises; and he was deployed to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He holds a Master Aircraft Crewmember Wings, Air Assault badge and the Driver and Mechanics badge (wheeled vehicle). Starr last served as the Force Modernization non-commissioned officer in the Aviation Ground Support Equipment product office within the Program Executive Office for Aviation. In the other photo, Starr's wife, Christy, receives the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto award from Nenner,



Pilot stays on course from Georgia farm to war



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Randy Flisak, director of internal review and auditing for the Army Materiel Command, was a Marine helicopter pilot in Vietnam from 1964-70, covering four tours.

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Much of what Vietnam veteran Randy Flisak would become can be traced to his childhood. He learned the importance of hard work while growing up on a farm in Sylvania, Georgia. He developed a love of flying as a 5-year-old on county fair flights. And he became a Marine because a Marine Corps recruiter lived across the street.

He is still the easygoing, smiling, thoughtful person he was as a boy. He did what he had to do as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam but he keeps his heroic past to himself, unless asked about it. Like the chores he used to do on the 1,800-acre Georgia farm, he goes to work each day at the headquarters Army Materiel Command as the director of internal review and auditing for AMC worldwide.

But of course things tend to change with time. Flisak's call sign in Vietnam was "Thin Man" because at 6-foot-2 he was a skinny 158 pounds. Now he's slightly shorter, 6-1, and weighs 210.

"I flew over 800 missions in Vietnam," he said. "And I had over 1,300 hours of combat flying."

Flisak served in Vietnam from 1964-70, a combined four tours. He was wounded three times. He received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, an Air Medal with "V" device for valor and perhaps as many as 80 other combat-related Air Medals.

When he first went to Vietnam in early 1964, he spent six months on Special Operations assignment in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. He flew helicopters the rest of his combat tours with multiple units, including the 1st Marine Air Wing and the 3rd Marine Air Wing. He operated out of Da Nang, Phu Bai, Chu Lai, Pleiku, Quan Tri and Khe Sanh.

Of his many medevac missions, one was particularly memorable. A Marine had stepped into a booby trap, a "bear trap." Flisak was called to run a medevac mission and told en route it was a Marine with a bear trap locked around his ankle.

"I thought the Ops NCO was pulling my leg as I flew to the AO for the

Vietnam revisited *Part 20 in series*

evac. 'Charlie' was innovative when it comes to booby traps; this time, he had rigged the device so it took a special key to release the jaws – or in this case, a Marine as the victim," Flisak recalled. "Come to find out, that the young Marine stepped onto the trap tripping the jaws causing them to clamp shut around his left ankle. During attempts to release him, the need for this special key was discovered – no key was available for his release.

"As I touched down onto the LZ (landing zone), the Marine, with his foot still in the bear trap that was attached via a chain to a concrete slab, was loaded on my chopper. The device was chained to a concrete slab in 3 feet of earth – the Marines had to dig the slab up in order for me to evacuate

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Knight

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even on smaller programs. His long and arduous work on the integrated master schedule for the Combat Rescue Helicopter resulted in the ability for Sikorsky to move forward with building a new version of the Black Hawk for the Air Force and eventually apply some of the

new additions to the Army's fleet.

"It is quite an honor to work my career with Sikorsky aircraft my 33 years," Isaacs said. Although he had some forays with the Navy and Air Force, Isaac said his heart was always with Army aviation and he dedicated 90 percent of his career to support the Army aviator and the ground Soldiers.

"It's a great thing to try to pull two people together for a common goal, and

that's what I've tried to do all my career is to integrate. Integrate programs and integrate people. And in the end, you end up with a good product. I want to thank you all for being a part of that," he said.

After being presented the Knight OSM medal and certificate from Todd on behalf of AAAA, Isaacs reflected on his career and the moments that really mattered.

"This means so much to me," Isaacs

said. "It really means a lot. I know this is a very special award."

In addition to having raised funds for the ALS charity in Huntsville, Isaacs is also a member of the ALS board and travels to Washington, D.C. seeking supporting for funding to help explore a cure for ALS. He has been a lifelong active volunteer in the Huntsville community, supporting other charity and nonprofit organizations.

Veteran

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him back to Da Nang for medical treatment. When I landed at Da Nang, a doctor, Navy corpsman and Marines with hacksaws and cutting torches were also standing by to cut the jaws of the trap from the Marine's leg."

He earned the Silver Star for heroism while participating in an aerial rescue flight during his third tour. On Dec. 22, 1967, Flisak received the mission to fly a medical evacuation of seriously wounded Marines engaged in heavy conflict with Viet Cong in the vicinity south of Chu Lai. On arrival south of Chu Lai, the aircraft began taking small arms fire but Flisak and his crew continued to search for the landing zone. After landing they had

to dismount the helicopter to assist the wounded Marines aboard. Once everyone was on board, Flisak tried to take off but the added weight wouldn't allow him. Meanwhile, the aircraft and the Marines continued to take on small arms fire from the opposition. Eventually, the aircraft lifted saving everyone involved except one. Flisak lost his door gunner in that mission; and his aircraft had more than 70 bullet holes. Besides the Silver Star, Flisak also earned a Purple Heart for this incident. He took a round to his hip, not remembering exactly how and when it happened due to the adrenaline.

Flisak, 71, served 14 years in the Marines before leaving in 1973 to join the Army Reserve. He retired from the Army Reserve in 2005 as a chief warrant officer 4, receiving the equivalent of a colonel's pay. He had 44 years in uniform and so far 28 years in civilian service. For the past 12 years, he has also taught for the Graduate School USA in Washing-

ton, which he said will become his fourth career when he retires from AMC.

He still enjoys flying and he owns two vintage aircraft, a 1954 Piper Cub and a 1975 Cessna Centurion 210. He owns his future retirement home in Gallatin, Tennessee. Besides flying, his hobbies include scuba diving, sport shooting, collecting weapons, horseback riding and reading.

He and his wife of 44 years, Donna, a retired teacher, have a son Lennie, 39, of Madison, a daughter Valerie Newton, 41, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and two grandchildren.

"I think it's a great thing," Flisak said of this country's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War. "For the recognition that was long overdue."

Editor's note: This is the 20th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

AMC commander gives update on events, priorities

By **CHERISH T. GILMORE**
AMC Public Affairs

The commander of Army Materiel Command addressed his workforce in-person and around the world via video teleconferencing in a Global Town Hall May 20.

Some 125 sites connected to hear Gen. Dennis Via's review of the command's past six months, the path ahead and his enduring priorities.

Since the last town hall in November 2014, AMC has hosted and participated in forums such as the Small Business Outreach and the Association of the U.S. Army's Global Force Symposium. The command hosted three Department of the Army senior leaders including the 38th chief of staff, and facilitated the transition of two AMC leaders and welcomed a new deputy commander.

"Visitors are impressed with the people and the passion for the work that they were doing," Via said. "I receive all these compliments and it makes me proud. Thank you for what you do each and every day."

Via emphasized that these high-level visits help build support for AMC.

"I often hear the words 'I had no idea,'" said Via, regarding recent VIP visits to organ-

ic industrial base facilities where AMC manufactures and resets the military's equipment.

In addition to all the meetings and visits, AMC is as busy as ever being globally responsive and regionally engaged in support of the joint force.

AMC has continued to support operations and exercises worldwide, building and maintaining activity sets, and resetting everything from tanks, helicopters and gun tubes to small arms.

"Nearly 40 percent of the enabling capability to combatant commanders is provided by the U.S. Army," Via said referring to efforts like medical support, logistics and communications. "Our Army cannot accomplish its mission without what you do each and every day."

He also addressed a few of his enduring priorities such as Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention, safety and people.

On SHARP, AMC's number one priority, Via said that he reviews every incident report and he built the sergeant major of the Army's "Not in my squad" message by saying "Not in my organization."

Via said it's all about changing the culture. "We are charging people; we are doing investigations. And zero tolerance means zero tolerance."



AMC photo

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, addresses a Global Town Hall audience May 20 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Resource management office fired up about Army audit

By **GISELLE LYONS**
Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

The Army Contracting Command Deputy Chief of Staff Resource Management G8 office is "FIAR'd up.

They kicked off the command's audit readiness campaign with a Schedule of Budgetary Activities Audit Awareness social May 7. FIAR – Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness – is the mission of ACC's Governance, Review and Compliance Committee to oversee and direct the command's preparedness to achieve and sustain audit readiness. May 11 would see their hard work come to fruition as the audit began, according to Tyrus Edwards, ACC Systems and Accounting Branch, Resource Management, G8.

"The ACC Audit Readiness Team has gone the extra mile ... conducted on-site visits with all the centers and commands and have worked diligently to ensure corrective actions are in place and procedures and processes are implemented in preparation for the independent public accounting firm testing," said Belinda

Gemme, deputy chief of staff, G8. "The ACC command-wide team has set the conditions for success."

ACC has a dual role in audit readiness, acting as both an independent fund center and as providing contracting support to other financial entities under the Department of Defense, Edwards said. ACC provides contracting support to nearly 70 percent of the Army. This work does not go unrecognized, he added.

Maj. Gen. Ted Harrison, ACC commanding general, said financial improvement and audit readiness are ACC strategic priorities.

"Audit readiness matters," Harrison said. "Ultimately, accountability and audit readiness are inherent to the Army's mission because they allow us to better support the war fighter through better management of Army resources. Audit readiness is not a new requirement or mission, but rather an effort to enable and embed audit readiness as part of our standard business practice. We don't want to lose sight of this vitally important effort. We've done tremendous work to get to this point. We have

to keep ACC FIAR'd up."

"The key to success is commanders' ownership," said Isaac Brown, the FIAR GRC chairman, G8. "It's an enterprise effort and a team sport. Accountability and audit readiness leads to a stronger Army, ACC's ability to better support war fighting, and achieving a positive audit opinion, which proves we're responsible stewards of taxpayers' dollars."

This is the first time the Army is being audited by an independent public accounting firm. The SBA audit will last through Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2015.

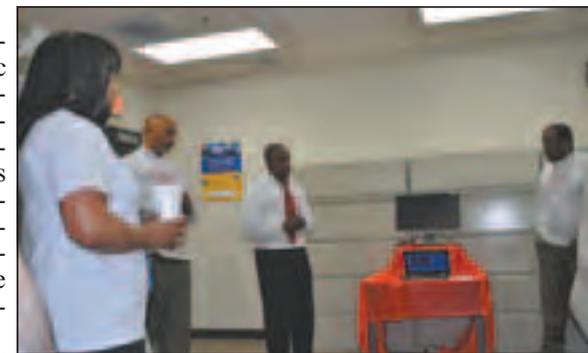


Photo by Giselle Lyons

Isaac Brown, chairman of Army Contracting Command's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Governance, Review, and Compliance Committee, explains the audit to the ACC workforce during a FIAR'd Up open house.

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Contracting team visits security enterprise in Saudi

By **ADRIANE FOSS**
USASAC Public Affairs

An Army Contracting Command team gave contracting operations at the Office of the Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program the thumbs-up during an April 14-17 visit to Eskan Village in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ACC deputy commander Mike Hutchison, ACC Rock Island executive director Melanie Johnson and ACC deputy director for contracting operations Jason Detko spoke with personnel and reviewed processes to ensure OPM-SANG contracting personnel are able to execute what Detko called a “unique and challenging” contracting mission.

He said contracting personnel in Saudi Arabia are resourced through OPM-SANG, but they receive their procurement authority from ACC-RI.

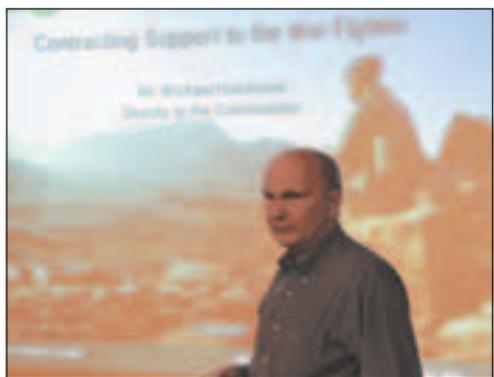
“Our visit verified that the contracting office is in lock-step with the requiring activity,” Detko said. “The visit also confirmed that the contracting office management and program manager were absolutely taking care of our most valuable asset – the contracting workforce.”

While the personnel are pleased with operations at Eskan Village, Detko said maintaining adequate personnel can be challenging due to the office’s remote location.

To make sure the mission is properly executed, Detko said both ACC headquarters and ACC-RI will “ensure the personnel, policy and contract execution concerns of the OPM SANG Contracting Office receive the utmost attention from the highest echelons of Army leadership.”

In addition to the support the contracting personnel receive from the OPM-SANG program manager, Detko is hoping ongoing renovations will improve quality of life for the contracting personnel stationed at Eskan Village.

OPM-SANG’s G4 is conducting office villa renovations, the biggest infrastructure



Courtesy photo

ACC deputy commander Mike Hutchison briefs the OPM-SANG workforce on contract support to war fighters during a town hall at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia.

improvement project to date at Eskan Village. The project is expected to cost \$7.6M and will renovate 27 villas in six phases.

“Quality of life is a major factor in retaining personnel, maintaining morale and productivity,” said Shubhashis Chakravarty, OPM-SANG’s chief of the Facilities and Housing Branch. “Eskan Village is a remote location in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, far away from home. Access to outside activities are limited and can be cumbersome due to security.”

Chakravarty said when overseas living and work conditions mirror those in the states, it provides a sense of familiarity and normalcy to deployed military and civilian members.

Renovations are scheduled for completion in late 2016.

Detko said last month’s visit to Saudi Arabia gave his organization the assurance they needed that the contract execution mission is on track and personnel have the tools and support in place to successfully accomplish that mission.

“We observed that the morale of the personnel working in the contracting office was extremely high,” he said, “and they had a concrete connection to the mission of the PM and the Saudi National Guard.”

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Career on rise

Lt. Col. Kelvin Graves, deputy program manager, Space Division, Space and Strategic Systems Directorate, Technical Center, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, receives his new rank from his wife, Thayda, and Brig. Gen. Neil Thurgood, program executive officer for missiles and space, during a ceremony May 15.



Huntsville Center logistics team commits to serve

By JO ANITA MILEY

Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
Public Affairs

The Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center's Logistics Management Office is responsible for managing more than 182,831 square feet of office space that houses 931 employees at five locations. Although quite a challenge at times, the team aims to provide seamless logistics support within the organization.

Part of the USACE Logistics Activity at Millington, Tennessee, Huntsville Center's LMO is responsible for three core programs: Facility Management and Preventive Maintenance Management, Command and Supply Discipline, Transportation and Fleet Management and Warehouse Management.

Fermin Feria, chief, Huntsville Center's Logistics Office, said he and his staff have one goal in mind, to provide optimal customer service. Feria has led the logistics group since 2011. He said he wants the workforce to know his staff and understand their functions in order to better serve the organization.

USACE has several regions and each region has several districts, each with a different mission. His team, part of the South Atlantic Division region in Atlanta, provides support to Huntsville Center and the USACE Learning Center.

Although equal attention is given to each facet of the logistics programs, Feria said his team has to address space management issues more than anything else. Christopher Robbins, facilities manager, leads the center's Space Management and Preventive Maintenance Management Program.

Robbins' duties include initiating an annual Space Utilization and Management assessment to make sure individual office space at the center is allocated correctly according to an employee's rank, position and whether they are a supervisor. This can become a challenge when addressing



Courtesy photo

This is the main building for the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

any special safety requirements or disability concerns, Feria said.

The Logistics Team also provides oversight for overtime utilities, renovation and work order projects at the facility.

"This oversight includes making sure our elevators, dock areas and fire safety equipment is all in good working conditions and performing quarterly safety inspections," Feria said. "Also, in our building lease we have a set amount of dollars for utilities for normal hours of operation. At certain times all power goes out and air conditioning is turned off in the building. So it's important that we know in advance when a team is working outside of normal work hours for a certain time frame."

Feria said the Command and Supply Discipline Program is the team's most robust program and consists of property accountability, property inventory and hand receipt reconciliations. This program, managed by supply specialists Camille Hodge and Michael Trone, encompasses a property book value of more than \$5.7 million, the second largest within South Atlantic Division and USACE.

"One of our toughest jobs has been to get a handle on all our assets," Feria said. "We conduct 100 percent inventory, annually to help with this problem. Our success in this area is often guided by our supervisors and hand receipt holders assuming responsibility for these tasks. We want to avoid having to initiate a Financial Liability Investigation of Lost Property or Disposition of Equipment in the event we cannot locate an item on our property books or an item becomes obsolete, respectively." Trone said changing the mindset of an organization to stress the importance of property accountability is vital to success. The property management group communicates with hand-receipt holders on a daily basis to better assist customers with managing their assets.

"Camille and I have done a lot in regard to property accountability in the past year to make sure property sub-hand receipts are at the user level," Trone said. "However, there is still a lot more work to do. It's extremely difficult to keep up with assets if you don't do smaller assessments along the way to make sure there is 100 percent accountability. Everyone has a role making this program successful."

Feria said facility maintenance and property accountability are not the only challenges the Logistics Team faces, they must also make sure the employee's transportation needs are met. Huntsville Center owns one vehicle and leases eight government vehicles through the General Services Administration's Government Lease Program.

"Christopher is our lead for this action," Feria said. "We get the GSA vehicles

based on our mission and vehicle utilization. USACE is now pushing a presidential mandate to utilize fuel efficient vehicles (hybrid, electric and flex fuel) so as the government fleet downsizes, conventional fuel vehicles will be replaced with alternative fuel counterparts. We currently have five flex-fuel vehicles in our fleet. We'll turn in these vehicles in order to gain 100 percent alternative-fueled fleet by 2016. The fleet vehicles cost an average of \$50,000 per year so we want to continue to keep these costs low."

According to Feria, Huntsville Center employees must possess a valid state driver's license and have completed the Army's Driver Safety Course within five years in order to check out a government vehicle for use on local or temporary duty assignment travel.

"Employees should email requests for use of a government vehicle one week in advance," Feria said. "We can advise them on the availability of vehicles and estimate their travel needs according to the size of their group and their destination. We are also developing an automated dispatch system to better serve employees in this area."

Feria said ultimately he wants to raise awareness on the services. He needs the Huntsville workforce to help with this effort.

"We want to make sure everyone at Huntsville Center knows who we are and what we do here. Keep us in the loop when making logistic decisions. We (LMO) work together as team to serve our customers and provide the best possible customer service," Feria said.

Huntsville Center gets update on fellows program

By WILLIAM S. FARROW

*Engineering and Support Center,
Huntsville Public Affairs*

Directorate and division supervisors from throughout Huntsville Center gathered May 20 to hear Kristi Crear, Corps of Engineers program manager for Civilian Career Program 18, discuss development and training opportunities, as well as programs to hire new employees in the construction engineering and science fields.

During the session, Crear spoke in depth and answered questions focused on Pathways Internship Program and the Presidential Management Fellows Program.

Dan Heinzelman, Huntsville Center business manager, said face-to-face time with Crear is important because the center's mission demands a specialized and highly technical skill set.

"Our history has shown that utilizing a mixture of these programs is the optimal method for our managers to develop the

specialized skills and grow well-rounded employees," Heinzelman said. "As the headquarters representative, Crear is at the tip of the spear for these programs and is the best person to pass on the latest information to our managers, field questions and share our challenges and most importantly carry our message back to headquarters in order to potentially impact these programs for the future."

One of the programs Crear intently focused on during the session is the Presidential Management Fellows program.

"The USACE CP 18 program is tasked to hire 50 PMFs in fiscal year 2016, and I believe because of the highly technical work performed here at Huntsville Center, the program is perfect for gaining the right employees that the center needs," Crear said.

The program, established by Executive Order in 1977, attracts graduate students from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths into federal service.

Agency supervisors and hiring officials

can hire fellows at the GS-9 level (although agencies can initially hire at the GS-9 through 12, or equivalent).

As a fellow, the individual is an established student performing graduate-level academics or a recent graduate with a master's degree. A great benefit of the program is that, once hired, they perform a two-year fellowship within the career field and often stay on with the agency that hired them.

This is an advantage in succession planning as opposed to the popular Pathways Program, which takes undergraduates from entry level to mid-level management positions, but also requires the person fill in other Armywide positions after graduation.

Bernard Givan, Commercial Utility Program manager, said the PMF program is exactly what he needs to bring someone on board who will grow with the CUP.

"It's hard to get people from the private utility sector to work for the government," Givan said. "The PMF program is perfect because that way we can hire them, train



Courtesy photo

Kristi Crear, Corps of Engineers program manager for Civilian Career Program 18, takes questions from Huntsville Center supervisors regarding the Presidential Management Fellows program May 20 at the center.

them and keep them and that's exactly what the CUP needs."

Team's seasonal icing test for aircraft thaws

By KATIE STARCK

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

After a year's effort, the Redstone Test Center's Icing Team has completed its icing test on Italian helicopter, Agusta-Westland 189, in Marquette, Michigan.

Since 1973, RTC has been conducting icing testing on both military and civil aircraft for the national and international aircraft communities.

To receive certification to fly in icing conditions, all aircraft must undergo ice testing, which requires test flights in various cold weather conditions and temperatures ranging from zero to minus-25 degrees Celsius.

One weather condition routinely tested is an aircraft's ability to fly through clouds with varying liquid water content, explained James Correia, RTC experimental test pilot.

"To test the aircraft, our team not only

uses natural icing conditions to meet those requirements, but it also employs the Helicopter Icing Spray System to generate an ice cloud artificially," Correia said. To do this, an Army CH-47D is configured with a 1,800 gallon water tank and a spray boom that is capable of making a cloud 36 feet wide and 12 feet high.

"The boom enables us to regulate the amount of water the cloud contains. The water content of the cloud is configurable using onboard equipment that enables our customers to test against and accomplish all required data points for icing certification," Correia said. "The team must then rely on Mother Nature to provide the temperatures, relative humidity and smooth air to conduct the testing."

To ensure the cloud characterization and water content are correct for each test point, the team uses probes placed on the wingtip of an aircraft to sample the ele-

ments of the cloud.

A RTC team, of aircraft mechanics, test support personnel and flight test engineers, deploys with the test team to ensure customers receive all of the required data.

Always thinking of safety first, working in these frigid temperatures requires extra training in order to mitigate additional risks associated with cold environment testing.

"Conducting operations in cold weather is nothing new to anyone who has served in places like Alaska, Korea or Germany," Correia said. "The challenge is that not all the team members have experience working in cold weather environments. Therefore, RTC conducts training for all personnel assigned to the icing team so they understand the nature, cause, identification and preventive measures pertaining to cold injuries."

After months in the frigid temperatures of Marquette, Correia and the rest of the test



RTC photo

Redstone Test Center's icing team creates an artificial ice cloud over the skies of Marquette, Mich., in order to put the AW-189 to the test in icing conditions.

team are happy to enjoy the spring weather of Alabama.

Leave the vacation planning to travel agent

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Special section editor

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While vacation by its very definition is meant for relaxation, by the time the planning is done, combined with the inevitable stress and unexpected surprises that can accompany travel, a vacation can be anything but relaxing.

Enter Jamie Godfrey-Fanning.

As the senior travel clerk for FMWR's Leisure Travel Office, Godfrey-Fanning's very livelihood revolves around taking the stress out of vacation planning for anyone with access to the installation, all free of charge, with the exception of booking airline travel.

"If someone is trying to do a really simple, straightforward trip, they know exactly what they want and they can find it online, some people will just book it online themselves," Godfrey-Fanning said. "But most people who come in here say they've tried to do it online and they're getting overwhelmed, it's confusing, it's complicated. They just need to have someone sit them down and say, 'This is what we'll do,' and plan it out for

them, so they don't have to deal with any of it."

The full-service travel agency can assist individuals and families with booking cruises, all-inclusive resorts, escort guided tours, rental cars, hotels, train tickets and more. Godfrey-Fanning will meet with the travelers to get their thoughts on where they want to go and when, as well as their budget, and any activities they might enjoy or not enjoy. From there, she'll research, check out reviews and get feedback from previous customers, before presenting a few options to her clients, who can meet with her as often or as little as they need, depending on their individual needs.

Godfrey-Fanning offered the following tips for travelers when it comes to planning their vacation:

- Know what you want.

Do you want to stay in the United States or travel abroad? Have fun in the outdoors or stick more to the museums and famous landmarks? "The first step that they need to do is really just sit down, talk with the people they're traveling with and get some ideas of what they're looking for," Godfrey-Fanning said.

- Start with a budget. "That's going to make a huge difference with a lot of things," Godfrey-Fanning said. "Some people want to go to Tahiti, but they're on a budget of \$2,000. That's not going to work." If possible, drive to your vacation destination if it's more budget-friendly than airfare.

- Figure out when you want to go. The more possible dates the easier it will be to shop for availability of top-rated destinations and deals.

- Plan ahead. While summer vacation may be on your mind now, to get the best bang for your buck, start planning fall break, spring break or even next year's summer break. While you may be able to book a trip to Disney World at the last minute, for an Alaskan cruise plan on six months to a year, and for those military resorts, keep in mind they book up fast. "I do get a few people who



Photo by Viking River Cruises

Senior travel clerk Jamie Godfrey-Fanning has seen an increase in river cruises, like the one seen here, the Viking Star in Venice. "People are just really looking for that laid back not your typical cruise," she said. "A lot of people see the commercials and that just reels them in."

FMWR's Leisure Travel Office

Call 313-0090 to schedule an appointment.

come in at the last minute, and a lot of them realize at this point they're not going to find the perfect price," Godfrey-Fanning said. "Right now is a great time to plan into the future a little bit."

On a budget but still want to travel to Europe? Godfrey-Fanning advises that it's cheaper to do things on your own as opposed to guided tours, and it's best to pick a city, like London, where most of your sightseeing is in one place. "That way you're in that spot and you don't have to travel all over the place to see those different things," she said.

Each customer comes to her with a different set of needs and wants for their time away from home. Some of the more

extravagant vacations she's booked include Viking River Cruises and trips to places like Tahiti, Bora Bora, Australia and China, while some are more simple, like a stay in Savannah, Georgia, or a stop in the Great Smoky Mountains. Some of her more popular requests these days include cruises of all kinds, Hawaii, all-inclusive Caribbean trips, and of course, Disney World.

Whatever the destination may be, Godfrey-Fanning is there to help.

"For people that just need somebody to help them, to take the hassle out of it, I'm here. Depending on what you're trying to do, it can get very complicated," she said.

In this section...

VACATION PET, PACKING TIPS FOR FAMILY ON GO
BEACH TREASURES AWAIT IN SWEET HOME ALABAMA
SMOKIES COMBINE OLD FAVORITES WITH NEW FUN
HERE'S FAMILY FUN FOR UNDER \$1K
ATLANTA A SHORT DRIVE FOR BIG-CITY VACATION

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Photo by Walt Disney World

Disney World is a popular destination request at FMWR's Leisure Travel Office.

Vacation, pet, packing tips for family on go

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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Packing and preparation can be a stressful part of vacation – which by design is supposed to be relaxing, not fraught with anxiety.

For families, it can be a headache making sure that you are prepared for any and all situations while away from home. On top of that, if your travel includes a plane ride, you have to worry about baggage charges, which are a newer staple of air travel and can suck serious dollars out of your trip budget. With that in mind, here are some packing tips to simplify a family's vacation experience:

When packing for kids, place a shirt, shorts, socks and underwear in a Ziploc bag and label the day on the bag. That way they are not digging through their bag and grabbing whichever item of clothing that they

come across first. If left to his own devices my 10-year-old son would wear his pajama shorts and a dirty T-shirt all week.

Pack a pop up laundry hamper to toss your clothes into at the end of each day. I know not everyone shares this sentiment, but I still need my vacation lodging to exhibit some sense of normalcy; dirty clothes lying on every surface makes my eye twitch.

A hanging jewelry organizer is a great way to store all of those small items which always seem to disappear on vacation, such as sunglasses, room keys, sunscreen and medicine bottles.

Did you know that the local dollar store sells ponchos? I did not either until a friend clued me in. Instead of cramming several raincoats into your suitcase and using up precious space, pick up some disposable pocket ponchos. At a dollar apiece, you can pick up several if you don't want to try to cram a poncho back into a tiny pocket after

use (and I do not).

For pet lovers out there, it can be very difficult to leave your furry family member at home while on vacation. And costly too, with pet boarding fees ranging \$15 to \$22 a day locally. When boarding our basset hounds, I always include either a blanket or their bed, so they can have the comforting smells of home. Although you will miss them, don't let that dissuade you from time away. There are several quality pet places in the area; it is just a matter of finding the perfect fit.

When we embarked on our family vacation last year, we had our son's two crabs to contend with – Freddie Freeman and Coco Crisp. They managed to survive with a crab sitter during our weeklong absence, only to succumb to a hotter than expected afternoon during a day trip to our patio. If you have a crab or frog or turtle or fish, I am fresh out of tips for you there, except bribing a neighbor kid works well.

The one travel tip that is paramount when traveling with the family is: stay flexible. Everything is not always going to plan, and I know that is hard for you engineers out there. I live with one of your kind. As the great Clark W. Griswold said, "Everything isn't like home. If everything were like home, there would be no reason for leaving home." Wherever you go and whatever you do for



Photo by Katie Davis Skelley

Hanging organizers can be found at any big box store and are a useful tool to keep track of those small items which are easy to misplace while on vacation.

your vacation this year, just make sure that you have fun!

Beach treasures await in sweet home Alabama

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Special section editor

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If your next vacation involves sand and surf, look no further than your own home state for your beach getaway – pay a visit to Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

“Take advantage of what’s here in your home state,” said Kay Maghan, public relations manager for Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism. “There are areas of Florida that are extremely popular, but you have beaches here that can rival any in Florida. Spend your money in your home state.”

A little less than a six-hour drive from the Rocket City, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach offers a wide variety of activities for vacationers of every age, from kayaking to sunset sails, wildlife and golf, and of course, the beach.

“The main reason people come down here is for the beaches – we have 32 miles of sugar white sand, so you can spend a day at the beach, or there’s a lot of nature and outdoors options,” Maghan said. “There’s a lot of ways to get out, relax and just be.”

Here’s just a glimpse of the activities awaiting you at Gulf Shores. For other ideas, visit www.gulfshores.com.

Adventure Island

www.adventure-island.com

For family fun for all ages, pay a visit to Adventure Island. In addition to an arcade, Adventure Island also features go karts, bumper boats, laser tag, mini golf and paddle boats. Don’t miss the Giant Volcano when it erupts!

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

www.alabamagulfcoastzoo.org

Better known as “The Little Zoo That Could,” the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo gives visitors the chance to walk on the wild side, or at the very least, get up close and personal with kangaroos, lemurs, tigers



Photo by Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

Thirty-two miles of sand and surf await visitors at Gulf Shores.

and even reptiles – oh my! More than 500 exotic animals await guests, in addition to animal shows, keeper talks and a shaded picnic area.

Fort Morgan

www.fort-morgan.org

Take in a little Army history at Fort Morgan, the national historic landmark constructed between 1819 and 1833. Used during the Spanish American War and both world wars, visitors can tour the historical structures, in addition to fishing and bird watching.

Gulf State Park

www.alapark.com/gulf-state-park

What would a trip to Gulf Shores be without a stop at the beach? Gulf State Park offers not only two miles of beaches for visitors, but a range of activities beyond the sun and sand, including golf, geocaching, cottages, tennis, camping, trails, fishing, a zipline and Nature Center.

Hudson Marina

www.hudsonmarina.net

Wanna be a pirate? Always dreamed of watching



Photo by Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

In addition to the beach, Gulf State Park also offers trails for hiking and biking.

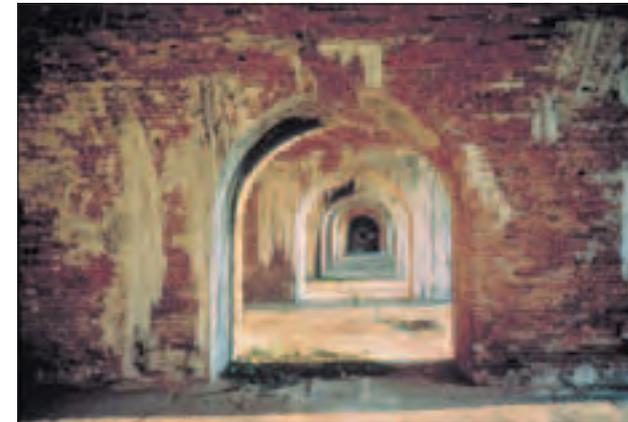


Photo by Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

Take a break from the beach for a little military history at Fort Morgan.

the sunset with the dolphins? Hudson Marina in Orange Beach has you covered. The family-owned business offers fishing charters, Jet Ski and boat rentals, parasailing, dolphin and dinner cruises, and for your inner scallywag, a Pirate adventure on the pirate ship the American Star.

Smokies combine old favorites with new fun



Photo by Katie Davis Skelley

Travel website TripAdvisor names Gatlinburg's Aquarium of the Smokies America's No. 1 aquarium.

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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The visitors might go for Dolly, but they go back for the variety of family fun.

Known for its country kitsch, musical buffets and pristine views of the Great Smoky Mountains, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge have undergone a makeover in the last decade. While there is still plenty of Southern fried fun to be had, the towns have modernized with the addition of upscale restaurants and hotels.

"Gatlinburg is a vacation getaway suitable for everyone," said Alex Shelton with the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We offer world-class attractions located all throughout the downtown area. TripAdvisor names Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies America's No. 1 aquarium. Gatlinburg's Space Needle offers a 360-degree view from over 400 feet in the air. Ober Gatlinburg is a year-round resort offering skiing in the winter months and a mountain coaster along with other rides for the summer months."

In addition to these, just a short drive from Gatlinburg is The Island in Pigeon Forge, a multi-entertainment mecca. Opened in 2013, the center includes the Margaritaville Island Hotel, which envelops guests that laid-back tropical feel of musical icon Jimmy Buffett, and restaurants such as Mellow

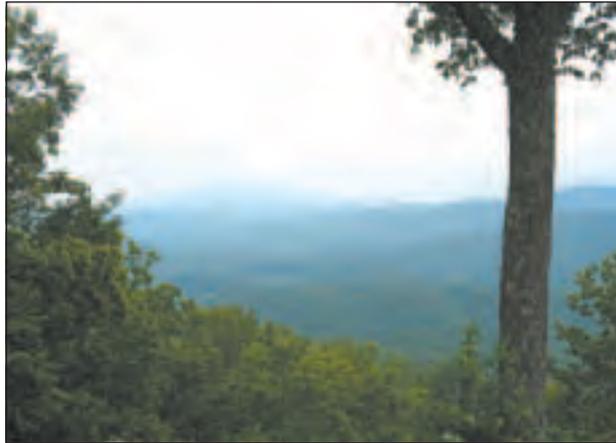


Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

"If you're looking for outdoor adventure, you literally can't get any closer than the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most-visited National Park in the United States, which borders Gatlinburg on three sides," Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau's Alex Shelton said.

Mushroom and stores Build-A-Bear, Thomas Kinkade Company and Puzzled – which is exactly what it sounds like, a store full of puzzles. The Island's centerpiece, a 200-foot Ferris wheel gives riders spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

Area dining and lodging have also seen a facelift in recent years. The Riverstone Resort and Spa, located near the Dollywood theme park, was rated 4.6 out of 5 on travel website Expedia for its upscale condos that include fireplaces and full kitchens, an indoor pool and spa services.

Visitors looking for that high-end, low-cost value can make a quick drive to the Tanger Outlets in nearby Sevierville to browse through such stores as Coach, Michael Kors, JCrew Factory, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store and North Face. But old-school vacationers never fear, there is still plenty of Southern hospitality and old-fashioned charm in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

"Gatlinburg is a walking town, so once you're parked downtown, whatever you're looking for is just a short stroll away," Shelton said. "Gatlinburg offers one of a kind shops and eateries featuring artisanal and culinary items crafted in the Smokies for generations. Gatlinburg is home to the largest group of independent artisans in North America. If you're looking for a special vacation souvenir, you'll find handmade pottery, paintings, baskets, quilts, glass, carvings and much more in the more



Photo by Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism

One of the newest attractions to the area is the Great Smoky Mountain Wheel at the Island in Pigeon Forge.

than 120 galleries all positioned together."

Visitors can watch salt-water taffy made on the sidewalk at the Ole Smoky Candy Kitchen downtown. For fine dining, visitors can indulge in the popular Old Mill Pottery House Café and Grille. Only now national chains Five Guys, Firehouse Subs and Texas Roadhouse join it as available dining options. And if all else fails – or is booked – there is always Aunt Granny's All You Can Eat Buffet, which TripAdvisor users rated an impressive 4 out of 5 stars.

Of course, the crown jewel of the area is still the Dollywood theme park. Created by musical superstar and Tennessee's honorary first lady, Dolly Parton, Dollywood is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2015 with special events happening through the year. Not just an amusement park, Dollywood also features a water park, resort and cabins in close proximity to its abundance of activities.

For travelers looking for a weekend getaway or a family vacation full of fun activities, the Great Smoky Mountains has something for everyone.

Editor's note: For more information visit www.mypigeonforge.com or www.gatlinburg.com.

Here's family fun for under \$1K

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Special section editor

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Looking for some family vacation fun under \$1,000? Jamie Godfrey-Fanning, senior travel clerk for the FMWR Leisure Travel Office, recommends finding a spot you can easily drive to, so you can spend your hard-earned money on other things, like lodging, dining and activities. Here's five destinations that are within driving distance Godfrey-Fanning recommends:

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Approximately 253 miles or four hours and one minute without traffic
Visit www.gatlinburg.com

Pensacola, Florida

Approximately 352 miles or five hours and one minute without traffic
Visit www.visitpensacola.com

Destin, Florida

Approximately 362 miles or five hours and 22 minutes without traffic
Visit emeraldcoastfl.com

Gulf Shores, Alabama

Approximately 382 miles or five hours and 28 minutes without traffic
Visit www.gulfshores.com

Savannah, Georgia

Approximately 428 miles or six hours and 28 minutes without traffic
Visit www.visitsavannah.com



Photo courtesy of Visit Savannah



Photo courtesy of Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism



Photo courtesy Pensacola Bay Area CVB



Photo by Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau



Photo courtesy of Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau

Atlanta a short drive for big-city vacation

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer

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Part of the appeal of living in Huntsville is its proximity to a diverse variety of vacation destinations.

From the blue water of the gulf to the mountain vista of the Smokies, to the musical charm of Nashville and Memphis, Huntsvillians can hop in their car and arrive at their fun away from home in just a few short hours. But what if you are planning a vacation with more of an urban appeal? Look no further than Atlanta.

“Atlanta is less than a four hour drive from Huntsville, making it a great road trip destination this summer,” said Rachel Peavy, director of communications, Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Once you arrive in Atlanta there’s something to do for everyone, from world-class attractions to deluxe retail destinations to an award-winning dining scene.”

Here is just a sampling of what Atlanta has to offer.



©2013, James Duckworth/AtlantaPhotos.com

Atlanta’s skyline provides a breathtaking view of the downtown center of the city.

A variety of sporting events

Take in a Braves game, cheer on the Falcons on the football field, or watch the Atlanta Hawks and the Atlanta Dream shoot hoops at Philips Arena.

CNN Tour

News aficionados will love the behind-the-scenes look at this global broadcast-

ing network.

The Carter Presidential Library

Immerse yourself in political history while learning about the 39th president and Georgia’s favorite son, Jimmy Carter.

Centennial Olympic Park

Atlanta earned its own spot in Olympic history in 1996 when it hosted the XXVI Summer Olympics.

Georgia Aquarium

Forget just looking at the underwater creatures like other aquariums. At the Georgia Aquarium, you can actually scuba dive or snorkel with the whale sharks.

Six Flags Over Georgia

The largest regional amusement park in the Southeast, Six Flags Over Georgia boasts 11 roller coasters for those with the need for speed. Six Flags also offers family rides and during the summer season, the tropical-themed Hurricane Harbor – the perfect answer to those “Hotlanta” days.

The Children’s Museum of Atlanta

The largest children’s museum in Georgia is the perfect place for kids to have fun while using their imagination. The museum features four permanent centers and rotating exhibits throughout the year.

Atlanta Botanical Garden

Breathtaking botanical vistas can be found at this downtown oasis on Piedmont Avenue.

Zoo Atlanta

Pandas. Need we say more?

World of Coca-Cola

Did you know that Coca Cola flavors differ in different countries? At the World of Coca-Cola, visitors can taste more than 60 different coke products from around the world. Or for the truly adventurous, mix a personal soda drink.

For more information about Atlanta and all it has to offer, visit www.atlanta.net.

Editor’s note: Information for this story was provided by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Win or Lose

Rotorheads edge Yulista in last at-bat

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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The Rotorheads saw their big lead disappear against Yulista in last week's matchup of unbeaten softball teams.

But they took advantage of having the last at-bat.

Larry Cothren singled home the winning run in the bottom of the fifth as the Rotorheads beat Yulista 15-14 on May 19 at the NASA field. Last year's Division C runner-up won its fourth straight game.

"Perseverance, patience," Rotorheads coach Jeremy Christopher said after this win. "They came back good and we had to work hard to get back on top and close it out."

The Rotorheads (4-0) led 14-5 after three innings. But Yulista (2-1) tied the score with a nine-run fourth.

With one out and two on the fifth, Co-

thren's single to right scored Juan Hall who had reached on an infield error. Hall walked twice and scored three runs batting leadoff.

"Just trying to do what I need to do to help our team win," Hall said.

Erik Buatte went 2-for-2 with an inside-the-park grand slam and a two-run double. Brandon Cripps went 3-for-3. Tim Peavey and Carlo Lovoi added two hits apiece. Jennifer Hunt pitched all five innings for the win.

Keith Chronister had an inside-the-park three-run homer for Yulista. Sarah Roe went 3-for-3 with a two-run double. Joe Hamilton and David Glass had two doubles apiece. Mark Cole and Ben Still added two hits apiece. Cole relieved starting pitcher Jeff McDonald and took the loss.

"Hard fought game," Yulista player/coach Jacob Hicks said. "Good job on both teams."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Larry Cothren drives in the winning run for the Rotorheads with this single to right in the bottom of the fifth against Yulista.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Juan Hall scores to give the Rotorheads a 15-14 victory.



Army/NASA softball league standings

Here are the standings for the 2015 Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club after last week:

Division A

	Won	Loss	Tie
Got the Runs	4	0	0
Ballistic Bombers	3	1	0
We Dem Boyz	2	2	0
RTC	1	2	0
Fly-Outs	1	3	0
Hit Circus	0	3	0

Division B

	Won	Loss	Tie
Fireballs	4	0	0
Hat Trick Sports	3	1	0
The Other Team	2	1	1
TBE			
Integrators	2	1	1
Unmanned & Unafraid	2	2	0
NASA Meet			

	Balls	Renegades	Wyle	Hit to Kill	Space Balls
	1	2	0	0	0
	1	2	0	0	0
	1	3	0	0	0
	1	3	0	0	0
	1	3	0	0	0

Division C

	Won	Loss	Tie
Misfits	4	0	0
Rotorheads	4	0	0
Ice Cold			
Pitchers	3	1	0
Yulista	2	1	0
Space Cowboys	2	2	0
Bit Players	2	2	0
Judgment Day	2	2	0
One Hit Wonders	2	2	0
Hits w Mits			
DTS	2	3	0
Sons of Pitches	1	3	0
LEC NERDS	0	4	0
Redstone Rebels	0	4	0

Yulista (2-1)

	AB	R	H	RBI
M. Cole	2	2	2	2
K. Chronister	3	1	1	3
R. Harville	3	1	1	1
J. Hamilton	3	1	2	2
J. Hicks	3	0	1	1
K. Brown	3	1	0	0
J. McDonald	3	1	1	0
C. Moorer	3	1	1	0
S. Roe	3	2	3	2
D. Glass	3	2	2	1
B. Still	3	2	2	1
Totals	32	14	16	13

Rotorheads (4-0)

	AB	R	H	RBI
J. Hall	1	3	0	0
B. Cripps	3	2	3	0
L. Cothren	2	2	1	1
E. Buatte	2	2	2	6
J. Gould	2	1	1	1
S. Elgar	2	0	0	0
D. Ober	2	1	1	1
T. Peavey	2	1	2	1
M. Ford	1	1	1	0
J. Hunt	1	1	0	1
C. Lovoi	2	1	2	1
R. Smith	2	0	1	0
J. Garay	1	0	0	2
B. Buatte	1	0	0	0
M. Chivers	2	0	0	0
R. Rivera	1	0	1	1
D. Daila	2	0	1	0
Totals	29	15	16	15

	Yulista	Rotorheads		R	H	E
	0	0	5	9	0 -	14
	4	4	6	0	1 -	15

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Fireballs defense stops Hit to Kill comeback

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Clinging to a slim lead, the Fireballs needed three outs to preserve a back-and-forth win against Hit to Kill.

Their defense came through.

The Fireballs infielders caught two line drives with runners in scoring position in the last inning to edge Hit to Kill 10-9 on May 20 at the NASA softball field. They stayed unbeaten atop Division B.

"Good solid defense, that's all it was," Fireballs player/coach Corey Harrell said. "It was good solid defense. Every time we hit the ball, they came back. And then that last inning we locked them down. Those weren't routine catches."

The Fireballs (4-0) led 10-8 as Hit to Kill came to bat in the bottom of the sixth and final inning. With one out, Britt Morris homered to cut the lead to one. Consecutive hits put runners on second and third but the Fireballs defense responded.

Second baseman Phil Haas caught Aaron Murray's liner for the second out.

"It was a line drive over second base with the tying run on third and the winning run on second," Haas said. "Just kind of ran to my right and stuck out my glove and it went in. I guess.

"I mean I'm old," the 56-year-old added laughing.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Fireballs pitcher Gator Grissom gets the win over Hit to Kill on May 20 at the NASA field.

With two outs the next batter, Mark Percell, hit another line drive. Third baseman Keith Poe moved to his left to make the game-ending catch.

"Well-hit line drives," Harrell said, breathing easier after the nail-biting finish.

Marcus Williams went 3-for-4 with three runs-batted-in and two runs scored for the Fireballs. Blake Pierce went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and one run. Cordero Watkins doubled and scored twice. Winning pitcher Gator Grissom added an RBI hit in the two-run sixth.

Morris slammed two homers for Hit to Kill (1-3). He had an inside-the-park two-run shot in the third before his drive



Photo by Skip Vaughn

David Soetekouw goes the distance as his Hit to Kill team is outscored 10-9.

over the left field fence in the sixth and finished with four RBIs. Casey Walton went 3-for-3 with one RBI and two runs. David Soetekouw had a triple, double and two runs scored but he took the loss in the circle for the Missile Defense Agency team.

"It was a good game," Hit to Kill player/coach Erin Gill said. "We played really hard. We just didn't get the hits when we really needed them."

Fireballs (4-0)

	AB	R	H	RBI
C. Watkins	3	2	1	0

K. Riley	4	1	1	1
K. Poe	2	1	0	1
M. Williams	4	2	3	3
B. Pierce	4	1	2	2
G. Grissom	3	0	1	1
P. Haas	2	1	0	0
L. Graham	1	1	0	0
C. Harrell	2	1	1	1
R. Watkins	1	0	1	0
R. Reed	3	0	1	0
Totals	29	10	11	9

Hit to Kill (1-3)

	AB	R	H	RBI
P. Richardson	3	1	1	0
C. Walton	3	2	3	1
E. Gill	3	1	0	0
G. Townes	3	0	1	0
B. Morris	2	2	2	4
D. Price	3	0	1	0
D. Soetekouw	3	2	2	0
A. Murray	3	0	1	0
M. Percell	3	1	0	2
J. Ballard	2	0	0	0
H. Perry	2	0	2	1
Totals	30	9	13	8

	AB	R	H	RBI
Fireballs	2	5	0	1
Hit to Kill	2	2	2	1

Ladies golf group drives for cancer cure



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jean Summers watches Sally Shepard tee off on No. 1 on the Patriot course.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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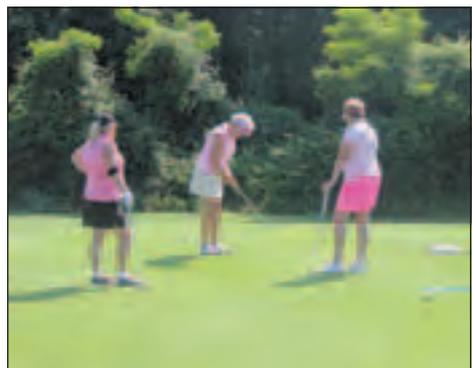


Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left, on the putting green at No. 18 on the Patriot course, are Michelle Krause, Di Wilson and rally chairman Carol Darden.

money stays local. We ask that our money comes back to Huntsville," rally chairman Carol Darden said. "Through 2014 we have donated \$10,957.42. That's through 2014. We'll donate \$800 today in addition to that.

"This is the 20th year for the Susan G. Komen Rally for the Cure. It's nationwide."

Darden volunteers to do this each year because a close friend of hers was in her early 50s when she died from breast cancer.



Photo by Lt. Col. David Hylton, Army Contracting Command

Command fun run

Army Contracting Command members participate in a fun run/walk Thursday at Creekwood Park in Huntsville. The fun run and walk were team-building activities conducted by ACC and included people from the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters and the ACC-Redstone contracting center.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Retired military golf classic

The 15th annual Rocket City Retired Military Golf Classic, presented by retired military and civilian volunteers, is June 2-4 at the Links. The 54-hole scramble tournament uses both the Patriot and Warrior courses at the Links, and also the Fox Run Golf Course in Meridianville. This tournament is for retired military. Registration is \$230 per person which includes green fees, cart rental, tournament shirt, team skins and mulligans, awards at the banquet, an icebreaker event, tournament gifts and prizes. For more information and to register, visit www.rcrmgc.net.

Senior softball

Get into the swing of Senior Slow Pitch Softball. There are three leagues: age 55-plus, 63-plus and 72-plus. To sign up for 55-plus, call Steve Myers 715-0560 or (443) 540-7989. The other league contacts include: 63-plus, John Corcetti 497-6756; and 72-plus, Greg Bogue 534-4091.

Memorial golf classic

The Wayne Gardner Memorial Golf Classic is June 5 at the Hampton Cove River Course on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Shotgun start is 8 a.m. The \$85 per person cost includes greens fee, cart fee, range balls, hamburger cookout and a gift bag. Play for trophies, prizes and a \$5,000 cruise from Cruise One for a hole-in-one on the designated par 3. Space is limited. RSVP at www.tnwops.com/golfclassic.

Youth football/cheerleading

Madison Youth Football and Cheer-Knights registration continues through July 18 online at www.MadisonYFC.org. On-site registration at Dublin Park Recreation Center will 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 6 regular price and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 18 with late fee. For more information, call 289-1398.

Screaming Eagles golf scramble

All are invited to join the second annual Screaming Eagles Golf Tournament on July 24 at the Links. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:30. The cost for a team of four players is \$260, or \$65 per individual player. Cost includes cart, green fees, breakfast and lunch. Mulligans and power drive are \$20 per player. Proceeds from the event will help the North Alabama Screaming Eagles chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association support past, present and future Screaming Eagles. To register, email Jeff Wishik at jwishik@yahoo.com or Phil Thompson at NASEC-Secretary@gmail.com.

Men's recreational baseball

Huntsville men's recreational baseball club, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players for the upcoming season. They're recruiting players in their early 40s for the Veterans Division and 53 years and up for the Masters Division. Weekly spring training practices are underway. The 20-game season runs from June through August with two games played per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information, call Bill McArdle 876-9867 or 651-9447 or email joinsbl@comcast.net.

Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a month-

ly 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.

Adjutant general association

The Rocket City Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association holds a monthly meeting every second Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Java Café, Pershing Welcome Center, building 3434 off Honest John Road. The AGCRA meetings are open to all military and civilian Human Resource professionals in the commuting area. You can join the Rocket City AGCRA at www.AGCRA.com. For information call Chenita Henderson 450-5880 or email chenita.l.henderson.ctr@mail.mil.

Councilman public meeting

Huntsville City Councilman Bill Kling holds a community Town Meeting at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in meeting Room A in the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. Huntsville government issues, complaints, road repair needs and other issues are discussed. Everyone who works at or lives on the Arsenal is welcome.

Special Forces chapter

North Alabama Chapter 92 of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. June 6 at Bill Dansby's Team House, 901 Silver Creek Road, Prospect, Tennessee. Chapter members, Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome to attend. RSVP by June 1. Visit www.chapter92sfa.com/.

Amateur radio operators

The Marshall Amateur Radio Club, under the call sign of WA4NZD, conducts a monthly meeting every first Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at building 4622, on the NASA side of Redstone Arsenal just off of Centaur Street where all the antennas are located. For more information, visit wa4nzd.wordpress.com/ or email stephen.j.duncheskie.civ@mail.mil.

Field artillery group

The North Alabama Chapter of the Field Artillery Association meets at the Firehouse Pub at 5 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. "Please add this meeting to your calendars as a recurring meeting each month and join us," a prepared release said. "These gatherings are a lot of fun and are great opportunities to meet with fellow Redlegs in the North Alabama/RSA community."

Space society

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, or HAL5, a chapter of the National Space Society, will hold its monthly program June 4 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library auditorium. Dr. Renee Weber, research scientist at Marshall Space Flight Center and InSight Science co-investigator, will present "Planetary Seismology: What's shakin' in the Solar System." The event is free and open to the public. A social will follow at the IHOP on University Drive.

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Company commander

Capt. Chris Carnes, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, accepts the command's guidon from Col. Dewey Granger, SMDC's chief of staff, during a change of command Thursday. Carnes accepted command from Capt. Eric Sidio, who served in the position for 20 months.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

SMDC officer retires

Retired Col. Ron Williams pins the Meritorious Service Medal onto Lt. Col. Kerry Clements, chief of the Missile Defense Division of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Training and Doctrine Command Capability Manager for Space and Global Missile Defense, during his retirement from active duty May 15. Clements retires with 21 years of service.



Rocket Announcements

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women presents a networking event for women Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Redstone Lanes conference room. Arrive early if you want lunch from the snack bar. Dr. Juanita Harris, SES, director of AMRDEC Weapons Development and Integration Directorate, will address Tips on Mentoring. The public is invited. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275 or Barbara Watson 955-9755.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067, meets the second Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Civitan Care building, 3053 Leeman Ferry Road. For information call first vice president and membership chairman Richard Knight 722-3027 or visit www.vietvetshv.org.

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 Redstone Lanes bowling center, meeting room 1. Come join the meeting and have lunch. For more information, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

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 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.gsauctions.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 active Soldiers who desire to ride a motorcycle regardless of riding it on or off Redstone Arsenal. 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). Scheduled classes include the BRC on June 18-19 and the ERC on June 20, according to the Garrison Safety Office. 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 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.

Acquisition course opportunities

Defense Acquisition University South has available seats for classes. To see the complete list to include the DAU South offerings in Huntsville, visit icalog.dau.mil/onlinenatalog/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.

Automated configuration 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.

Housing services

The mission of Housing Services Office is to provide: assistance to customers with all of their housing needs, guidance and assistance pertaining to all aspects of relocation, mediating disputes, re-financing, and providing guidance on local housing needs. If you can access the Arsenal, they would be happy to assist you – incoming and departing military personnel, retirees, government civilian workers and government contractors. For more information call Minnie Rhoden, of the Housing Services Office, Directorate of Public Works, at 876-6666 or email minnie.s.rhoden.civ@mail.mil.

Redstone Thrift Shop

Spring cleaning? Let the Thrift Shop help you. They take donations and give out tax receipts or you can consign and make some extra cash. If you have an ID card, badge, civilian or contractor you can consign with them. If you would like more information, stop by or call. The shop is always looking for volunteers, so stop by. If you are interested in consigning, visit and pick up a packet. The shop, building 3209 off Hercules Road, is located behind the One Stop. The phone number is 881-6992.

Korean War veterans

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation will hold its 10th annual luncheon honoring Korean War veterans July 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. The guest speaker is Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command. Lunch is free to Korean War veterans. Cost is \$20 per person for all others. For more information, call KC Bertling 541-0450, email samnkc@knology.net or visit www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org.

Overseas deployments

Use your experience and expertise to support Department of Defense operations overseas by volunteering to deploy as a member of the U.S. Central Command's Civilian Expeditionary Workforce. The CENTCOM CEW allows current DoD civilian employees to use their initiative, capabilities, experience, skill and knowledge in support of the DoD in accomplishing its mission overseas. Employees interested in applying their expertise in a challenging, austere and unique

environment can volunteer for positions supporting the U.S. military in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. Deployable civilians are needed to fill critical vacancies in Afghanistan and other locations within the CENTCOM AOR. Volunteering to deploy provides an extraordinary opportunity to exercise your talents and expertise while directly supporting operations in support of our National Security objectives. Department of the Army employees should submit the endorsement of their command leadership along with an application and their resume to the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel CEW team. Full details of the Army application process are available on the CPOL.Armey.Mil CEW homepage at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/mobil/>.

Senior crime prevention

Huntsville/Madison County public safety agencies will present the Senior Crime Prevention Academy through May 28. The academy is held Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. at the Huntsville Public Safety Training Academy, 3011 Sparkman Drive. To enroll call academy coordinator Pat Colson 859-3919 or president Capt. Curtis Rush 206-6624.

Airborne chapter

The North Alabama Screaming Eagles Chapter invites past, present and future members of the 101st Airborne Division and their families to join its ranks. It provides current and former 101st Screaming Eagles in North Alabama an opportunity to assemble and socialize, recognizing and honoring their service to the Army and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) throughout the ages. For information, email NAS-ECSecretary@gmail.com, springlarry1@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/groups/NorthAlabamaScreamingEaglesChapter/.

Food service job openings

Redstone's Army & Air Force Exchange Service is recruiting for food service workers for Church's Chicken, Burger King, Subway and Charley's. If you are interested, visit www.applmyexchange.com to view current job opportunities. You can apply to Continuous Food Job Vacancy Announcement, VA-0887FOOD-0315. For more information, call Sheryln L. McSwain, HR manager, 650-5928.

Vintage fly-in

The Save Our Flying Heritage organization is sponsoring a fly-in and static display at the Huntsville Executive Airport (KMDQ) in Meridianville on Saturday. In addition to static displays of a UH-1, L-19 and U3B, there will be several other military aircraft on display as well as amateur built aircraft and commercial general aviation aircraft. The event will be open to the public at no charge and will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance for the event will be through Executive Flight Center, Huntsville Executive Airport, 358 Bolling Road, Meridianville. For more information, call Bernie Parr 527-3474 or visit the SOFH website at <http://hsv-sofh.webs.com/apps/blog/>.

Computer classes

Would you like to improve your proficiency with the 2013 versions of Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Word? Army Community Service offers free self-paced classes that are packed with information covering the new features of Office 2013. The classes are ideal for any individual looking to enhance their computer skill set. Classes are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Each class has at least three sessions which will take three hours each to complete. Call to schedule a class at 876-5397.

Military police reunion

There will be a Fort McClellan reunion for Military Police and civilian employees that were previously assigned to the Provost Marshal Office, 111th MP Company, Fort McClellan MP Company, Company

A 701st MP Battalion, 209th Battalion and affiliates of the USAMPS or Training Brigade. The reunion is June 13 in Anniston near the post. There will be a post tour at 1 p.m. leaving the old Provost Marshal Office parking lot; a reunion dinner at 5 at Heroes followed by a meet and greet from 6-6:30, presentation/honors from 6:30-7 and concluding with a free concert/dance featuring The Tim McDonald Band from Nashville at 7. Cost for the reunion is \$20 for singles/\$30 for couples and should be paid by May 30 by check to Yellow Rose Production, Attn: 1361 Dry Hollow Road, Anniston, AL 36207 or paypal to gailwhite256@bellsouth.net. For more information call Gail White 236-5201, 225-1727 or 624-8761.

Money management classes

"Mind Your Money" will be taught in two parts at the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443, in the Army Community Service conference room. Part one is June 2 and part two is June 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This free training is made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation through Smart investing at your library, a partnership with the American Library Association. For more information on the classes or to sign up, email ACS-Kathleen.Riester@kathleen.k.riester.civ@mail.mil.

Installation guide

Redstone Arsenal's 2015-16 Installation Guide is now available through the public affairs offices of Redstone tenant organizations. If your organization has not received installation guides, copies are available at Army Community Service at the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443, or at Garrison Public Affairs, building 4488, second floor. Questions about the installation guide should be directed by email to Kari Hawkins at Garrison Public Affairs, kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil.

Red Cross blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives during June include: June 4 from 7 a.m. to noon at the Sparkman Center. ... June 5 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 4545 and from 7-noon at building 5400. ... June 11 from 7-noon at building 6263. ... June 12 from 7-noon at building 5400. ... June 18 from 7-noon at MDA building 5222, Von Braun II Complex. ... June 19 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316 and from 7-noon at MDA building 5222, Von Braun II Complex.

Lifesaving training

Beginning in June, the Garrison's Fire and Emergency Services will offer Heartsaver CPR and AED training for all Team Redstone Department of Defense civilians and military employees as well as local Guard and Reserve units. The free training class will be held the last Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. until noon at the Fire and Emergency Services Training Center, building 3545. The first class is scheduled June 25. The class covers cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED use with adults, children and infants. There is space for up to 18 students per class. To register email Capt. Josh Hosack at joshua.r.hosack.civ@mail.mil or firefighter Edward Herbster at edward.m.herbster.civ@mail.mil.

Car show benefit

It's time to mark your calendars and get the word out about this great upcoming event. The 11th annual Charity Car Show, sponsored by Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners, will be held June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Milton Frank Stadium parking lot. Registration closes at 11:30 a.m. There will be trophies for best paint, best motor, best wheels, best motorcycle, best truck, best in show and plaques from the show sponsors. Registration is \$25, with all proceeds benefiting veterans organizations, Semper Fi Community Task Force and Survivor Outreach Services. The grand door prize is \$500, among other cash door prizes. Dash

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plaques will go to the first 100 entries. For more information, visit www.vetswithvettes.us.

St. Louis reunion

In the late 1990s as a result of the end of the Cold War, a major military base was closed in north St. Louis. Some employees were offered the option of relocating to Huntsville or other facilities around the nation, others retired or looked for work locally. So what happened to these 8,000 lives? Employees, friends and relatives of the 1960-90s Army Aviation and Troop Commands – PEOs, DFA, UNCLE, FMS, SOS and DMIS – stationed 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard in St. Louis, Missouri, are invited to a reunion. Activities include a picnic at Shelter 3, Blanchette Park, 1900 Randolph Street, St. Charles, Missouri, on Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. Bring lawn chairs and a dessert to pass if you

want. Tickets are \$15 by Aug. 1, or \$25 after that date. Make checks payable to Avscom Reunion; and mail to 1108 St. Charles Ave., St. Charles, MO 63301. All monies must be received by Sept. 1. Include an email address if available. For more information, contact Steve Bossomo on Facebook, call Gary Nenninger 704-9683 or email Pat Guy at pguysmile@yahoo.com.

Eat Wings fundraiser

The Rocket City Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association will hold its monthly Eat Wings, Raise Funds Day on June 24 from 11 a.m. until midnight at Buffalo Wild Wings, Madison Square Mall, 5901 University Drive. Buffalo Wild Wings will donate to AG-CRA 15 percent from the Raise Funds Ticket proceeds of all pre-taxed food sales. Funds from this event will be donated to the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen. For

Rocket Announcements

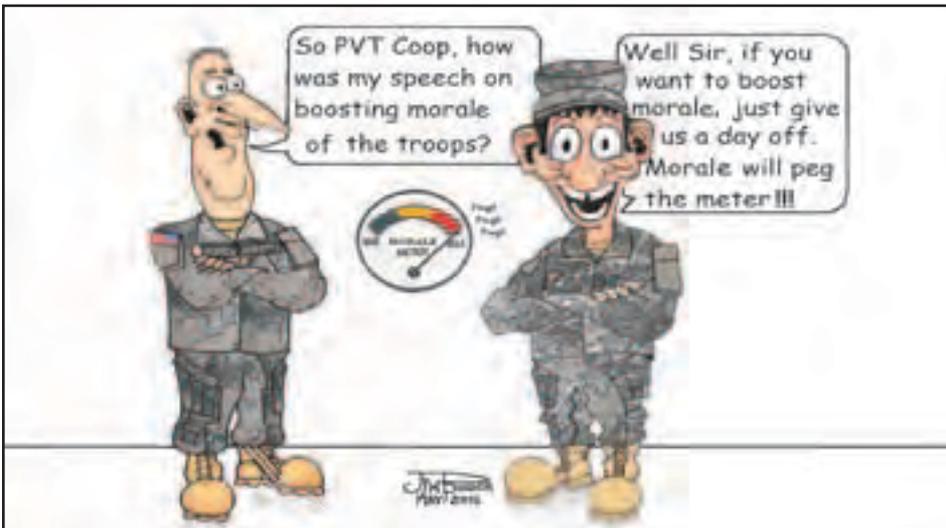
tickets contact Charlie Hardin Jr. 450-5734, at charlie.hardin.civ@mail.mil, and Chenita Henderson 450-5880, at chenita.l.henderson.ctr@mail.mil.

Army civilian sessions

Interested in learning more about the Senior Enterprise Talent Management, Enterprise Talent Management and Talent Management Programs? There is an informational presentation on SETM, ETM and Talent Management Policy and Programs for Career Army Civilians in grades GS-12s through GS-15s today and Thursday at the Toftoy Hall auditorium, building 3495. Today's session is 2-3:30 p.m. The session times for Thursday are 9:30-11 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Persons interested in attending should call Angela Sims 450-9126 or email angela.l.sims.civ@mail.mil.

Test flight advisory

Redstone Test Center will be conducting developmental tests in the vicinity of Gate 9 and Research Park in late May and early June. You can expect to see helicopters performing low-level flight maneuvers around Gate 9 and Research Park. This activity will not interfere with gate traffic or travel on any roadways.



Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The importance of a college degree.

“Probably the biggest advantage of a college degree is it’s going to provide the degree holder with better opportunities to succeed,” said Charles Williams, supervisory education service specialist at the Education Center, Toftoy Hall, building 3495. “It’s going to help them get from where they are to where they are trying to go in life.

“And on average a person holding a college degree is going to make more money or higher salaries than a person not having a degree. A person with a bachelor’s degree is going to make more than someone with a high school diploma. Someone with a master’s is going to earn more than a person with a bachelor’s. And someone with a doctoral degree is going to earn more than a person with a master’s – on average.”



Charles Williams