

Redstone Rocket

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Garrison commander glad to be back home

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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It takes all of Team Redstone to make Redstone Arsenal, "America's Garrison of the Future."

But what exactly does "America's Garrison of the Future" look like? And who comprises Team Redstone? Those are the very questions Col. Tom Holliday has set out to answer since taking command of the Garrison June 8.

"I believe Team Redstone is an inclusive title rather than exclusive," Holliday said. "Anyone or anything that supports Redstone or one of its organizations, or one of the people who lives or works here, is a member of Team Redstone. Even our family members living in other regions who provide support structures for those who work here – they are valued members of Team Redstone. Gold Star families from this area, whether they still live here or not, are part of Team Redstone."

"It's that team understanding – we cannot do what we do, and I would argue that they can't do what they do, without each other. I've heard the term 'symbiotic relationship.' I'm not sure that truly articulates what I believe Team Redstone to be. It is more than just symbiotic. We are all elements of a greater whole. Everything we do here is going to affect the rest of Team Redstone. All of that has to be taken into consideration as we set conditions for what we want the future to look like."

Holliday's vision is to make Redstone



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Holliday share his vision in shaping Redstone Arsenal as "America's Garrison of the Future."

Arsenal "America's Garrison of the Future," which in some cases, quite literally reaches for the stars.

"We are working on things here you won't find anywhere else," he said. "We're working to put someone on Mars. Where else in the world is someone doing that? When you think futuristic, a lot of those

capabilities exist here at Redstone that don't exist anywhere else."

But becoming "America's Garrison of the Future" goes much deeper than that, Holliday said. Looking at a broad range of factors impacting the United States

See Garrison on page 11

Incoming commander for Army Space and Missile Defense Command dies



Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi

Redstone Arsenal officials released the name of the individual who passed away Sunday, July 31 on the installation.

Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi, 55, of Long Island, New York, was slated as the incoming commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The cause of Rossi's death remains under investigation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi's family. We share their grief during

this time of loss. Our priority right now is to take care of the family, ensuring they have all the resources they need during this critical time," said Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and Redstone Arsenal senior commander.

Rossi previously served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla. Prior to that assignment, he served as the director of the Army Quadrennial Defense Review Office in the Pentagon.



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Business developers forge new partnerships.

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Unit ministry team celebrates Chaplain Corps 241st year.

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Youngsters return for the school year.

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WIN OR LOSE

Got the Runs tops rival Hit Circus in showdown.

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Team Redstone giving to federal food drive

By TERRI STOVER

Garrison Public Affairs

Through the generosity of federal employees, since 2009 the Feds Feed Families food drive has collected nearly 57.2 million pounds of food for those in need. In 2015 alone, more than 17.9 million pounds were donated and provided to food banks and pantries.

The U.S Department of Agriculture leads the nationwide campaign, and for the eighth year the Department of Defense is supporting. Redstone Arsenal began its contribution to this year's campaign by collecting nonperishable food donations in late July and will continue through Aug. 31.

Redstone employees are encouraged to bring in any unopened, unexpired and nonperishable food items, and place your contribution in the designated bins marked for collection. All nonperishable donations received will be donated to the North Alabama Food Bank, 2000 Vernon Ave. in Huntsville.

"The Redstone community gave 2,617 pounds in 2015. The challenge this year is to at least double that amount," Kendra Brown, coordinator for the campaign here, said. "I am confident that we cannot only double last year's contribution but in fact triple the weight of last year's contribution."

As part of President Obama's "United We Serve" campaign, this program has helped local food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer. Traditionally these months see a significant decrease in donations to food banks, yet an increase in need.

Federal agencies across the country will share their collections with their local food banks with the goal of ensuring that the drive will be visible and active in every state.

Collection bins have been placed inside several facilities, including the Garrison building 4488, Pershing Welcome Center building 3443, One Stop building 3494, Sparkman Center buildings 5300 and 5308, Post Library building 3323, Toftoy Hall building 3495, Bicentennial Chapel building 376, Child Development Centers, School Age Center, Youth Center, Redstone Exchange and the Shoppettes.

For more information about Feds Feed Families, visit www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0616_fff. To get involved in the food drive, call Brown at 842-0888 or email kendra.e.brown6.civ@mail.mil.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Quote of the week

'Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained.'

— James A. Garfield
20th president 1881 (1831-81)

Airfield district planning

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Holliday receives an overview Thursday of future plans for the Redstone Airfield district. Installation Management Command and Directorate of Public Works master planners collaborated with Team Redstone tenants during a weeklong workshop to form a 20-year development plan for the airfield district.

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Redstone remembers 75 years



Historical photo

Then Brig. Gen. John Zierdt became commander of the Missile Command on Sept. 23, 1963.



Historical photo

On June 30, 1967, Army Materiel Command's Commander Lt. Gen. Frank Besson Jr. presents an award to retiring Maj. Gen. John Zierdt.

By **CLAUS MARTEL**

Army Materiel Command staff historian

The year 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the military installation known as Redstone Arsenal.

Following the sudden death of the Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Francis McMorrow on Aug. 24, 1963, Army Materiel Command Commander Lt. Gen. Frank Besson Jr. reassigned one of his deputies who was working for him in Washington, D.C., and sent him to assume command of MICOM. That officer was Brig. Gen. John Zierdt. He assumed command on Sept. 23, 1963, and was promoted on Jan. 1, 1964, to major general.

Zierdt was no stranger to Redstone Arsenal. He had served as Maj. Gen. John Medaris' chief of staff within the Army Ordnance Missile Command in the late 1950s. Recognized for his exceptional leadership and managerial skills, he managed the Nike-Zeus weapon system from 1960-62. While commander of MICOM, he oversaw the development of 10 major missile systems, including the Pershing, and promoted work leading to the development of the Patriot missile system.

Zierdt spearheaded efforts to establish the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He also proposed that the Army and NASA combine forces to establish a museum to commemorate the history of missile and space systems. His concept became the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

For his community involvement and support, a road was named after him (Zierdt Road). Zierdt retired on June 30, 1967. He remained active in this community until his death on June 30, 2000. He was inducted in the AMC Hall of Fame on Aug. 1, 2012.

Getting to **know you**

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer

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Name: Michael Shipma

Profession: Director of religious education, Bicentennial Chapel

Where do you call home?

I was born and raised in Fulton, a small Mississippi River town in northern Illinois. Since then, my wife (Adriana) and I have lived in Michigan, Indiana, North and South Dakota and Oklahoma. We have called Alabama home for five years.

What do you like about your job?

I had applied to Army chaplaincy as a pastor 12 years ago, but circumstances at the time didn't permit me to complete the process. I'm glad to be in the chaplain's office after all these years, though I never thought it would be this way. I also enjoy seeing the love the chapel community, with all of its cultural and ethnic diversity, has for one another. When I think about how polarized we are getting in society today, I just remember what I see here every Sunday morning.

What are your goals – personal, professional or both?

I'd like to go on to complete a doctor-



ate degree, but with our three oldest kids in college, I'll have to wait my turn.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy being with my family and like to spend as much time with them as I can. I also enjoy reading, doing some writing, and gardening with my wife.

What is on your bucket list?

When my wife and I were married, we were so broke we didn't have any money to take a real honeymoon. In three years, we will celebrate our silver anniversary. I think it's time I finally made up for that lost honeymoon.

Community Health Promotion Council corner

*Words impact behavior
so choose them carefully*

By Dr. JANA LOVELACE

Fox Army Health Center clinical psychologist

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”

We have all heard this phrase as a playground retaliatory remark indicating that words are not harmful – that physical force is more injurious than words. If only playground logic held true in real life, right?

The fact is words are hurtful. As a clinical psychologist, I spend a great deal of time examining the words people use to communicate their thoughts, feelings and interactions. Words are powerful. They can encourage or belittle. They can start or end a disagreement. They can be life-giving or life-limiting. They can bring a smile or crush a soul. Words are powerful.

But perhaps the words that are most powerful are not the words coming out of our mouth, but the ones circulating in our own minds. Let me explain. Our thoughts are made of words. Our thoughts generate feelings. And our feel-



ings impact our behavior. Make sense so far?

Psychologists once thought feelings came first, then generated thoughts. But we now know the whole process begins with a thought – a string of words. Words are powerful.

Here is an example. Now, I really love coffee. So when I go to the break room in between patients and there is only a half cup of coffee left in the pot, I am faced with a decision. I can either think, “Really? Who left only a half of cup of coffee without making another pot?” Or, I could think, “Well, OK, not really what I was hoping for, but at least I have half a cup to tie me over.”

In the first scenario the thought is go-

ing to leave me frustrated and maybe even a bit angered. I will now enter my next session without a clear head. The second scenario will not leave me feeling any strong emotion. I will not be angry or frustrated and can better focus on the task at hand – my next patient (which I think is pretty important).

So what is so different about the two scenarios? The amount of coffee did not change. I still wanted a full cup, but only got a half. The only thing that changed, the thing that made all the difference in my next hour, was my thinking – the words I am saying to myself. Words are powerful.

Here is another example, just in case you are not into coffee. If I am constantly saying to my teenage son, “You never clean your room,” how am I going to feel? Versus if I say, “You do not clean your room as much as I would like or expect.” Although still frustrated, my words do not have the sting or that extra punch that is in the latter example.

Seem like semantics? Let me explain why the two are so vastly different. The former example is what we call an exaggeration. It is probably not true that my son never cleans his room. It might have been two years ago, but that still negates using the term never. The latter example is more accurate and will assuredly leave me less frustrated. Would I still like him to clean it more often? Yes, of course.

But by using accurate words (sometimes, often, rarely, etc.) rather than extreme words (i.e., never, always, none, all, etc.), I am taking away the extra punch. I cannot say “not as often as I would like” with the same punch as if I said “never.”

It is not simply semantics – words are powerful. The good news is you can retrain your brain to think more accurately and in a way that promotes peace of mind and contentment. So next time you find yourself in a situation where you are frustrated, angry, sad, depressed or anxious, take some time to check your thinking. Because sticks and stones can break your bones, but words can really scar you.

Editor's note: A healthy workforce is a ready and resilient workforce. The Redstone Arsenal Community Health Promotion Council consists of organizational leaders, subject matter experts, service providers, community representatives and family members. The CHPC conducts ongoing assessments and measures data against established standards and key indicators and works to ensure that all members of Team Redstone will have access to programs that will help them live a lifetime of wellness across all dimensions – emotional, social and financial, physical and spiritual. The CHPC's mission is to improve and increase the health of our workforce, our families, our community members and the Army. This is a large feat, but the CHPC is committed to success.



DAU Upcoming Events

DAU supports SMD Symposium Education Track

Tues, 16 August/Meeting Room 1

1:30 – 3:00: Operational Contract Support, a Joint (Military Operations Enabler

3:30 – 5:00: Sustainment Concept Plans (CP)

Wed, 17 August/Meeting Room 1

1:30 – 3:00: DoDI 5000.74

3:30 – 5:00: Effective Integration of Cybersecurity into the DoD Acquisition Lifecycle

Acquisition Course Opportunities

Access available seats at DAU South:

<http://go.usa.gov/ck2VZ>

For general inquiries, email lowfill.south@dau.mil

The Lunch n Learn Program

Acquisition Lunch n Learn DCS Webinar Series
(Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Register at: <http://go.usa.gov/H2sA>

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Your hometown.

“I’m from Enterprise, Alabama,” Rachael Benton, an engineer with contractor Avion Solutions supporting the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center’s Aviation Engineering Directorate, said. “It’s right by Fort Rucker. So I grew up by helicopters and ended up back by helicopters. My grandfather (Leonard Mounts) was a flight instructor at Fort Rucker.

“Enterprise is the home of the boll weevil. We have a monument to a bug because they were known for cotton and the boll weevil ate all the cotton. So they started farming peanuts and were very successful with peanuts.”

Benton has worked at Redstone about nine years, mostly with Avion Solutions. She received a bachelor’s in education in 1994 and a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering in 1999, both from Mississippi State University. The Madison resident has four children, three boys and one girl, ranging from age 8 to 16.



Rachael Benton

Business developers forge new partnerships

By KARA WALL

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command has the unparalleled ability to guarantee the Army's readiness through the power of its Organic Industrial Base – a National Security Readiness Insurance Policy, AMC Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche said.

As the war-driven workload declines for the OIB, AMC business developers are forging new partnerships with industry to keep labor costs down and unique artisan skillsets high.

Around 30 business developers representing AMC's 23 OIB facilities attended an Advanced Business Development Course at Redstone from July 26-29, which featured briefings from AMC leadership and branding and marketing experts.

“What you do as a business developer is critical to the readiness of the greatest Army in the world,” Wyche, who oversees

the OIB, said. “Don't ever take lightly the contributions that you make as part of the Organic Industrial Base.”

Wyche told the class that their contributions save Soldiers' lives.

“I know firsthand the impact of what you do. I have been in the Korangal Valley of Afghanistan. I have been in Iraq. I have been on the receiving end of everything you provide our Soldiers,” he said. “Today, I want to say on behalf of all of our Soldiers, thank you for what you do in the OIB.”

The four-day course equipped the business developers with the tools and confidence to identify, pursue and secure new work for their facilities.

The OIB needs new partnerships to keep production lines hot, tooling modernized and skilled artisans employed, AMC Principal Deputy for Operations and Logistics James Dwyer said.

Carryover, or the OIB's booked work orders, is critical to keeping costs down and skillsets up, Dwyer said. New part-



Courtesy photo

Army Materiel Command's Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche speaks to around 30 business developers from AMC's 23 Organic Industrial Base facilities at the Advanced Business Development Course held July 26-29. The course featured briefings from AMC leadership and branding and marketing experts.

nerships with both government and industry will keep the OIB alive and ready to meet any requirement to surge at a moment's notice.

“Business development helps us keep the OIB affordable,” Dwyer said. “The OIB keeps Soldiers alive.”

Workload from 2007 to 2009 tripled for the OIB as battle-worn equipment returned from austere environments to be repaired and reset. The OIB, without

skipping a beat, successfully surged to meet the requirement, Dwyer said.

In fiscal 2015, AMC had 290 Public-Private Partnerships with an estimated government revenue of \$262 million.

Industry and government entities interested in partnering with the unique capabilities of the OIB should call the AMC partnership program manager at 450-7808 or visit www.amc.army.mil/amc/partnershipopportunities.html.



Courtesy photo

Operations officer retires

Col. Chad Skaggs, deputy chief of staff G-3, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Maj. Ernest Harrell, SMDC/ARSTRAT G-3 operations officer, during Harrell's retirement ceremony July 22. Harrell retires after serving 20 years.

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Army senior leader invests in interns



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Zuk

More than 40 Army Materiel Command summer hire interns meet Thursday with AMC Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via to discuss opportunities in the federal government and hear advice for future success.

By **KARA WALL**

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Running the gamut from high school to Ph.D. students, 42 Army Materiel Command summer hire interns gathered to hear from the command's top leader Thursday.

AMC Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via spent two hours answering the interns' questions, taking photos and giving them his personal keys to success.

"There are tremendous employment opportunities in the federal government," he said to the students. "This summer, we hope we exposed you to a possibility you may not have given any consideration otherwise."

Focused on igniting a passion for federal service in potential new employees, Via started the "AMC 1,000" initiative which offers 1,000 intern opportunities each year for five years across AMC's global enterprise.

"We need a large and diverse bench to pull from as we proactively refresh the workforce," he said.

Interns don't have to join the Army to serve, he explained. AMC employs around 64,000 Army civilians, offering a full spectrum of careers including science, engineering, accounting, public affairs, business and even medical.

"This internship provides an excellent foundation for you," Via said. "You've been exposed to successful people and an organization with a real world mission that impacts people's lives. It takes everyone, the entire team, to be able to meet those missions and to take care of Soldiers."

Via shared his personal leadership lessons, starting off with good education as the foundation for success.

"Embrace a mentality of lifelong learning," he said. "Be the best at every job you're given."

Via also encouraged the group to find their passion, be a good person and a good friend, set high goals and work hard every day.

"Some people say success is luck," he said. "I've found that the harder I work, the luckier I get." Via said he would love for all of the interns to find careers at AMC.

"We want you to spread the word and go back as ambassadors to your schools and talk about the opportunities here," he said. "We would love to have you as part of our team."

Participating interns were employed by AMC headquarters, AMC's Logistics Support Activity and AMC major subordinate command Security Assistance Command.

Huntsville Center welcomes new commander



Photo by Julia Bobick

Col. John Hurley speaks during Friday's ceremony on becoming commander of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

By **JULIA BOBICK**

Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Public Affairs

Friday began another chapter in the storied history of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville as Col. John Hurley assumed command from Lt. Col. Burlin Emery.

Presiding over the change of command, Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Stevens acknowledged the contributions of Huntsville's previous leader Col. Bob Ruch, who retired in May after nearly four years as the Center commander, before recognizing Emery for being "a stabilizing force" and sustaining "the momentum and energy of the command" as the interim commander.

"We are all fortunate you are staying with this team," Stevens said to Emery, who will return to his former position as deputy commander.

Stevens said it's an honor to welcome the Hurley family to another USACE organization.

"The Huntsville Center is a phenomenal command and I have no doubt you will lead it to even greater heights and further achievements," he said.

Huntsville Center's path has been filled with twists, bumps and turns during its nearly 50 years, Stevens said. "The foundation of that path, however, has been absolutely one of undeniable technical expertise and resolute commitment, and those truly are the hallmarks of the Huntsville Center."

Hurley comes to Huntsville from USACE's Japan Engineer District where he had been the commander since July 9, 2013. Prior to that, Hurley served as the deputy commander

of the USACE Transatlantic Division. The New York native, with a bachelor's in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Military Academy and a master's in sociology from Northwestern University, is a licensed professional engineer in Missouri, a registered project management professional and is Ranger, Airborne and Air Assault qualified.

"I have seen the reports and heard from stakeholders how the Center takes the time to understand what the warfighter needs to better accomplish its mission, and then the Center figures out how it can deliver. This is a truly exceptional mindset in the bureaucracies of today," said Hurley, who added that he's greatly impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication to quality that exists in the Center. "This mission agility isn't about maintaining relevance and it isn't about job security - it's about making the nation stronger today than it was yesterday. ... The Center is uniquely positioned to do just that.

"I consider myself very lucky to be joining such a great organization, and it will be my distinct privilege to work with each of you."

Stevens said it truly is the people here who make Huntsville Center such a remarkable team.

"It's really not enough for me to just stand up here and say, 'Thank you,' thank you for your service and in many cases thank you for your sacrifice," Stevens said to Huntsville Center's employees. "The dedicated public servants who make up this Center truly do deserve the thanks of our nation for what they do every day to ensure the prosperity and security of our nation."

Huntsville Center worker volunteers in West Virginia

By Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Public Affairs

“Rewarding, surprising and a lot of hard work” is how William Noel, a project manager at the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, describes his work volunteering at a “pop-up” medical clinic operated by “Your Best Pathway to Health” July 12-14 in Beckley, West Virginia. All medical, dental and other services were provided without charge, and volunteers paid their own travel and lodging expenses to participate.

Noel was assigned to the Venue Services team that did the hard work of unloading equipment and supplies from seven long-haul trailers, setting up the event in the Beckley Convention Center, supporting operations over three days, then tearing it all down and loading it back onto the trucks. His daughter, Breanna, accompanied him and worked as a patient escort. The pair were among 734 volunteer doctors, nurses and others from around America and several foreign countries who staffed the event.

“We worked some very long days and late into the night getting everything ready to open the clinic on Wednesday morning,” he said. “When we got to the hotel at night we just dropped into bed.”

One of his tasks through the week was overseeing the supply and distribution of the more than 8,000 bottles of water that were consumed.

Arriving at 6 each morning to have everything ready to open at 7, they were surprised to find more than 100 people waiting in line to receive medical and dental services, free clothing and haircuts. “Some of them had slept in their cars to be sure they could get in. That’s the stuff you hear about happening in poor countries but not in America, yet we were seeing it with our own eyes,” he said. “The stories I heard most often were from people who had jobs and insurance but who couldn’t afford the deductibles. One man told me his insurance deductible was \$5,000 for each of the five members of his family so there was no way they could afford to see a doctor. He really appreciated us being there.”

Coal mining has been a major industry in West Virginia and environmental restrictions on the use of coal have impacted the local economy severely. That hardship was complicated by severe flooding a couple of weeks before the clinic, which was planned months in advance.

“The people of West Virginia have a long, proud history of working hard and looking out for their neighbors, and they were very appreciative of the help. We heard it in places like the checkout at Walmart and Lowe’s when people saw our team shirts,” Noel said. “While no count of flood victims was made, several patients that I met told us they had lost homes or knew people who had lost their homes or suffered damage.”

The clinic expected to treat 1,500 patients but the actual number was 1,722. In addition to free medical and dental services, they also were offered free hair styling and clothing. Patients were also offered free health education classes on a list of topics over the following weeks.

One young woman Noel met in the registration line was obviously pregnant but didn’t even know her due date because she had received no prenatal care. “She was surprised to learn that we had several OB/GYN doctors and that we even had fetal ultrasound. I saw her again on her way out and she told me she had a due date, she’d had an ultrasound and that her baby was healthy. Seeing the smile on her face was



Courtesy photo

William Noel oversaw the distribution of more than 8,000 bottles of water during the “Your Best Pathway to Health” event July 12-14 in Beckley, W.Va.

one of the moments that made all the hard work worthwhile.”

Working in Venue Services meant Noel had only occasional contact with patients. One encounter was with a mother and her two young daughters in the parking lot. Each had had their eyes checked and was carrying a bag of clothes. When asked if anything special had happened, the youngest, who he guessed was around 6, declared with excitement, “I got some baby doll clothes for my teddy bear!”

Interns receive snapshot of logistics data storage



Photo by Megan Gully

Logistics Support Activity Commander Col. John Kuenzli meets with five Army Materiel Command ambassadors from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Minority Institutions outreach program for a brown bag lunch and LOGSA overview.

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army only has one Logistics Support Activity. That was the message from LOGSA Commander Col. John Kuenzli to interns from the Army Materiel Command visiting the activity's headquarters Thursday.

Five AMC ambassadors from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Minority Institutions outreach program met with Kuenzli for a brown bag lunch and LOGSA overview, followed by a tour of the LOGSA's data center.

"Every day we take information and data from all around the world, from the lowest level of reporting, the company level, up to the Pentagon to track the status of systems and help build the Army's readiness picture. It all flows through LOGSA," he said.

LOGSA's data center can store up to two petabytes of data, and has enough storage capability to hold all of the libraries of academic research institutions in the United States. The center is a cloud that can be accessed by users around the world, and gets as many hits a day as the New York Stock Exchange has transactions in a day.

"LOGSA enables smart decisions," Kuenzli said. "We have about 20 years of data on Army systems that we can turn into information called descriptive data.

"We can use that descriptive data to future forecast the Army's needs. If LOGSA does everything right we can lower the Army's costs while increasing readiness rates."

The next level is prescriptive analysis – where data will not only future forecast, but teach the user what to do next.

"With enough repetition the computer will start to train our Soldiers, and that is when we really start saving money," Kuenzli said. "There is only one LOGSA, we are the only one who can do it."

Following the command overview, the interns and Kuenzli traveled to LOGSA's data center, where they learned more about the command's massive information storage capabilities.

Mentoring on fast track at contracting command



Courtesy photo

Army Contracting Command's Commander Maj. Gen. James Simpson visits one of the groups during the Speed Mentoring event July 20.

By Army Contracting Command-Redstone

The Army Contracting Command-Redstone held its inaugural workforce Speed Mentoring event July 20 at the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms building.

ACC-Redstone's vision is to provide contracting professionals a platform to partner with customers to enable the most efficient and effective delivery of capability to the Soldier. The Mentoring Program's mission to provide opportunities to "engage, connect, grow" while making a difference in the lives of the participants. The Speed Mentoring event was to help ACC-Redstone employees, who signed up to be a part of the Mentoring Program, select their potential mentor.

The event attracted 23 percent of the registered participants from the ACC-Redstone Mentoring Program. The participants rotated in small groups where they listened to a general summary of the mentor's career. ACC career management specialists John Bentley and Charles Webber facilitated the communications during rotations which highlighted some of the advice that was shared. The give and take of the event received positive reviews from the participants writing.

"There is a wealth of information and most importantly, super people with a wealth of guidance and support," a participant wrote.

"Mentees really are concerned about doing a good job," a mentor wrote. "Bright future for KO's and specialists."

Army Contracting Command's Commander Maj. Gen. James Simpson stopped by to show his support. He encouraged all participants to never stop learning and to be willing to step outside their comfort zones.

After the event, the participants were asked to submit their top-three potential mentors based on the biographies and speed mentoring interactions. The leadership team will begin pairing the mentees with mentors based on the mentee's request. Phase I of the Mentoring Program at ACC-Redstone is scheduled mid-August through February. The signup portion for Phase II of the Mentoring Program will be announced via the ACC-Redstone SharePoint page during February and the actual signup is projected to take place on the ACC-Redstone Mentoring Program's SharePoint page.

Garrison

Continued from page 1

today – from the national debt and reduced government spending, to the social unrest as of late – Redstone Arsenal is in a position to either “help solve” or “help prevent” those challenges, he said.

Take for instance, government spending and the declining budgetary resources. Holliday predicts that to overcome those constraints, government organizations may look at moving onto federal property – such as military installations. Redstone is already preparing to welcome an additional component of the FBI from the Washington, D.C., area.

“We are set in a prime position,” Holliday said. “Redstone is arguably the largest interagency military base in the world right now. We’ve already cracked some of the codes as to how to make the interagency capabilities beneficial to

everyone. But the other piece is we still have terrain left for more to come, so we are positioned for growth, if the government decides to execute it.”

When you put it all together – North Alabama’s cost of living compared to places such as Washington, D.C., the concentration of high tech capabilities in the area, and the added security Redstone offers as a military installation – it’s clear to Holliday that Team Redstone, as a federal center of excellence, is poised to be a leader in new and innovative ways. It’s a perspective, however, that he says is all a prediction on his part.

“Because of the intellectual capital of Team Redstone, there’s an unbelievable ability to cross-level information in certain areas that you don’t have anywhere else,” he said. “All of that, combined, led me to the determination that this is America’s Garrison of the Future. We are setting the standard that other garrisons, I believe, will follow as we move forward.”

Born in Alabama and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, it was the example of two of Holliday’s grandfathers, both paratroopers in World War II, that led him to a life in uniform. Earning his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the U.S. Military Academy in 1992, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in military intelligence. Over the course of his career, he has served in a variety of assignments, to include six combat tours in Afghanistan. His most recent assignment,

prior to coming to Redstone, was as the deputy G3 for the Army Cyber Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Together with his wife Jennifer, and their three children, Emily, Mary Shannon and Thomas, Holliday is excited to be back in the Tennessee Valley.

“To me this is home,” he said. “Although the Army tells us, ‘Home is where you hang your hat’ – true statement – I would argue that I have spent the last 24 years to get back home.”



Photo by Tiffany Hamilton

Reenlistment briefing

Army Materiel Command’s Command Career Counselor Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr provided a retention overview to more than 60 Army Sustainment Command Soldiers at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., July 20. Among the various topics reviewed, Orr highlighted changes in retention control points, bars to reenlistment and the indefinite reenlistment program.

“We are working on things here you won’t find anywhere else. We’re working to put someone on Mars. Where else in the world is someone doing that? When you think futuristic, a lot of those capabilities exist here at Redstone that don’t exist anywhere else.”

Col. Tom Holliday

Letterkenny depot rolls out new combat vehicle

By JANET GARDNER

Letterkenny Army Depot Public Affairs

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. – A ceremony celebrating the successful production and roll out of the latest version of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected route clearance vehicle was held July 19 at Letterkenny Army Depot.

The event was hosted by Letterkenny Commander Col. Deacon Maddox and Col. Jason Craft, project manager for the Army project office Assured Mobility Systems, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles. James Rowan, deputy commandant, Engineer Regiment, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, represented the customer and accepted the newest variant of the RG31 from Letterkenny Army's RG31 portfolio team.

“When most people think of Letterkenny, they think of missiles – Patriot and Avenger for example – and that is a huge part of what we do here,” Maddox said. “What many people do not know about Letterkenny is that approximately one-third of the depot's work is the route clearance vehicle, which includes the RG31, the vehicle we celebrate today.”

The rollout ceremony featured the latest variant of the RG31's configuration. Among the improvements were: an engine upgrade from 275 to 300 horsepower, a transmission upgrade from 2500 to a 3000 series, the addition of independent suspension for improved mobility, 360-degree spotlights for night visibility and the addition of an armored gunner's hatch.

Craft congratulated the depot's workforce and reminded them of the importance their individual roles play in support of the Soldier in the field. He then read the contents of an email he received from a parent of a Soldier who recently survived a blast from an improvised explosive device that destroyed the MRAP that the Soldier and his fire team used to execute their mission. After the blast, every occupant of that



Photo by Pam Goodheart, Letterkenny

Members of the RG31 team stand in front of an RG31, which was ceremoniously presented to the customer, James Rowan, fourth from right, who represented the Engineer Regiment, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

See Depot on page 13

Carter tells deploying troops to keep momentum

By JIM GARAMONE

DOD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Ash Carter on July 27 told troops readying to deploy to Iraq that they must build on the momentum to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The secretary addressed service members set to deploy with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The unit will replace the III Corps as the American portion of Operation Inherent Resolve with Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland passing command to Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend.

Carter called on the troops to help accelerate the defeat of ISIL. “Last fall we introduced an initial series of accelerants to help us gather momentum,” the secretary said. The United States, he said, deployed additional strike aircraft and aimed them at new targets and new categories of targets illuminated by refined intelligence.

“We deployed an initial contingent of special operations forces to Syria, and expanded equipping of Syrian Arab forces engaged in the fight against ISIL, as well as training and equipping of the Iraqi security forces, including the Kurdish peshmerga,” Carter said. “We introduced an expeditionary targeting force. And we started to expand our military campaign to every domain, including cyber.

“We also asked all our coalition countries to make additional contributions to the campaign, which they did – contributing strike aircraft, special operations forces, trainers, engineers, logisticians, lift capabilities and other critical enablers.”

Carter said these efforts have worked, as Iraqi and Syrian forces have retaken territory from ISIL.

“As result, play by play, town after town, from every direction and in every domain, our campaign has accelerated further squeezing ISIL and rolling it back towards Raqqa and Mosul,” he said. “By isolating those two cities, we’re effectively setting the stage to collapse ISIL’s control over them.”

More needs to be done, the secretary told the Soldiers.

“We’ve seized opportunities, reinforced success and taken the fight to the enemy,” Carter said. “But we are not going to rest – and that’s why you’re going to build on those results, continue to take the fight to the enemy, gather more momentum and help deliver ISIL a lasting defeat. I have every confidence that you will.”

In Syria, indigenous and coalition forces will work to shut down the last remaining paths for ISIL fighters to move in and out of the country along the border with Turkey, the secretary said.

“In Iraq, we will continue enabling the dedicated Iraqi security forces and Peshmerga led by Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi and supported by Kurdish Regional President Masoud Barzani – working by, with, and through the Iraqi government, as we always have,” he said.

U.S. service members will focus on helping Iraqi forces pursue mopping-up operations along the Euphrates River Valley, Carter said. “In the north, we will continue to help the Iraqi security forces clear the remaining pockets of ISIL control along the Tigris River Valley,” he said. “Simultaneously, we will help the Iraqi security forces



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brigette N. Brantley

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, center, meets with Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, left, XVIII Airborne Corps commander, and Gen. Robert Abrams, right, Forces Command commander, upon arriving at Fort Bragg, N.C., July 26.

– including the Kurdish peshmerga – to refit and generate the forces and logistical footprint necessary to isolate and pressure Mosul.”

This strategy will culminate in the collapse of ISIL’s control over the cities of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria, Carter said.

The coalition is doing more in the region with President Barack Obama ordering an additional 560 troops to support Iraqi forces in their offensive to retake Mosul.

“Other nations are following our lead, and making commitments as well,” Carter said. “France is sending back the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle to carry out airstrikes against ISIL. Australia will be expanding their training of Iraqi police and border guards, which will be vital for security in Iraq after ISIL’s defeat. And the United Kingdom recently announced it would deploy more trainers and engineers to Iraq, as well.”

Taking the territory is the first move, holding it will be crucial, the secretary said. “There will be towns to rebuild, services to reestablish and communities to restore,” Carter said. “Such progress is critical to ensuring that ISIL, once defeated, stays defeated, so that our partners’ gains are made irreversible.”

Depot

Continued from page 12

MRAP walked away unharmed except for one Soldier who suffered a broken nose. The Soldier’s father asked in the email, “What would have happened had my son not been in an MRAP?”

“Fortunately, such a question need not be answered because Letterkenny Army Depot is one of the depots helping to provide the best equipment possible for Soldiers,” Craft said. “This community, this city and this state have done their part to ensure the Soldier receives that equipment.”

Before accepting the RG31 vehicle from the team, Rowan said, “The Army and the nation made a major investment in the MRAP fleet of vehicles. This vehicle – the Medium Mine Protected vehicle that is built on the RG31 MRAP platform – has already saved untold lives and will continue to do so in the future.”

Rowan quoted comments made by then Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in July

2008, “There is no failsafe measure that can prevent all loss of life and limb on this or any other battlefield. That is the brutal reality of war. But vehicles like MRAP, combined with the right tactics, techniques and procedures provide the best protection available against these attacks.”

Rowan asked the assembled group of the depot’s workforce, invited guests, senior military leaders, and local community and political representatives to remember the critical importance of the work they do each and every day, and that the end-user and ultimate customer is the Soldier who values and appreciates their work.

The RG31 is a route clearance vehicle that is part of the family of MRAP vehicles that also includes the Husky and the Buffalo.

The RG31 program was brought to Letterkenny at the end of fiscal 2012 with initial funding provided for prototypes. Letterkenny artisans completed a proof concept and engineered a prototype that was accepted by the product manager of the Assured Mobility Systems Product Office, Program Executive Office for Combat Support and Combat Service Support. The depot is scheduled to produce 929 of the RG31s with a production end date of 2020.

Foreign military sales case boosts Liberia

By MICHELLE MILLER

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

MONROVIA, Liberia – The Republic of Liberia, a small country on the north western coast of Africa, held a ribbon cutting ceremony July 12 in the country's capital, Monrovia, marking the turnover of vehicles and assorted equipment received through a foreign military sales purchase.

The ceremony was attended by Liberian president and commander in chief of the armed forces Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who thanked the United States “for its continued support to the armed forces of Liberia, the government and people of Liberia.”

Twenty Toyota Land Cruiser pickups and maintenance vehicles, plus manuals and three years of spare parts, were included in the \$1 million FMS case.

In addition to the pickup trucks, two Boston Whaler boats were also delivered to support military operations. All of the newly acquired materiel will be used for routine security operations, assist in road construction across the country and for peacekeeping missions in the nearby country of Mali. The U.S. will also do-

nate a 10,000 liter water truck, a 50,000 liter per day water purification unit and a mobile kitchen trailer to support missions in Mali.

U.S. Ambassador Christine Elder presented the keys to the vehicles and equipment during the ceremony, officially marking the transfer of ownership to Liberia.

“The United States of America has a long and continuing relationship with the armed forces of Liberia,” Elder said.

“We were heavily involved with demobilizing the old AFL,” she said. “And actively participated in the training of about 2,000 men and women from across the country, and assisting in providing mentorship and training to the new AFL.”

Soldiers from the Security Assistance Training Management Organization, a subordinate organization of USASAC based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, are also serving as advisers to their military.

“All of this geared toward the training, modernization and professionalization of the Liberian military,” Bill Kaundart, a country program manager in the AFRI-COM regional operations directorate at the Security Assistance Command, said.

“This is small money in FMS, but it is



Courtesy photo

U.S. Ambassador Christine Elder, far right, and other representatives, hold the ribbon as Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf cuts it signifying the turnover of trucks and boats for the armed forces of Liberia received through the Army's foreign military sales program.

huge for Liberia to receive this support,” he said.

USASAC's current foreign military sales cases on offer have a total program value of \$12 billion to date and fiscal 2016

is projected to reach \$14 billion. But regardless of the dollar amount, each FMS case across the globe can have a positive impact to that country's regional stability and the Army's global missions.

Be watchful and report suspicious activity

Suspicious activity reporting is among the key points of Antiterrorism Awareness Month in August.

iWATCH is a nationwide modern version of Neighborhood Watch developed by the Los Angeles Police Department to encourage members of the community in identifying and reporting suspicious behavior that may be associated with terrorist activities. The purpose of iWATCH is to promote antiterrorism awareness and leverage every member of the Army community to act as a sensor to help identify and prevent potential terrorist acts.

There are two elements of the initiative, Passive and Active. The passive element of iWATCH is individual situational awareness of your surroundings. The active element requires individuals to take action and report suspicious behavior or activities to law enforcement for more investigation.

An essential component of iWATCH is reporting suspicious activity. iWATCH aspires to ensure everyone knows how to report suspicious activity.

Identifying suspicious activity or behaviors is not a difficult science. Your suspicion of a threat could be confirmed with only one incident or it could take a series of incidents. Your suspicions may be based on experience, judgment and common sense. Suspicious activity is about suspicious behaviors and not based solely on individuals. Just because someone looks suspicious does not trigger suspicious activity reporting. It is more about the suspicious activity or behavior that is the key element. Keep this mind. Why does this event seem suspicious to you?

Local law enforcement depends on information from the public to capture criminals or suspected terrorists. The vast majority of arrests are the direct result of information received from witnesses. People reporting suspicious activity, getting

descriptions of thieves, robbers and adversaries, and writing down license plate numbers from fleeing criminals are critical to the success of the law enforcement professionals. Without people calling the cops and getting good descriptions of suspicious activities or criminals, arrest rates would be very low. Residents help law enforcement solve crimes and thwart terrorist attacks every day.

Here are a few suspicious activities to focus on:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings (religious, government and so on).
- Strangers asking questions about security procedures.
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left unattended.
- Vehicles left in no parking zones or in front of important buildings.
- Unfamiliar people in secure areas.
- Persons wearing clothes that are noticeably too big or too hot for the weather (coats or jackets in summer).
- Chemical smells or fumes that seem out of the ordinary for the specific location.

• People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules that do not have a need to know.

• People purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons, or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.

Be alert at all times for suspicious activity. Maintain individual situational awareness of your surroundings. Everyone is a vital sensor for reporting suspicious activity. Law enforcement officials cannot be everywhere; and they need the eyes and ears of the entire installation and local community to assist in quelling crime and terrorism.

Report all suspicious persons and activities to the Redstone dispatch at 313-6422 or use the Free Army iWATCH



mobile app. If you are at work, notify your supervisor and organizational anti-terrorism officer once you have called the proper authorities. Note: iWATCH does not replace 911. If a crime is in progress or any incident appears life threatening, call 911 immediately.

Provide as much of the following details to assist law enforcement officials:

- Who? Describe who is involved in the suspicious activity such as: male or female; height; build; hair color; skin color; age; English speaking or another language. If there is a car, note the license plate number, vehicle make and model, etc.
- What? Describe what you witnessed.
- Where? Give the location of the suspicious activity (i.e. street address or name of the facility).
- When? Give the date and time the activity took place.
- Why? Indicate why the activity is suspicious to you or if you have seen this activity before.

Keep in mind that there are three critical rules when observing suspicious ac-

tivity: Don't confront. Do get good descriptions of the individuals, vehicles and activities. Do immediately report the activity to the police. Remember that timely and accurate reporting is the key.

To download the free iWATCH Army mobile app, call 217-4390 from your smartphone. The system will talk you through the process or send you a link to download the app. You may also search for the app in your Apple or Android smart phone app store by typing iWatch Army or access from a personal computer iwatcharmy.getiwatch.com.

The iWatch Army app allows users to send reports in the form of text messages, voice recordings, photos or video. Users also will have the ability to communicate with the responding officer in an anonymous chat. Reports of suspicious activity outside the installation will be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Editor's note: This information was provided by the antiterrorism program manager in the Garrison's plans and operations division.

Javelin readiness earns defense-wide recognition

By KARI HAWKINS

AMCOM Public Affairs

The Javelin weapon system – the world’s first fire-and-forget, man-portable, shoulder-launched, medium-range, anti-tank, guided munition and surveillance weapon system – continues to hit milestones that are drawing the attention of Department of Defense leaders.

For the eighth year in a row, the Javelin has reported a tactical operational readiness rate greater than 99 percent, far surpassing contractual requirements and customer expectations with the aid of performance-based logistics.

On July 26, the government-contractor team behind the Javelin’s success was recognized with a Performance-Based Logistics Award presented by Terrence Emmert, deputy assistant secretary of defense for materiel readiness, as part of the 11th annual Secretary of Defense Performance-Based Logistics Awards program. The Javelin Joint Venture Performance-Based Logistics Team, comprised of government employees from the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and contrac-

tor employees from Raytheon Systems Corp. and Lockheed Martin Corp., was recognized with the System Level Gerald R. Beck Award. It was the only Army program that received a PBL award from DOD in the 2015 award cycle.

“This is a great day to be a missileer. We are tracking that the chief of staff of the Army’s priority is readiness and there is no other priority. We take readiness very seriously with our missile systems. We understand how important readiness is to our warfighters and that’s what we work for every day,” Barry Pike, program executive officer for missiles and space, said.

The Javelin Joint Venture PBL Team is a collaborative effort between the CCWS project office and the Javelin Joint Venture team comprised of a partnership between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin in a public-private partnership with the Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, the Fort Benning (Georgia) Training Support Center and transportation partner, DHL Global Forwarding. The team supports the Javelin weapon system and its training devices.

See Javelin on page 20



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Terrence Emmert, deputy assistant secretary of defense for materiel readiness, first row at left; and Barry Pike, program executive officer for missiles and space, second row at right, congratulate the Javelin Joint Venture Performance-Based Logistics Team for winning a Secretary of Defense Performance-Based Logistics Award during the award presentation July 26 at the headquarters for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space. Representing the government-contractor team are, front row from left, Walter Jones (Raytheon), Tyrone Smith (Lockheed-Martin), and Steven Potts and Barry Thrower of Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office; and second row from left, Phillip Epperson, T.J. Longoria and Autumn Knoth-Jez, all of Close Combat Weapon Systems.

Air Force turns to Huntsville Center for gate security

By **WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW**

Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Public Affairs

Since 9/11, the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville has been helping Army installations comply with stricter access control point requirements.

Now, the Air Force is taking advantage of 15 years of experience by using a Huntsville Center contracting vehicle to ensure sustained security at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Huntsville Center's Access Control Points program's maintenance and services multiple award task order contract guarantees active barrier systems – electro-mechanical equipment that can prevent passage of vehicles when engaged – receive preventative and corrective maintenance and emergency repairs ensuring any threat vehicles are stopped before they enter the installation.

Jeffery Neilsen, Air Force Civil Engineer Center director of operations, said his agency and the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency were putting forth efforts to secure an enterprise-wide contract for barrier maintenance when he learned of the Center's contract.

After reviewing the contract, Neilsen said he felt it would be a good fit for the New Mexico Air Force base, especially since in-house maintenance was being used to maintain its active barrier systems.

"We determined Holloman was in a situation where the MATOC (contract) could be a benefit," Neilsen said.

"The costs associated with using in-house AVB (active barrier systems) maintenance is higher as the manpower dedicated for AVB maintenance isn't funded, and the time Holloman's airmen dedicated to AVB maintenance would be best used elsewhere."

Col. Robert Brown, 49th Mission Support Group commander, said the demands for maintenance and testing of the barriers was a tremendous task for his security forces and civil engineers.



Courtesy photo

Active vehicle barriers installed at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., can prevent passage of vehicles when engaged. The Air Force is using a Huntsville Center's Access Control Points multiple award task order contract to ensure barrier preventative and corrective maintenance and emergency repairs are performed by contractors, freeing up personnel from the base's civil engineer and security forces airmen to focus on higher priority tasks more associated with their career fields.

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Security

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“Like all Fightin’ 49ers they willingly accepted the challenge and completed it as directed, but ultimately it just didn’t make sense to do it in-house,” Brown said.

“By utilizing the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center MATOC to accomplish maintenance and testing, rather than personnel from the 49th Civil Engineering and 49th Security Forces squadrons, we can return those airmen to higher priority tasks more associated with their career fields.”

Ron Brook, Huntsville Center’s ACP program manager, said although the Holloman contract is a pilot program, he said he hopes the Air Force sees the value of the Center’s access control points program and continues to utilize the program service-wide.

“The program isn’t just capable in executing maintenance projects,” Brook said. “The ACP design and construction MATOC is also a valuable tool, and I hope Air Force leadership will learn more about ACP program capabilities as they see the requirements for upgrades arise in the near future.

“Huntsville Center’s ACP program is

tried and true. We’ve provided program oversight for more than 250 AVBs at 225 gates on more than 40 Army sites.”

Huntsville Center’s access control points program evolved after the terror attacks of 9/11. As security requirements increased, barrier system were rapidly installed at Department of Defense locations and many of the active barriers put in place at bases were locally designed and installed.

However, during the post-9/11 years, the Army sought Huntsville Center’s experience with electronic security systems and other similar programs to improve both gate and personnel security while reducing traffic congestion according to Army standards. The result was the creation of the access control points program that employed project development teams to figure best practices to ensure gates meet all applicable Department of Defense and agency specific standards.

“Our contracting and management capabilities provide M&S as well as design-build construction and infrastructure upgrades to ACPs at facilities worldwide,” Brook said.

He said the advantage to using the Center’s access control points program is that the MATOCs deliver pre-approved pools of contractors to provide maintenance and repair services for equipment within an ACP footprint and the pro-

grams’ design-build contracts contain pre-approved pools of contractors that can provide design and construction services for an ACP within a single contract award.

“We also have the capability to provide engineering services to meet planning requirements for any ACP project, and as the Air Force begins re-evaluating its future security requirements, we hope we can assist them by leveraging technical expertise within the Army Corps of Engineers and providing the best project value for its specific requirements,” Brook said.

He said other advantages to the access control points program is that it partners with other organizations such as the USACE Protective Design Center and Center of Standardization, the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Traffic Engineering Agency and the Electronic Security Systems Center of Expertise.

Additionally, Brook said the program can assist in locating required Corps of Engineers resources for almost any action required.

“The program strives to maintain maximum flexibility to meet customer needs including the use of ordering officers and the use of local USACE resources to ensure that the best products possible are provided in a seamless man-

ner,” he said.

“Our program also installs visitor control center and equipment infrastructure, closed circuit TV equipment through Huntsville Center’s Electronic Security Systems program and other items with design-build contracts. This offers an enormous benefit to customers as issues identified by the site which cannot be executed by the M&S contractor can rapidly be developed into projects that are issued via the ACP design-build MATOC and certain requirements can also be addressed via the USACE CoS or PDC.”

The access control points program works closely with the Protective Design Center, which provides a wide array of technical services that include commissioning ACPs to the Department of Defense standard and site evaluations that assess equipment condition and the site’s compliance with DoD ACP standards.

The assessments can be used to develop cost information for funding requests and provide site personnel with a full picture of the access control points’ condition. The ACP program can also provide cost estimating and scoping support for funding requests.

“We’ve been doing this a long time and over the years we certainly have gained the expertise,” Brook said.

Material analysts work to keep Soldiers safe



Photo by Lori-Ellen Hudnall

Jennifer Dennis of the Redstone Test Center performed semi-quantitative Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy for elemental analysis of a sample using the field-emission Scanning Electron Microscope.

By **LORI-ELLEN HUDNALL**

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

When aviation equipment fails, what could be more important than getting the equipment repaired and back working for our Soldiers? Failure analysis professionals would say, finding the root cause.

“Many think failure analysis is the process of finding out what component failed. But failure analysis is determining the initiation point and root cause of the failure. We want to know how and why it broke in order to keep our warfighters safe,” Jennifer Dennis, with Redstone Test Center’s Materials Lab Group, said.

With a state-of-the-art lab and up-to-date equipment, RTC team members work to uncover root cause issues from failure events and make recommendations on how to address these failures to prevent them from recurring.

“The problem could be a premature failure with a gear, or it could be a mechanical issue, like a part being installed improperly. It could be that field Soldiers need to be trained on proper maintenance of a piece of equipment. We can accurately measure these things to determine what issue needs to be addressed,” Dennis said.

While the center has been doing the “tear-down” aspect of this work for over a decade, the materials group became part of RTC last April. They work primarily with the rotor-wing aspect of aviation. Material analysis can include the investigation of all types of materials, such as metals, woods, polymers, etc. The center’s group works specifically with metals.

This team has great relationships with the platform offices, which leads to better problem solving. Members from the project office are able to visit the center to witness testing or watch the “tear-down” process.

“Root-cause analysis is like CSI for aircraft,” Dennis said. “I love my job because I’m always doing something different and learning something new. I enjoy the challenge.”

Javelin

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“This award is a culmination of a lot of hard work from our government-contractor team, including contracts, logistics, engineering and project management,” said Barry Thrower, product support manager for the Close Combat Weapons systems project office, which manages the Javelin weapon system.

“It involved a collaborative effort between many partners, including DHL with transportation and Letterkenny Army Depot with repair. The overarching concept is to add value for the Army and to support our warfighters.”

The award recognizes the work of the Javelin JV PBL team in developing, implementing and executing a performance-based logistics solution between the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office and contractors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin that has provided the Javelin warfighter the highest level of mission success and tactical operational readiness with the 99 percent readiness rate continuing through eight years of operations. In addition, restructuring of the Javelin Lifecycle

Contractor Support reduced the cost of the PBL contract, resulting in a dramatic 48 percent annual cost reduction primarily based on modifications to contract scope and metrics, the use of historical hardware performance and actual demands on the supply system to determine the best level of logistics support.

“We do a lot of different things to maintain readiness of the system for the Soldier,” T.J. Longoria, a logistics management specialist for the CCWS Project Office, said. “We want to do our very best in support of our Soldiers in the field. It’s an honor for us to get to work on the Javelin system and to work with our partners to make sure we provide the best equipment possible even with today’s budget constraints.”

Describing it as a noteworthy achievement, Emmert told the government-contractor team assembled for the award at the headquarters of the PEO Missiles and Space that they have shown the “ability to address multiple support elements through logistics and to do that with a number of industry partners is significant.”

From a DOD perspective, the work the team is doing, he said, provides support for a weapon system that “ar-

guably is one of the initial capabilities needed to maintain the nation’s strategic advantage. There are a lot of threats – and a growth in the proliferation of threats and the intensity of threats – in American history, and this system and the work you do is a countermeasure to those threats.”

Weapon systems like Javelin and the sustainment team behind the system are essential in maintaining the nation’s technological edge on the battlefield, Emmert said.

“What we do on the sustainment side is a critical enabler” of readiness and the ability to invest in new technologies, he said.

“You have hit very high readiness rates on equipment that is rode hard and put up wet,” Emmert said. “I can’t thank you enough. We are celebrating a team that has done fabulous work and what you have done essentially gets you a lot of visibility.”

Members of the CCWS and Javelin JV teams include:

- The CCWS Leadership Team – CCWS Project Manager Bill Ruta, CCWS Deputy Project Manager Phil Skelton, Javelin Product Director Dean Barten, Javelin Deputy Product Director Fritz Gordon, Javelin Assistant Product

Director Doug Agee, CCWS Product Support Manager Barry Thrower and Acting Logistics Director Steven Potts.

- The Javelin Joint Venture Leadership Team – JJV President John Halvey (Raytheon), JJV Vice President and site executive Kevin Byrnes (Raytheon Huntsville), JJV Program Manager Jake Jacobson (Lockheed-Martin), JJV Logistics Program Manager Tyrone Smith (Lockheed Martin), JJV Integrated Logistics Support Lead Walter Jones (Raytheon) and JJV Contracts Manager Kim Recker (Lockheed Martin)

- CCWS Award Team Members – Steven Potts, Barry Thrower, Phil Epperson, Autumn Knoth-Jez, T.J. Longoria, Michael Taylor, Randy Gray, Bobby Lewis

- Letterkenny Army Depot Award Team Member - Kevin Gephart

- Javelin Joint Venture Award Team Members – Tyrone Smith, Walt Jones, Rob Bone, Gary Hughes, Richard Kelley, Kevin Connors, Doug Johnson, Lee Ann Monty, Leonor Acosta, Amy Skinner, Juan Covas, Jessica Thompson, Kevin Pfeil, Scott Gerlt, Angelo Garcia, Angel Fennell, Bob Boyd, Eric Chu, Steve Montes, Dan Copson, William Warnock, Clarence Ragland, Fernando Flores and Debra Silver.



Photo by Sgt. Eben Boothby

Radio interview

WHRP FM's Toni Terrell conducts a live interview with Army Materiel Command's Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via on July 26. Discussion focused on Via's 30-plus year career, the 75th anniversary of Redstone Arsenal and the 100th anniversary of the Army ROTC program. The interview aired on the syndicated program, "Your Best Girlfriend."



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Legion of Merit award

Lt. Gen. David Mann, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Legion of Merit on Col. Dennis Griffin, SMDC/ARSTRAT inspector general, during a ceremony July 25 honoring Griffin as he retires after more than 27 years of service.

Environmental office spreads advice on storm drains

The Garrison's Environmental Management Division reminds everyone to keep the storm drains clean for those downstream.

Storm water is the runoff that occurs with natural precipitation such as rain or snow melt. A storm water inlet can be a curbside opening or a grate that drains storm water from streets, yards and sidewalks.

A sewer system is a collection of underground pipes that routes domestic sewage from homes and other buildings to a wastewater treatment plant. Storm sewers, on the other hand, are not usually routed to a treatment system. Instead, they convey runoff through open drainage ditches and underground pipes and empty directly to the ground, streams or ponds.

Pollutants found in storm water include soil and dirt, trash and debris, cigarette butts, oil and grease. And metals are prevalent pollutants found in storm sewers. Storm drains are used for quickly diverting storm water away from urban areas to prevent flooding and water damage. However, when these pollutants are washed into streams, ponds, and rivers, water quality can be harmed. The following tips are useful in preventing water pollution.

Car care: Inspect your car for leaks. Repair leaks promptly. Recycle used oil and filters at the Exchange gas station or Auto craft shop. Use drip pans and funnels when changing fluids. Dry sweep floors instead of wet washing. Wash cars with a bucket and sponge, not a running hose.

Spills: Keep a spill kit in your garage. Clean up spills immediately. Properly dispose of waste material. Do not rinse the spill area with water.

Pet waste: Clean up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste by flushing, burying or trashing.

Drains: To avoid sewer backups, do not put fats down the drain. Containerize fats for trash disposal. Use sink strainers.

Lawn care: Buy only amounts of lawn chemical needed for the job. Follow label directions. Determine application area and mix only the amount needed. Spot treat when possible. Promptly pick up clipped grass, leaves, pruned limbs and other yard waste from your sidewalks, lawn and driveway. Bag yard waste for proper disposal.

Storage: Store chemicals in locked storage areas. Store pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in original labeled containers. Store like chemicals together. Keep containers tightly closed. Do not flush hazardous items down the drain. Tightly seal paint cans and store upside-down to allow a seal to form around the lid.

Household hazardous waste: Turn in household hazardous waste on special pickup days regularly scheduled by the installation environmental office. Do not pour hazardous products on the ground or into gutters or storm drains. Donate usable paint, solvents, automotive fluids, pesticides, fertilizers and cleaning products for reuse. Use nontoxic (or less toxic) alternatives when possible.

Improving storm water quality prevents water pollution, improves fishing and boating, maintains recreational swimming areas, prevents diseases from contaminated seafood and swimming in contaminated water. This also preserves natural beauty of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.

For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office, Storm Water Program Manager, at 955-8501.

Chaplain Corps' 241st birthday tops lesson plan

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The unit ministry team had a historic topic for their monthly training July 27 at Redstone Lanes.

They celebrated the 241st anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps. The 2nd Recruiting Brigade served as host for the family event which included remarks by chaplains and a cake cutting.

"The Chaplain Corps has a very broad and diverse history," Capt. Jeffrey Ellis, deputy chaplain for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, said during his devotional. From the beginning in 1775, Congress wanted chaplains to be there. Ellis pointed out that the chaplains' pay was \$20 per month.

When looking back at history's heroes of the chaplaincy, Ellis said "I'm humbled, I'm absolutely humbled at this service." He said today's Chaplain Corps continues that same spirit.

"We need to love our Soldiers and care for them wherever they are," Ellis said.

Army Materiel Command's Chaplain (Col.) Ken Godfrey welcomed Redstone's unit ministry team members, newcomers and their families. He discussed four "F's" of importance to the Chaplain Corps: Faith, Family, Founding principles and Fellowship.

Sgt. Maj. Alden Wooten, the Army Materiel Command's chief religious affairs NCO, asked the unit ministry



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Capt. David Chapman, chaplain for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, gives an historical perspective on the Chaplain Corps.

team members to continue to support one another.

"Let's stay connected, continue to work together, speak with one voice and let's be a force in the community," Wooten said.

Capt. David Chapman, chaplain for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, presented an historical perspective on the Chaplain Corps.

He described "the historic and compassionate actions of chaplains to minister to Soldiers far from home, providing opportunities for worship according to their faith, and prepare Soldiers for the harsh realities of war that would demand the lives of many."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army Materiel Command's Chaplain (Col.) Ken Godfrey and Sgt. Maj. Alden Wooten, the command's chief religious affairs NCO, cut the Army Chaplain Corps' 241st anniversary cake.

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events

Links guest golfers

Member guest day at the Links is the first Thursday of each month. The \$30 cost includes one bucket of range balls, golf cart rental and green fees. And the member who brings the guest player will pay half his or her normal cart fee. For more information, call 842-7977.

Child care website

A Defense Department website, militarychildcare.com, provides families a single online gateway to child care on military installations, including Redstone Arsenal. The website offers a streamline approach to finding and requesting care, wait list management tools and more. Families at Redstone Arsenal who are on wait lists are automatically transitioned to the new web-based system. Need child care? Make sure you sign up for the wait list online at militarychildcare.com.

Back to school bash

The Child, Youth and School Services "Back to School Bash" is Saturday from 6-8 p.m. at the Goss Road pool. For information call 876-5437.

Challenger Bingo

Challenger Bingo is open Tuesday through Sunday at its building on Weeden Mountain Road. There are two \$10,000 jackpots. And there are guaranteed \$5,000 payouts nightly. For information call 955-3727.

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Spiritual living at Redstone

Remedy for conflicts resides in Scripture

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) TRENTON LEWIS

Garrison chaplain

It is interesting to note that in the world's systems there are a plethora of avenues available for one to take to remedy conflicts. And while they all have their place and validity, the one most often overlooked today, in our Judeo-Christian nation, is the biblical one found in Matthew 18:15-17. This is especially true among those who profess to be practicing Christians.

Practicing Christians often cite the following when they do not observe biblical teachings on how to resolve conflict. Their excuses range from "not knowing about this scriptural teaching" to "feeling the person they were at odds with is unapproachable." What practicing Christians must understand is that Scripture must be studied in order to effectively follow its tenets, lest one reveals a more disturbing problem of their faith walk: viz., you "have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"

(Romans 10:2). Additionally, Christians must understand that following the tenets of their faith is not based on how one may feel the other person may respond. The essential elements to a solid walk of faith is to gain knowledge of, and to rightly apply the biblical tenets of your faith.

The foundation that undergirds a Christian's zeal for God has at its base the knowledge of biblical teachings. It is through the knowledge of God's word that your zeal for the things of God will remain high and serve as a catalyst for you to seek out biblical teachings as your default reference point for any issue you encounter in life. As such, the Bible becomes your default point of reference to deal with any of the challenges life brings your way. This approach is one that I believe can serve as an option to follow for those who are not of the Christian faith.

It is critical that Christians understand that Matthew 18:15-17's biblical lesson is about resolving conflict with those you may find yourself at odds with. To use the excuse that a person is unapproachable as the pseudo-justification for not following this biblical

aphorism in order to then use another technique is not going to free you from the intent of this biblical teaching: restore strained or broken relationships. Generally speaking, people in conflict are unapproachable, but the Scripture does not give you an out to making an attempt to resolve the matter with the person. The text does not read unless another believer is unapproachable go and tell them their fault between you and them alone. But rather Matthew 18:15-17 presumes an unapproachable spirit may exist and provides, in verse 16, a solution for this. However, you are not free to skip verse 15. The biblical lesson clearly prefers reconciliation between believers at odds with each other. In doing so, one is much more capable of mending the breach in the relationship.

The next time you find yourself in conflict with anyone, try this mandate of Scripture, Matthew 18:15-17 (New Living Translation):

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church.

If the church decides you are right, but the other person won't accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a cor-

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.



rupt tax collector.

To a large extent this text reflects how many of the world's systems of conflict resolution operate. Even the military operates on an adage based on this scripture: "Fix the problem at the lowest level." Often, whatever the issue, its solution is found at the lowest level: between the parties at odds or between the person with an ought against a party who may be unaware of any infraction against that person.

From today forward, you are encouraged to follow the aphorisms of Scripture in dealing with all issues you will face in life. Especially, as a Christian, Scripture must always be your point of departure to discovering a remedy for conflict or any issue life will bring your way.

Until next time, God bless.

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. The next meeting is Aug. 13 at 9 a.m. at the Links. Call Dr. Harry Hobbs at 425-5307 for more information.

Weekly Catholic schedule

The schedules for weekday Mass and all Catholic events are available at www.facebook.com/RedstoneArsenalCatholics.

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.

Combat engineer has vivid memories from war

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Soldiers in the engineer unit in Vietnam used to call him “Dangerous Dan.” He was a lieutenant who seemed more determined to kill his fellow troops than the Viet Cong.

Vietnam veteran Horace Allen Jr. recalls that this irrational lieutenant couldn’t be trusted to search for land mines and once dropped a live grenade in the jeep. Finally the Army transferred “Dangerous Dan” to an infantry unit where he got wounded and eventually was killed.

Allen, 73, who lost his eyesight in June, has vivid memories like these of his year-long tour in Vietnam from 1967-68 with the 580th Engineer Battalion under the 25th Infantry Division.

The Madison resident retired as a ser-

geant major in 1992 after 30 years of service. He spent his last five years in uniform as the sergeant major for the ROTC battalion at Alabama A&M University on assignment from Fort Riley, Kansas.

The oldest of five children in Wilmington, North Carolina, he joined the Reserve in 1962 after graduating from high school and working for a year.

“When I first joined the service there weren’t any jobs out there for blacks at the time,” Allen said. “And after I joined the Reserves, I liked it and decided to stay in.”

He went on active duty in May 1962. Allen was a sergeant when deployed to Vietnam in June 1967. His first six months there he was assigned to Delta Company as a construction engineer; and the last six months he was a combat engineer and NCO-in-charge of a four-member mine sweeper team with Bravo Company.

“Basically every day we had the responsibility of finding the mines, blowing the mines,” he said. “Anything that looked out of the ordinary, we checked it.”

The days were hot and the nights, when the temperature would dip as low as 60, seemed comparatively cold.

“The morale was very good. We worked as a team in the company – except that one

guy (Dangerous Dan),” Allen said.

“I remember the smells, the tense moments. There are times now I find myself with certain things I hear I’m ready to move (for cover).”

His 30-year Army career gave him job security and the chance to see the world. He served five tours in Germany and one in Korea.

“I actually had the opportunity to see the world at the Army’s expense, so I enjoyed that,” Allen said.

He completed his education locally after leaving the Army. Allen has an associate in arts degree from Columbia College in 1991, a bachelor’s of science from Columbia College in 1994 and a bachelor’s of arts in religion from Athens State in 1996. He was diagnosed with glaucoma in 1987.

Allen is a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067 in Huntsville, and he also belongs to the American Legion on Drake Avenue.

He shared his views on this nation’s commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

“It’s like to a certain extent it’s good, they realize the fact something should be done,” Allen said. “But the question is why (it took) so long. Why did we have to go



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Horace Allen Jr., a Vietnam veteran and Madison resident, lost his eyesight in June. He retired as a sergeant major in 1992.

through so much and be ridiculed by our own folks.

“In a political war, whether right or wrong, we answered the call.”

Editor’s note: This is the 80th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam revisited
Part 80 of series

Family awaits Soldier's return from Afghanistan

By KARI HAWKINS

AMCOM Public Affairs

Zack Johnson, 6, will have a new Minecraft backpack and be a full-fledged Cub Scout, older brother Nicholas will be getting ready to celebrate his 14th birthday and both will have a lot of new friends the next time their dad comes home.

This fall, as the leaves begin to turn, Col. Kenny Johnson will return from a four-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, where he is monitoring and overseeing contracts as the director of operational contract support for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. While most Soldiers deploy in units as part of regular rotations in support of the train-and-advise mission called Resolute Support, some, like Johnson, are tapped individually because there is an immediate need in theater for their skill or knowledge level.

As far as deployments go, it's a short one. But four months can seem like forever in the minds of two boys missing their dad.

"We have a countdown for when he will be home," mom Terri Johnson said. "It's a time app on our phones. We are just about 50 percent from when he will return."

Needless to say, the Johnson family was a little surprised when their Soldier came home one day from his job as the deputy director of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone to tell them he would be deploying soon.

"My first question was, 'How long?' When he told me four months, I thought, 'OK, that's very much more doable than 12 or 18 months,'" Terri said. "You never really know with extensions or delays. But we are hoping he'll return for fall break and for my birthday and Nicholas' birthday in October."

So far, two months have gone by quickly, with Nicholas enjoying summer Boy Scout camp, Zack and his mom participating in Vacation Bible School and a two-week trip for all three of them to visit family in the Austin area of Texas. Although Terri has taken the summer off from her job as a legal transcriptionist, she is busy getting ready to serve as the treasurer for



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. Kenny Johnson will return to his work as the military deputy for the Army Contracting Command-Redstone after his deployment to Afghanistan.

the Heritage Elementary PTA and as program chair for Redstone Arsenal's Protestant Women of the Chapel.

"I'll probably be a little over committed when Kenny comes home," Terri said with a laugh.

The couple met when Johnson, a Virginia native, was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. A co-worker of Terri's at the semiconductor company where she worked set them up. Soon, Johnson called and left a message, and it was his voice on the recording – deep, rich, friendly – that caught Terri's attention. She called him back, they had a great conversation and soon were dating.

"Once we met, I didn't worry about dating an Army officer until it got serious. He asked me to marry him, and I said 'Yes' even though it meant leaving my family, my career, my friends and everything I knew," she said. "It meant going into the unknown, but I still said 'Yes' because I knew I wanted to spend my life with him no matter where we went."

They were first married in a Justice of the Peace ceremony and then had a traditional wedding a couple months later, leaving Fort Hood a day after the wedding for Fort Knox, Kentucky.

"We literally moved away the next day in a U-Haul and my car," she recalled.

At first, Terri thought that the mobility required by her husband's job would hinder opportunities to continue her career. But, as a librarian and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. Kenny Johnson's family – wife Terri, 6-year-old Zack and 13-year-old Nicholas – filled their summer with activities.

archivist, that mobility actually gave her more opportunities for a variety of work, including as a librarian at ECPI College of Technology in Virginia Beach and as an archivist at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas.

It didn't take long for Terri to adapt to being a military wife. Besides Fort Knox and twice at Fort Hood and now twice at Redstone Arsenal, the family has also lived at Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Monroe, Fort Lee and Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and Monterey, California, where Johnson attended Naval Post Graduate School. Nicholas, who was born when they were stationed at Fort Monroe, was 4 years old in 2007 when his dad deployed for a year to Iraq. Zack was born after the deployment while they were living at Fort Belvoir, where Johnson was working for the Army Acquisition Support Center there.

"I'm thankful to have these two to keep me busy while Kenny is gone. I'm very blessed," Terri said. "We really like it here. We liked it the first time we were here, so we were happy to come back. There's always something to do. There is never a dull moment."

Between their summer activities, the family talks with their Soldier nearly every day by phone or email, and they

Skype with him a couple of times a week. Although there are times when they miss their Soldier, the threesome is grateful for the summer and school activities that help make the deployment time go by, and the prayers and support of friends.

"Just knowing that support is there if we need it makes this deployment much easier. That really means a lot to us," Terri said.

When Johnson returns, he will come home to a loving family ready to spend lots of time with him catching up. They are hoping to introduce him to a new family member – a cat – and take him out to eat at his favorite Mexican restaurant in Birmingham. They also want to share family time at home, go to the movies and sporting events together, and do a bit of traveling in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

They are all looking forward to several more years living in Madison as their Soldier dad returns to his military deputy responsibilities at ACC-Redstone, and then is scheduled for a brigade command equivalent assignment as the project manager for radar development for the Missile Defense Agency, where he will be responsible for the development, fielding and operations of ballistic missile defense radar systems.

Pet owners should exercise care with nutrition

By Capt. ERIN STEIN
Veterinary officer

The United States is in the middle of a weight crisis. We are facing an obesity epidemic that is putting astronomical strain on the medical industry. Unfortunately, this problem is not isolated to just the human health realm. American pets now look more like Garfield than the sleek, elegant figures that the ancient Egyptians worshipped.

I am as guilty as the rest of the United States in allowing my personal pets to gain weight. I admit that it is much easier to leave food down and freely available so that our pets do not constantly beg for food. However, most of our fur-kids are not very good at self-regulation nor do most of them get nearly enough exercise to be able to work off the love handles. While the obesity may give us more to love, the numbers are not as cute. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention estimates that almost 60 percent of cats and 54 percent of dogs in the U.S. are overweight or obese. So what? Why should I as a veterinarian and you as a pet parent be concerned?

There are unfortunately a large number of side effects of obesity. Animals have similar to sometimes the same conditions that humans are faced when we pack on the pounds. Overweight and obese pets have decreased energy and activity levels which further compromise the problem. However, the problem with obesity is more than just your pet not being able to keep up with you. Obesity has a devastating effect on our fur kids' health and quality of life. The extra weight places tremendous strain on our pets' frames, particularly on the joints as well as on the ligaments holding those structures in place. Large breed dogs such as labs and golden retrievers already are faced with early joint issues including osteoarthritis particularly in the hips and knees. However, the extra weight that an overweight, large breed dog carries puts even more strain on already genetically compromised joints. Obese animals tend to develop arthritis earlier and more severely than pets that are at a good body weight. The extra weight also leads to multiple other severe, life-altering medical problems including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and respiratory disease and kidney disease since our pets' internal organs have to work much harder in order to adequately function. Many forms of cancer have also been linked to obesity in pets. However, perhaps the most devastating effects are the decreased quality of life and subsequently the decreased life expectancy for our chubby pets. Since animals are very good at masking pain and discomfort, we often do not recognize arthritis in our pets until it is relatively advanced which means that our pets can be living in pain and discomfort. Additionally, the afore-

mentioned medical issues such as diabetes and heart disease are treated with medications. Having to medicate your pet every day and sometimes multiple times a day is difficult for both you and your pet. Our pets are not the only ones who suffer a decreased quality of life when they are obese.

Unfortunately, many pet owners often do not realize that Duke or Fluffy are carrying just too much weight nor they just don't know how to get the weight off. Just like some humans have a medical reason for gaining weight easily but having a difficult time losing it, some animals have medical problems as well. However, in the veterinary world, weight gain and difficulty losing weight are typically a calorie problem. Our pets consume too many calories and exercise too little which allows them to gain the weight.

How do I know if my pet is overweight? I judge pets' body condition scores (how their weight is distributed) the same way I judge my military working dogs' body condition scores. Dogs and cats are relatively similar. You want to be able to run your hands down your pets sides and be able to feel their ribs (but not see them) without having to press. Their abdomen should tuck upward and should not sag toward the ground when they stand. If you are looking at your pet from above, you should be able to see a waistline (typically an hourglass shape).

My pet is overweight/obese. What should I do? Weight loss occurs when calorie use (output) is greater than calorie intake. In other words, the first step is to increase exercise and decrease calorie or food intake. If an owner is currently free-feeding (just putting food out in a bowl all day), then I recommend purchasing a measuring cup and feeding a set amount. Food amounts should be slowly decreased so that your pet does not lose weight too fast.

Work with your veterinarian to determine your pet's ideal weight and determine what amount you should be feeding.

Begin exercising with your pet. Going for walks with your dog or playing fetch with your dog in the yard are fun activities that are not only an excellent way to help your pet lose weight but are also a good bonding activity with your pet. Many cats enjoy laser pointers which are can be a very fun and comical way to bond with your cat.

Eliminate people food. Human food is not formulated for pets. If your pet is on a good quality, commercial diet, then he or she is getting the appropriate nutrition. People food can alter the nutrition balance that your pet is receiving. Additionally, he or she does not need the extra calories.

Strictly regulate treats. These are often very high in calories and sodium which can make weight control in our pets difficult. Our pets typically just want the attention. Some healthier alternatives to commercial



Courtesy photo

Veterinary Officer Capt. Erin Stein concedes her pet cat Alex is overweight.

treats are ice cubes, carrot pieces and green beans (make sure that canned green beans do not have salt or sodium added).

Set goals and weigh your pets regularly. Good weight management in our pets

is hard. Some pets seem to be able to smell food and gain weight. However, working with your veterinarian is critical to helping you and your pet lead the fullest, healthiest and happiest lives.



Courtesy photo

Legendary entertainer

Country music legend Charlie Pride signs a ukulele for local veterans advocate KC Bertling for the second annual Black Tie Charity Ball Fundraiser. The event, to benefit the Tut Fann Veterans Home, is Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. For more information, call Bertling at 541-0450, Sheren Roberts at 540-623-9783 or Phillis Reid at 225-3062.

Retiree council prepares for 45th annual event

By Military Retiree Council

The Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council supports retirees in the Retirement Services Office jurisdiction. The office serves as an adviser to the council, and as a coordinator of installation support for council activities.

Members of the council agree to act as advisers to the Garrison leadership concerning retiree issues and to attend periodic meetings. They also agree to serve on committees established to carry out council business, assist the office and Garrison leadership in hosting the annual Retiree Appreciation/Soldier for Life Days and commit to supporting the purposes of the Army Retiree Council Program in accordance with Army tradition. Members agree to voice retiree and family member issues and concerns, within the Redstone Arsenal jurisdiction, to the Garrison leadership and the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council.

The council, in support of the retirement services office, has kicked off the planning phase for the 2016 Retiree Appreciation/Soldier for Life Days, Sept. 22-24. This year marks the event's 45th anniversary at Redstone Arsenal.

Activities kick off Sept. 22 with a golf tournament at the Links. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8. There will be prizes, a silent auction, and lunch will be served. The tournament is sponsored by the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. That afternoon the Turning Point Consultants is sponsoring an Honor Walk from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Redstone Activity Field. Walking the labyrinth allows participants to reflect, heal and celebrate.

Events Sept. 23 begin with a health fair from 8 a.m. to noon at The Summit. There will be health screenings, exhibits and related activities. A continental breakfast will also be available. Across the street at The Overlook, drive-thru flu shots will be offered if available. The Commissary will hold a case lot sale and provide refreshments for retirees and their families from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. That

evening will be capped off with a Retiree Appreciation Dinner at The Summit from 6-8 p.m. The Army Materiel Command Band will provide entertainment.

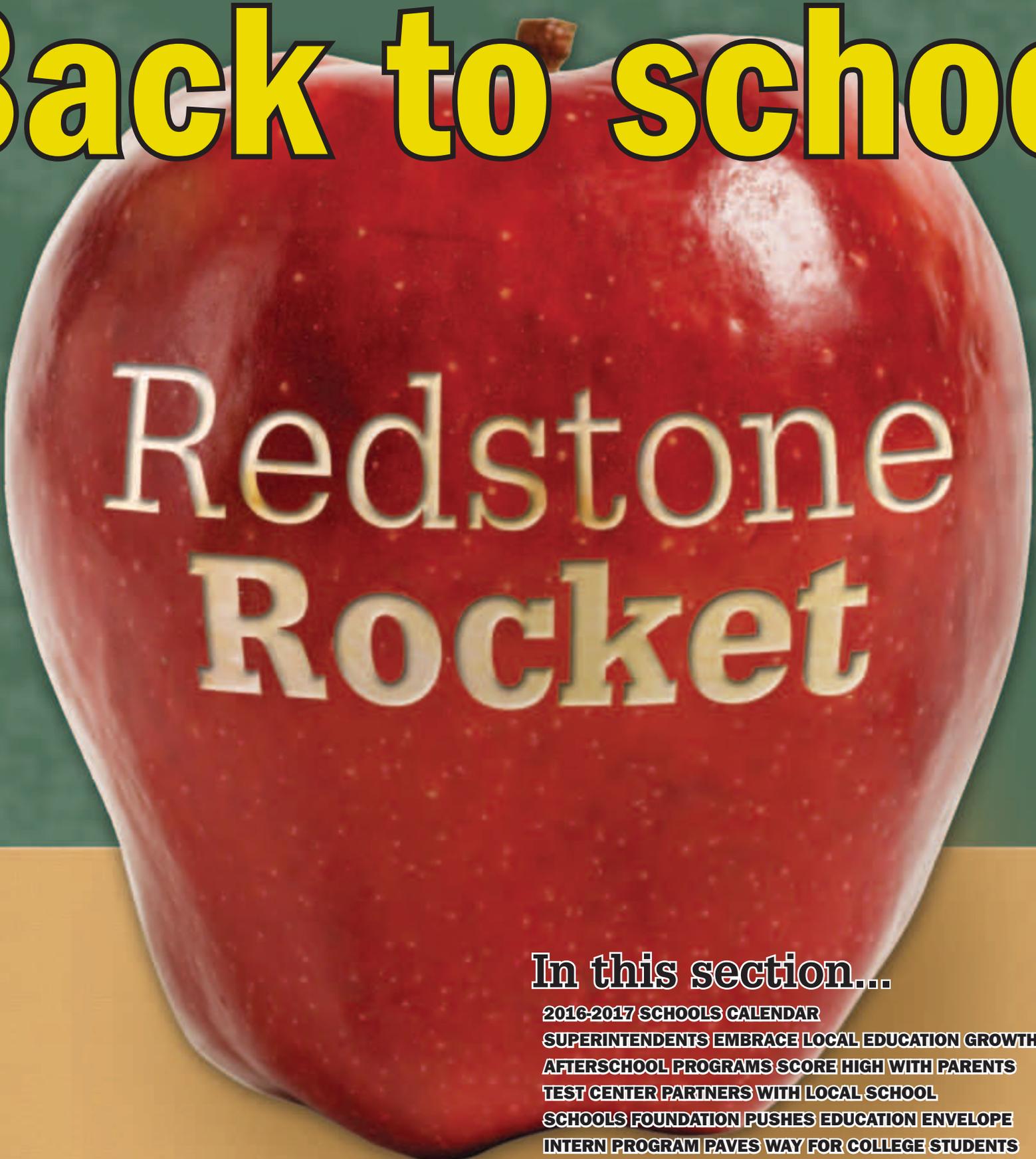
On Sept. 24 there will be a free hot breakfast at Bob Jones Auditorium from 6:30-8 a.m. The speaker program runs from 8-11, with an assortment of talks on relevant topics. The keynote speaker is retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuestion, former AMC commander. A discounted lunch will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the exhibits will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The council will conduct a raffle beginning at 3 p.m. Also at 3 at the Exchange there will be cake and punch, door prizes to the first 50 guests and registration to win one of four \$50 Exchange gift cards.

The Retiree Appreciation/Soldier for Life Days bulletin will soon be mailed to the more than 40,000 retirees in North Alabama.

In addition to planning and executing the annual event, the council selects a focus area each year to emphasize. For 2016, the council's focus is the Casualty Assistance Program. The Redstone casualty assistance center provides information on the Survivor Benefit Plan and casualty assistance to help prepare families for the death of a retiree or veteran. The council has prepared a comprehensive Casualty Assistance Checklist that will be made available during the Retiree Appreciation/Soldier for Life Days program Sept. 24. The checklist can also be downloaded from the council website at www.garrison.redstone.army.mil, under the Support & Services tab and then Retirees & Veterans.

The council always seeks new members. There is no membership fee and the membership application form can be downloaded from the council website. Membership is open to all branches of service, and spouses are also welcome. Council officers for 2016 include retired Maj. Bruce Robinson and retired Sgt. Maj. Donell Pelt, co-chairs; retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anwarul Haq, secretary; and retired Col. Henry Oldham, chairman emeritus.

Back to school



Redstone
Rocket

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2016-2017 schools calendar

Date	Event	Huntsville City Schools	Madison City Schools	Madison County Schools
Wednesday, Aug. 3	First Day of School	X	X	X
Friday, Sept. 2	Half day of school		X	
Monday, Sept. 5	No School – Labor Day	X	X	X
Tuesday, Sept. 6	No School – Staff Development Day			X
Friday, Sept. 23	Half day of school	X		
October 3 – 7	No school – Fall Break	X	X	X
Wednesday, Oct. 26	Half day of school	X		
Thursday, Nov. 10	Half day of school		X	
Friday, Nov. 11	No school – Veterans Day	X	X	X
November 21 -25	No school –	X		X
November 23-25	No school – Thanksgiving break	X	X	X
Friday, Dec. 16	Half day of school		X	
Monday, Dec. 19	No school – winter break begins	X	X	X
Wednesday, Jan. 4	Students return	X		X
Thursday, Jan. 5	Students return		X	
Monday, Jan. 16	No school – MLK Day	X	X	X
Wednesday, Feb. 15	Half day of school	X		
Friday, Feb. 17	Half day of school			
Monday, Feb. 20	No school – Presidents Day	Weather Day (no school unless earlier days are missed due to weather)	X	X
Tuesday, Feb. 21	No school			X
March 13-17	No school – Spring break	X	X	X
Friday, March 31	Half day of school	X		
Friday, April 14	Half day of school	Weather Day (no school unless earlier days are missed due to weather)	X	
Friday, April 28	Weather Day		X	X
Monday, May 15	Weather Day		X	
Thursday, May 25	Last day of school	X	X (half day for students)	X

Superintendents embrace local education growth

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Special section editor

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The work is never done when it comes to educating Team Redstone's next generation of the best and brightest.

While today kicks off a new school year for students in Huntsville, Madison City and Madison County, for the three superintendents who lead those school systems, work has long been underway to ensure they are providing the best education possible to their students as they head back to school.

The Redstone Rocket sat down with the area's education leaders to see what's in store for the 2016-17 school year. Here's what they had to say.

Huntsville City Schools

For Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Casey Wardynski, there's no lack of good news as students head back to school today.

As Huntsville City School students return to class, many are finding the school year isn't the only new thing – it's the school itself. Of the nine schools Huntsville City Schools had under construction, all but two – Morris P8 and Grissom, which will open next year – welcomed students today. Once construction is complete on Morris and Grissom, Wardynski estimates about a third of the school system will be brand new, with between 60-70 percent less than 10 years old, and a third of the students with access to a tornado shelter.

But the good news stories for the school system go well beyond the brick and mortar – from new community partnerships designed to bolster career readiness, to Pre-K opportunities, as well as graduation and remediation rates.

“Remediation rates are way down. We've never had higher graduation rates. We've never graduated more kids to go to college, and they've never done better in college,” Wardynski said. “That's the real proof in the pudding. A lot of the testing we do is to predict how they'll do in college. Well, the colleges are telling us how they're doing, so the testing becomes kind of moot at that point.”

Those rates – graduation up by 33 percent in the last four to five years, while colleges are reporting Huntsville City Schools graduates are 33 percent less likely to need remediation once they get to college – are proof of the work being done in the system to bolster college and career readiness. Nowhere is that more apparent than at the College Academy magnet program at Jemison High School.

Throughout their ninth-12th grade years, students, who are selected as seventh-graders, complete college-level courses, taught by University of Alabama in Huntsville professors at Jemison, so that by the time they graduate high school they have earned 60 college credits. Those credits are then transferrable to any college institution in the Southeast, making those high school graduates juniors when they enter college. The first class will graduate in 2020.

“We kind of flipped the model,” Wardynski said. “AP (Advanced Placement) was about colleges giving college credit for courses at college-level rigor taught by high school teachers. This is about the superintendent giving high school diploma credit for college courses taught at the college level. What I'm doing is taking their credits, and transferring them to our transcripts, because biology is biology. If they can do college-level work, I'm sure they can do high school level work. It's pretty powerful.”

Madison City Schools

While the 2016-17 school year may bring challenges for Madison City Schools, Superintendent Dee Fowler can still sum up his sentiments about the new year with one word: excited.

That excitement covers a variety of aspects of the new school year, from the expanded learning opportunities that will go on in the district's 11 schools, to include two new offerings for middle schoolers – French and Medical Detectives – to the expansion of Cybersecurity and Greenpower USA. And while the system had 31 National Merit Scholars last year and saw 59.2 percent of the class of 2016 graduate with scholarships, with an average value of \$38,000, a new year is an opportunity to improve those statistics.

“What makes our success is the high expectations of our community, and of our school district, and also the culture and the climate of success that we have in Madison City Schools,” Fowler said. “Our goal is to keep helping winners to win,



Madison County Schools Superintendent Matt Massey

and helping those that aren't winning to become winners. That's what we're trying to do. That's part of our culture and climate.”

It's a culture and climate that has attracted many families to Madison, and partly as a result, elementary schools are now at 95 percent capacity. Mill Creek Elementary will see the presence of portable classrooms this year, something that's not new for the system's elementary schools, which have gone through growing pains in the past. One of the goals Fowler will present to the Board of Education for their consideration will be to do a long-range study on the demographics to see how the system can best utilize the remaining 5 percent they have and where the portables will go next.



Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Casey Wardynski

“The city of Madison continues to grow and we continue to meet the needs of a growing community,” Fowler said. “A lot of times growth is seen as awkward or somewhat cumbersome, but we embrace growth in our community.”

While Fowler focuses on the big picture, as parents head into a new school year with their children, he offers them a piece of advice, one that could help Madison City Schools continue its legacy as a leader in education.

“Immerse themselves in their child's education,” Fowler said. “Enjoy it. Be a part of their education experience and partner with the schools. That would also be the same thing that I would tell our teachers, to immerse themselves in their students' education, to enjoy it. I think that working together we can continue to remain a regional and national leader in education.”



Madison City Schools Superintendent Dee Fowler

Madison County Schools

For Madison County Schools Superintendent Matt Massey, the theme going into the 2016-17 school year can be summed up with a single hashtag – #ournormal. It's a philosophy that builds on last year's hashtag – #itcanbedone – emphasizing the possibilities available for students and teachers alike, rather than the limits.

“Before I felt that our phi-

losophy was we were doing more with less. But it was harping on the negative. #itcanbedone was there's no more excuses. We've got the best teachers. We've got the best principals. We're going to get our kids where they need to be,” Massey said.

“It's going from it can be done – you can do it, believe in yourself, believe in your students – to it's happening. This is normal. That is normal. Our kids being on their devices, having content, interacting, this is going to be our new normal. This is what we do.”

One aspect of that new normal is innovation in the classroom. Teachers from across the school system gathered at Madison County High School last week for training on three web-based platforms that will help transform the educational experience for students, teachers and even parents: Canvas, TurnItIn and EdMentum.

“We're trying to get beyond let's just turn the page of the book and do the next lesson. We want our classrooms to be environment rich,” Massey said.

Canvas allows teachers to deliver content to students, to include discussions, assignments, and videos and more, while EdMentum provides online curriculum. TurnItIn aims to improve student writing and also safeguard against plagiarism. Students upload papers to the site, where teachers can provide an array of feedback, from general content to grammar mistakes. All three work across a range of devices, allowing students to work anytime, anywhere, as long as they have their device and an Internet connection.

For Madison County High School AP Language and Composition Teacher Miranda Smith, TurnItIn is a game-changer.

“The best way I found to teach writing is by revision,” Smith said. “This program is really exciting because it can help us do that. The more we can give feedback, the quicker we can give it, the faster we can teach revision.”

It's a win-win, according to Smith, as the platform will not only aid the learning process for students, but also lightens the load for teachers, who will be able to provide feedback faster. That's all part of the goal, Massey said.

“We have really innovative teachers,” Massey said. “This is about giving our teachers tools. This isn't a program we're pushing out. This isn't a top-down thing. This is what our people, our teachers have asked for. We're giving them the tools to have an innovative, 21st century classroom that will have our students come out prepared for college.”

Afterschool programs score high with parents

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone's afterschool buses are ready to roll again.

Child, Youth and School Services provides transportation to youngsters participating in its afterschool programs. The 12 buses pick up the registered children each afternoon from schools in Madison city and Madison County. This year the routes are expanding to Huntsville schools.

"We're probably going to about 30 schools now. We're growing," Andre Terry, director of the CYSS division in the Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said.

For questions about signup and routes, parents should call 313-2182. Parents shouldn't be concerned if a given bus is full because space availability tends to change monthly. "Our buses are a living fluid program totally based on the needs of the community," Terry said.

All the bus drivers undergo background checks and training. For security and safety, there are video cameras on the buses. A global positioning system is installed in every bus, so the driver's

speed and location is monitored.

Afterschool programs are offered at both the School Age Center and the Youth Center. Children in kindergarten through fifth-grade go to the School Age Center; and the sixth- through 12th-graders go to the Youth Center. Because of their age, there is a fee for youngsters in the afterschool program at the School Age Center. This is considered child care while the afterschool program at the Youth Center for the older youngsters is a recreation and leisure activity.

"Children who are regularly attending School Age afterschool care do not pay additional for school out days," Terry said. This means their fee automatically gives them full-day service as well.

Appropriate for their respective age groups, the afterschool programs at both facilities are similar. They include homework rooms and computer labs with an instructor, and leisure, recreational and social activities. There is an afternoon snack. The teachers undergo extensive background checks, state and national. They are certified in CPR and first aid. And the programs are nationally accredited.

SKIES Unlimited, which stands for School of Knowledge, Exploration and Skills, is available for parents who want



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left, Kaleb Loadholt, 6, and Pranav Ramesh, 11, play air hockey at the School Age Center. Playing foosball in the background are Angelia Pasai, 10, and Soorya Ramesh, Pranav's twin brother.

their children involved in an instructional program. Its offerings include instruction in dance, Taekwondo, music and more.

Before children can participate in the afterschool programs, their parents must enroll them in CYSS. Visit the Parent Central Services office at the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443 off Aerobee Road, which is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The office can be reached at 876-3704. Ask for administrative assistant Gwen

Smallwood.

Advantages of using Redstone's afterschool programs include state-of-the-art facilities, trained staff members who undergo extensive background checks and the nationally accredited services which are certified by the Department of Defense. The programs also undergo regular unannounced inspections.

"This is a gated community and the children have the convenience of being on post with their parent," Terry said. "So there are lots of incentives for having your child enrolled in our programs."

Test center partners with local school



Photo by John Nichols, RTC

Maj. John Plitsch of the Redstone Test Center gives children from J.E. Williams a tour of the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk.



RTC photo

Youngsters sit in the back of a CH-47F at a static display at Aviation Flight Test Directorate.

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

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Building the workforce of the future involves making a commitment to the students of today. Redstone Test Center has accepted that responsibility.

The center has partnered with J.E. Williams Elementary School to offer its students hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and an opportunity to not just learn, but to see.

“Our desire started several years ago,” Redstone Test Center Commander Col. Patrick Mason said. “We wanted to do some kind of educational outreach. As we looked at the STEM work we do on the Arsenal, how do we spread that out into the community and make sure folks understand that STEM is not just being an engineer, we also need really good technicians – we need people to work across an array of different disciplines to get the work done.”

Working with the Garrison, those plans gelled in 2015 into an official partnership with Williams Elementary in the Huntsville school system. Williams, a feeder school for Redstone, has a strong commitment to science education with their STEM Center of Innovation, opening this year.

Mason said that oftentimes with education outreach, organizations visit several schools and the results can become diluted. The partnership gives RTC an opportunity to build ongoing relationships with both the students and the educators, “going all in,” he said.

Already the center has hosted students to provide a firsthand look at the work that is performed. In April, fourth- and fifth-graders from Williams visited the center to tour its facilities and static displays of helicopters, tanks, robots and sensors. The children also watched a visual explanation of static electricity, a radio wave demonstration in the center’s anechoic chamber and a wa-

termelon explode when struck by lightning – a demonstration of the center’s lightning strike test capability.

The partnership with the school is not just a professional interest to build young science-educated minds but also a personal one for Mason, who grew up in a military family and lived at Redstone in his early years. Being married to a teacher, Mason has seen firsthand the challenges of education today.

“This is personal. ... It is great to know that there is a school like Williams because quite honestly, that is not the way it was in the ‘70s when I moved here – that we would have a quality school like Williams and we can work closely with one school,” he said.

Mason said in addition to the benefits to the students, the partnership has provided an opportunity for his team to be involved and give back to the community by sharing their passion for their work.

“You will see it if you spend any time around here,” he said. “We love to talk about what we do and we like to explain it to people who don’t know engineering. That is one of the great things about RTC – we are the hands-on people. We love to just bring people out and show them and see the light go off. We love to say, ‘This is how all that stuff that you learned in the classroom translates and really works.’”

The center plans to host Williams teachers and administration in the coming months to build a strategy of how they can continue to work together. Although in its first year, Mason said the program has already been so well-received that he hopes other organizations on post see the benefits of individual education partnerships – for the students, the employees and for Redstone Arsenal as a whole.

“It is an absolutely essential part of our nation to continue to grow the next generation of engineering and science professionals. ... We are geeks at heart and we want to see the next generation of geeks come into the world,” Mason said with a smile.

Schools foundation pushes education envelope

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

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A top-tier education system can often mean the difference between a community that is flourishing and one that is dying on the vine.

Local nonprofit The Schools Foundation is working to ensure that the 54,000 students in Madison County have access to the best education offerings, not just in the state, but nationwide. The foundation is a 501c3 organization in support of Huntsville City Schools, Madison County Schools and Madison City Schools. Established in 2000 with the merging of Huntsville City Schools Foundation and the Madison County Schools Foundation, the foundation serves as a bridge between local and state boards of education, education leaders, parents, students and individuals and businesses who wish to support public education in Madison County.

“We want to be able to set ourselves apart from what is happening in Alabama – what is happening nationally,” Elizabeth Dotts Fleming, The Schools Foundation executive director, said. “We really do have a lot to celebrate in education and we want to make sure that stays on the forefront. Through partnerships, we are always thinking outside the box and creating more opportunities.”

One of the ways the foundation is creating those new opportunities is with their newly-created endowment.

“Our newest and most exciting initiative is the establishment of our Schools Foundation Endowment,” Dotts Fleming said. “We have historically been very responsive to the school’s immediate needs in areas like professional development – providing professional development for our principals and for our teachers – and programmatic activities that serves all three (systems). What this endowment will enable us to do is look forward beyond just this year and identify areas that each of the school systems might want support with, that is not currently a reality.”

The endowment, supporting K-12 education, is unique in Alabama. It is overseen by a committee consisting of representatives from across Madison County tasked with securing the next round of gifts toward the endowment, setting fundraising goals and identifying donors. The foundation’s goal is to raise \$2-5 million a year over the next five years.

“(The endowment) helps us answer some of the ‘wish list’ items for our school systems,” Dotts Fleming said. “It kind of gets us to the ice cream, if you will – the dessert of the opportunities. The things that our community expects, to be honest.”

“The taxes do not fund everything that the teacher needs in the classroom,” Bob Lott,

board president for the foundation, added. “This is an attempt to cover those gaps.”

The foundation supports several initiatives, including the Military Child Education Coalition, Impact Aid, and Free 2 Teach, to name a few. It has also partnered with Huntsville Utilities to create Sign Up to Round Up, a program in which customers can authorize Huntsville Utilities to roundup their monthly utility bill to the next highest dollar to support public education.

In addition, the foundation works closely with the educational leaders of the school systems they serve to determine their immediate issues and concerns.

“We spend time with our superintendents, we work closely with all three of them (on a regular) basis,” Lott said. “It is important for people to understand – we are not out of line with what their needs and desires are.”

“At the same time, we are a 501c3 separate entity,” Dotts Fleming said. “A lot of other foundations across the state are direct arms of their school systems and we are set up differently in that we serve all three. Most of them are directly tied to one school system and one



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Elizabeth Dotts Fleming is the executive director of The Schools Foundation.

set of priorities. We focus on the regional aspect and the importance of our ‘three-legged stool.’”

While their primary goal is to serve Huntsville, Madison County and Madison, The Schools Foundation does work with other school foundations across Alabama to further their causes, such as standardized goals for students across Alabama. It also keeps an eye nationwide concerning education objectives and establishing a national profile for the systems it serves. As such,

Huntsville/Madison County/Madison City were the first school systems in the country to be profiled on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s AchievingTomorrow.org “Voices” series, which highlights the positive benefits that educators, administrators, community leaders, parents and businesses can achieve when they join forces to help students.

That combination of personal relationships, statewide influence and national scope is paramount to the foundation’s goals of providing the highest quality to its most important partners: the students.

“We want our three school districts to be the gold standard,” Lott said.

Intern program paves way for college students



Photo by Bryan Bacon

Army veteran Salah Mousa is a summer intern with the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.



Photo by Bryan Bacon

The Pathways program offers both summer and year-round internships. From left are DPW interns Chandler Hardiman of Fayetteville, Cedric Tigner of Birmingham, Brian Irelan of Huntsville, Nathan Weldon of Lacey's Spring and Jeremy Jackson of Hazel Green.

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

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In today's competitive job market, students need every advantage when starting their post-collegiate careers.

For several years, the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works has participated in the Pathways Internship Program, which gives students an opportunity to explore federal careers, while pursuing a college education.

"It is a great opportunity to get major-related hands-on experience," DPW's Stacy Hull, program coordinator, said. "When they go back to school they understand the material better because they have seen it firsthand."

DPW has 13 interns with eight being seasonal and five year-round. University of Arizona senior Salah Mousa is one of the summer hires.

"I applied for an Army internship and since I was in the Army, I thought that it was a good fit," Mousa said.

Mousa, majoring in chemical engineering, has spent his summer learning the specialized jobs in DPW as well as handling research and organizing old documents. He said a highlight of his time here was touring a waste water treatment facility.

Unlike other college internships, these are paying jobs. Whether they translate into college credits is up to the individual university, Hull said. Another benefit of the program is the opportunity for the students to get a foot in the door when it comes to a post-college government job.

Interns Jeremy Jackson and Cedric Tigner hope that is the case for them. Jackson, a year-round intern, has spent most of his college career at DPW while Tigner is a summer hire.

"In the program manager side, we deal with all different people," said Jackson, who is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "I would rather be out there on the job than sitting behind a desk."

Both students were complimentary of DPW and the program and said they highly recommend it to fellow college students. Jackson said the supervisors are supportive and flexible with scheduling around classes. Although they are paid employees, school remains their priority.

"My favorite part (of the internship) is the experience and the people I am around," Tigner, a civil engineering major at Alabama A&M University, said. "People are willing to teach you here."

Hull said the program is highly competitive. Although past work experience is not a requirement, grades, activities and volunteering experience are key factors in selecting interns. To apply for an internship, interested students should visit USAjobs.gov and search for Pathways positions.

"It is a good opportunity to learn what it is like to work for the government," Hull said.

Exciting start for year

It's not just back to school for students, but for Redstone's School Liaison Officer Barbara Williams as well. Williams shared with the Rocket what she looks forward to this school year.

"What excites me about this school year? To have another opportunity to work with families in addressing school issues and ensuring smooth transition for military connected families. I am excited about the many possibilities for students through digital learning, career preparedness and career academies."

Williams is also excited about the opportunity to provide "opportunities for school leaders to interface with installation leadership through meetings, committees and school partnerships in education."

To contact Williams call 842-9642.

Win or Lose

Got the Runs tames Hit Circus with team effort

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Got the Runs was 0-2 against rival Hit Circus entering their Division A playoff game last week. But records don't mean much in rivalries.

On July 25 at the NASA softball field, Got the Runs beat Hit Circus 6-3. The three-time defending champion improved to 2-0 in the double-elimination tournament.

"That was a major team effort," Got the Runs player/coach Jay Hollenbeck said. "We have everybody out of position, playing a new position. Trying something new. So we pieced that one together. And Paul (Prichard) did an awesome job on the mound. I've never seen that many popups in a game (by both teams)."

Prichard, the crafty lefty, pitched all seven innings and allowed three unearned runs on 10 hits with one walk and one strikeout.

Carl Williams went 2-for-3 and drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the sixth. Erik Buatte scored that fourth run and went 2-for-3 with two runs and a run-scoring double. Kyle Jeter, Aaron Mair and Tommy Young added two hits apiece for Got the Runs (7-5).

Tony Fiorucci, Al Mayers, pitcher Michael Barger and Ryan Connelly had two hits apiece for Hit Circus (7-3-1). Barger allowed six runs on 14 hits with two walks in seven innings.

"As a team we haven't played in the last three weeks," Fiorucci, the Hit Circus player/coach, said. "I think that layoff really hurt our hitting. Of course Paul (Prichard) is a good pitcher. Fielding-wise, defense-wise, I think we played very well. Pitching was very good on our side."

Yulista BoomBoom 16, LEC Nerds 15: In a Division D first-round game, Yulista BoomBoom prevailed in eight innings.

The game concluded July 25 at the NASA field after play was suspended July 19 because of a thunderstorm in the bottom of the third inning with Yulista leading 8-2.

"We started off" with a deficit of 2-8," LEC Nerds pitcher/coach Jimmy Karigan said. "And we fought hard to come back, great defense. It just wasn't quite enough."

Winning pitcher Mark Cole helped himself at the plate by going 4-for-5 with a triple, three runs batted in and two runs. Chris Moorer went 3-for-5 with an inside the park home run and three runs for Yulista (5-7). Richard Harville made a diving, game-saving catch in center field for the second out in

the bottom of the sixth with runners on first and second. The score was tied 13-13 after seven innings.

"We were able to pick back up from where we started (July 19) and ended the game up with a win," BoomBoom player/coach Whitney Dorning said.

Alicia Harrison went 2-for-3 and scored twice for LEC Nerds (4-8). Spencer Harri-

son, her husband, went 3-for-4 with a triple and two runs. Dayla Pate was 2-for-3 and scored once.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Erik Buatte scores from third with two outs in the sixth on Carl Williams' double.

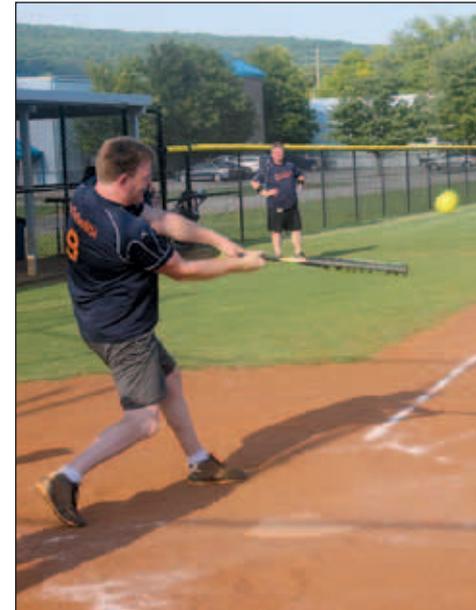


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Carl Williams drives in the go-ahead run for Got the Runs with his double in the sixth inning of their 6-3 win.

Got the Runs (7-5)

	AB	R	H	RBI
David Whitener	4	1	1	0
Erik Buatte	3	2	2	1
Jay Hollenbeck	3	0	0	0
Travis Garrett	3	0	1	1
Carl Williams	3	0	2	1
Kyle Jeter	3	0	2	0
Paul Prichard	2	0	0	0
Brendan Sontag	3	1	0	0
Aaron Mair	2	1	2	0
Brian Roberson	3	1	1	1
Jason Marske	3	0	1	0
Tommy Young	3	0	2	2
Totals	35	6	14	6

Hit Circus (7-3-1)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Chris Schultz	3	0	0	0
Phillip Bitzer	3	0	0	0
Tony Fiorucci	3	0	2	0
Al Mayers	3	1	2	0
Dave Huebner	3	0	0	0
Jeff Klop	3	1	0	0
Victor Pritchett	2	1	0	0
Michael Barger	3	0	2	0
Jay Russell	3	0	1	0
Ryan Connelly	3	0	2	0
Andy Young	3	0	1	0
Totals	32	3	10	0

							R	H	E	
Got the Runs	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	6	14	1
Hit Circus	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	10	0



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Crafty lefty Paul Prichard gets the win for Got the Runs.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Hit Circus pitcher Michael Barger tosses a solid seven innings but his team falls.

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We Dem Boyz advance to winners' bracket final

Division A top seed rolls past Boomers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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We Dem Boyz struggled in resuming their rained-out playoff game after a weeklong break. The comfortable early lead they built over the Boomers before the July 19 thunderstorm was soon shaved in half.

But then We Dem Boyz got their bats going and showed why they're the top seed in the Division A tournament.

We Dem Boyz beat the Boomers 20-12 on July 26 at the NASA softball field. Last year's runner-up advanced to the winners' bracket final against Got the Runs, the three-time defending champion, on Aug. 9 at 5 p.m.

"We started out kind of slow. We had a little cobwebs we had to shake off of us," We Dem Boyz player/coach Brad Harris said. "And then we started playing ball like we normally do."

We Dem Boyz (10-1) led 11-2 when play was suspended before the Boomers came to bat in the top of the third inning. Last week the Boomers closed within 13-9 after four.

After blanking the Boomers in the top of the fifth, the tournament favorite scored seven in their at-bat highlighted by Tyrone Butler's patented three-run homer. We Dem Boyz allowed three runs in the sixth before the final out.

Austen Young went 4-for-4 with two runs batted in. Cordero Watkins went 3-for-3 with an RBI double. Michael Harris was 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs. Stephen Dix slammed a three-run homer in the four-run second. Dix, Wendell Williams, Lance Watson and pitcher Michael McGilton finished with two hits apiece. Harris had a two-run double in the seven-run first.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Boomers pitcher Ric Rivera, left, covers the bag as We Dem Boyz' Brad Harris rounds third base. We Dem Boyz won 20-12.

Glenn Capps, Daniel Owens and Woody Harwood had three hits apiece for the Boomers (2-9-1). Mark Calhoun and Quenton Hawk added two apiece for the Redstone Test Center team.

"We were just outhit because they hit well," Boomers pitcher/coach Ric Rivera said. "They hit extremely well."

Boomers (2-9-1)	AB	R	H	RBI
Glenn Capps	3	2	3	3
Mark Calhoun	3	1	2	1
Daniel Owens	4	0	3	2
Doug Tucker	4	0	0	1
Quenton Hawk	3	0	2	2
Rod Hambrick	1	0	0	0
Eric Widell	3	1	1	0
Ric Rivera	3	1	1	0
Dustin Lauterbacher	3	1	1	0
Ryan Lee	2	2	1	0
Brad Thompson	3	2	1	0
Woody Harwood	3	2	3	2
Totals	35	12	18	11

We Dem Boyz (10-1)	AB	R	H	RBI
Vann Patton	4	1	0	0
Wendell Williams	4	2	2	4
Lance Watson	4	2	2	0
Tyrone Butler	2	3	1	3
Michael Harris	4	3	3	2
Stephen Dix	4	3	2	3
Austen Young	4	1	4	2
Jaymes Johnson	3	1	1	0
Brad Harris	2	2	1	2
Cordero Watkins	3	2	3	1
Michael McGilton	3	0	2	2
Totals	37	20	21	19

	R	H	E
Boomers	2 0 4 3 0 3 - 12	18	4
We Dem Boyz	7 4 2 0 7 x - 20	21	2

Unmanned & Unafraid unleashes offensive onslaught

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Unmanned & Unafraid has carried its firepower into the Division C playoffs.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office's team beat Bomb Busters 46-5 at the NASA softball field in the first round of the double-elimination tournament. Unmanned & Unafraid (11-0) remained the only unbeaten team in all four divisions of the Redstone league.

"We've just been hitting well," player/coach Doug Wolfe said. "And usually we'll have an inning where we just go on a tear and just score a bunch of runs. Definitely we haven't been that bad either."

He remembered one game where his team "made a whole bunch of errors we shouldn't have made." But overall Unmanned & Unafraid has played well in

the field.

"I think the other key for us this year is some of the new additions we've had on the team," Wolfe said.

These include utility player Ryan Diehl, who went 5-for-5 against the Bomb Busters with two doubles and an inside-the-park, three-run homer. Showing his versatility, he played in the outfield. The previous game he played shortstop.

Another key newcomer is second baseman Ty Young. She turned two or three double plays in one game.

The fourth-year team hopes to improve on the third-place finish it had its first year. Last year in Division B, the team got knocked out early.

"This year we have to back it up," Wolfe said of the top seed. "We were number one in a couple of years and didn't go as well in the tournament as we

wanted. And this year we want to take the whole thing."

Michael McGilton pitched the win against the Bomb Busters (0-11). He was in the circle for the first three innings and Wolfe pitched the fourth. At the plate, McGilton went 3-for-5 with an inside-the-park, three-run homer.

Stephen Dix was 4-for-4 with a first-inning grand slam and a walk. Joey Pierce went 5-for-6 and scored five runs.

In other Division C first-round games, Bit Players beat Space Cowboys 18-13; Ice Cold Pitchers edged Rotorheads 12-10; and Hits N Mits DTS defeated Screamin' Eagles 23-2.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Winning pitcher Michael McGilton scores three runs for Unmanned & Unafraid in a 22-6 romp in May over the Bomb Busters.



Sports & Recreation

Clay shooting

The inaugural Clays for CASA of Madison County will be held Sept. 23 to benefit aging and homebound residents in the community. This fundraiser is a two flight shoot. Awards will be given for top shooters in each flight and lunch will be served on the grounds for all teams. For information visit casamadisoncty.org/clays, call Jessica Bumbalough 533-7775 or email jessica@casamadisoncty.org.

Bowling outing

A Screaming Eagles Pizza and Bowling Special will be held Aug. 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. The event is open to past and present members of the North Alabama Screaming Eagles Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association and 101st alumni. Family members are invited. The first 40 NA-SEC members and first 20 nonmembers (including family) who RSVP and attend will bowl and eat free. RSVP to joe.crocitto@outlook.com.

Fundraiser 5K

The Downtown Rescue Mission will hold the sixth annual Run to Rescue 5K on Saturday at 8 a.m. at Bob Jones High School. This event is to raise funds and awareness for the homeless and recovering men, women and children in northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. Registration is \$30 through Thursday. To register visit www.run2rescue.tk.

Liz Hurley run

Huntsville Hospital Foundation and the Huntsville Track Club will present the 12th annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run on Oct. 15. It starts at the corner of Lowe Avenue and Adams Street and ends at Huntsville Junior High School. The fundraiser, featuring a 5K run and Survivors' Walk, was established in honor of local news anchor and breast cancer survivor Liz Hurley. Early bird registration, until Aug. 8, is \$25. Registration after then will be \$30. You are invited to join the Redstone Roadrunners Team in this fight against breast cancer; to sign up, email Donna Johnson at sisterdcj@aol.com.

Golf benefit

The 14th annual I Golf Because I CARE Golf Tournament is Oct. 17 at the Hampton Cove Robert Trent Jones Highlands Course. Team check-in is 10 a.m. with lunch at 11 and the shotgun start at noon. This event benefits the CARE Center which seeks to empower children in southeastern Madison County through education, employment, crisis and recovery support. For more information email event coordinator Angi Vroom at angivroom@comcast.net.

net, teams coordinator Eric Vroom evroom@comrep.com or visit www.thecare-center.org.

Conferences & Meetings

Logistics coordination meeting

The Logistics Readiness Center will hold a logistics coordination meeting Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Toftoy Hall, building 3495, room 121. LRC customers are asked to attend with their logistics manager/leader, key logistics specialist and resource management personnel. Discussion topics include: fiscal 2016 Reimbursable and Logistics Closeout Procedures, FY '17 Reimbursable Services Startup Procedures, and GCSS-A Wave II fielding Status, Billing Office Address Code way ahead. For more information call Tony Fuller, chief of the Plans and Operations Division, 842-8399.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. in the Fox Den at Fox Army Health Center. The 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 \$20 for a one-year membership, \$50 for a three-year membership and \$100 for a lifetime membership. “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 visit www.redstonesma.org and www.facebook.com/redstonesma.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room D-107. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359. The Confidentially Speaking Toastmasters Club 1422738 meets the first and third Thursday at noon at building 4545; potential members must have access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Shelton Torbert 313-7134 or Larry Davis 604-9339.

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Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will meet Aug. 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the “Great Room” at the Security Assistance Command. Menu will be a choice of bringing your own or catered from a local food vendor. For reservations call Daphne Turner 842-6790 or Sabrina Cate 842-6649 by Friday.

Space society

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, a chapter of the National Space Society, will hold a talk Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library auditorium. The topic is “The Power Grid Defense Case: To Enable the Settlement of Space?” For more information, visit www.HAL5.org or email info@HAL5.org. ... The September talk is Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. on “Orion versus Poseidon: Understanding How NASA’s Crewed Capsule Survives Nature’s Fury.”

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Mark Hubbs will present “Claude Minié and His Magic Musket Ball.” There’s no charge for the program. Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for \$8.85. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 278-5533.

Community women’s club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club holds a luncheon on the second Tuesday of every month at The Summit from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$15. The club is open to all women who have access to Redstone Arsenal. Join them for a themed luncheon and program. For more information, visit rsacwc.org or email rsacwcreservations@gmail.com or rsacwcpresident@gmail.com.

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 AG-CRA 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.

Amateur radio operators

The Marshall Amateur Radio Club, under the call sign of NN4SA, 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 nn4sa.wordpress.com, email Don Hediger at nn4sa@yahoogroups.com or leave a message at 544-1692.

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.”

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 725 Franklin St. Prior to the meeting, dinner is available at the club for a minimum cost. The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is classified as a veterans/military service organization and formed for the purposes of promoting the interest of the Marine Corps; to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call Senior Vice Commandant Bobby Hall 931-6024 or Adjutant James Newell 682-4835.

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information call Truman Richard “Gator” Payne, the chapter commander, at 797-2550.

Marines in Decatur

The Lance Cpl. Jonathan L. Smith Marine Corps League Detachment 1427 meets at 7 p.m. every third Thursday at the American Legion 2607 Highway 31 S in Decatur. They welcome all veterans. Active duty, Reserve, and no longer uniform wearing Marines, along with Navy FMF corpsman and chaplains can become full members. Others can join as associate members. Dues are \$30 annually. They actively support all veterans in the Morgan County and surrounding area. For more information, call Dan Copeland 345-3590 or visit Facebook at Smitty Detachment 1427.

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Ski club

The Huntsville Ski Club meets on third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors, 535 Monroe St. Join them and learn details about the planned 2016-17 ski trips. For more information, visit www.huntsvilleskiclub.org or call 233-0230.

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.vietvethsv.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

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). A Basic Rider Course is scheduled Sept. 6-7; and an Experienced Rider Course, Sept. 8. 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 and Risk Management Office 876-3383.

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 NASECsecretary@gmail.com, springlarry1@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/groups/NorthAlabamaScreamingEaglesChapter/.

Redstone Thrift Shop

There's always a need for volunteers at the Thrift Shop. The shop, building 3209 off Hercules Road behind the One Stop, can be reached at 881-6992. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of the month. Consignment hours are 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday unless otherwise stated on the No-List machine. Call the No-List number 881-6915 Mondays after 3 p.m. to see what they are not taking for that week and to hear any announcements. Donations are welcome anytime. After hours leave items in the gray box under the pavilion or as close to the door as possible.

Home energy makeovers

Huntsville Utilities has been awarded a \$11.7 million grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority to launch the Smart Communities-Huntsville Extreme Energy Makeovers project to perform whole-home, deep energy retrofits for lower-income customers in 20-year-old (or older) owner occupied homes. The project goal is a 25 percent reduction in the home's energy usage. This partnership between TVA and Huntsville Utilities will improve the quality of life for qualified residents and homeowners by significantly increasing the efficiency and comfort of their homes.

Energy audits will be performed to determine which energy saving measures can be utilized to achieve the 25 percent reduction in energy consumption. Huntsville Utilities will also educate its customers about ways to control their consumption through the practice of energy efficient habits. This program is exclusively for lower-income, electric heat customers. Those interested in applying for the program should email extreme@hsvutil.org or call 705-7500. Visit the website at www.hsvutil.org and click on the HEEM link for more information.

Soldier newcomers

Soldier newcomer briefings are held after the 10th of each month at the One Stop, building 3494, classroom 144. The dates include Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 15 and Jan. 12. Military spouses are welcome. For information call Leroy Allen Jr. 876-2033 or email leroy.allen.civ@mail.mil.

Identification card section

Due to the high volume of CAC/ID card renewals, customers should expect delays or possible returning another day for a card. Appointments at the section in the One Stop can be made by going to <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.aspx>. Walk-ins are available Monday through Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for military and dependent ID cards. Walk-ins are available Monday through Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. for Common Access Cards.

Charity ball

The second annual Black Tie Charity Ball, hosted by the Army Space Professionals Association, Rocket City AGCRA and Legacy 4 Korean War, Veterans Foundation, will be held Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's North Hall. Cost \$50 per person. Guest speaker is retired Lt. Gen. William Phillips. All proceeds will benefit the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home. For tickets and table sponsorship categories, contact Sheren Roberts, sherenroberts@yahoo.com, 540-623-9783; Phillis Reid, phillisgreid@gmail.com, 225-3062; or KC Bertling 541-0450.

Veterans employment event

The American Freedom Foundation's Warriors to the Workforce hiring and training workshops event returns to Huntsville on Aug. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, East Hall 3. The event, presented in association with Still Serving Veterans and in conjunction with the 2016 SMD Symposium, brings together major companies from throughout the country to profile their services and provide employment opportunities for veterans. Veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses will have the chance to talk with employers, submit qualifications and participate in job interviews on the spot. Warriors to the Workforce will include workshops providing resources and information such as mental readiness, confidence building, networking and presentation skills, resume writing, interviewing techniques, job searching, career planning through goal setting, translating military skills and training into civilian life and corporate experience. There will be an entire area devoted to resume review. Attendance is free and open to veterans, service members and military spouses. For information visit www.warriorstotheworkforcehsv.net.

Army quality of life issues

The Team Redstone Army Family Action Plan is an Armywide initiative to identify issues or concerns to improve the overall quality of life for active duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, retirees and their families and Army civilians. This process is used to identify the most critical well-being issues facing the Army today and present them to senior Army leadership for resolution. Help improve Redstone Arsenal with your ideas and feedback by submitting your issues. Or you can complete the survey and take it to the Army Community Service, building 3443 off Aerobee Road, in the Pershing Welcome Center. Issues collected will be staffed and reviewed. To submit an issue, visit www.redstonemwr.com/surveys/afap/afap_survey.php. For more information, email AFAP Program Manager Mary Breeden at mary.c.breeden.civ@mail.mil or call 876-5397.

Elvis benefit concert

Ultimate Elvis tribute artists Shawn Klush and Cody Ray Slaughter will perform Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. This "Christmas in Dixie" concert benefits Madison Academy's Art and Performance Center. Tickets are on sale at the VBC ticket office 533-1953 or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000.

Pancake breakfast benefit

The Huntsville/Decatur Tuskegee Alumni Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser Saturday from 7-10 a.m. at the Applebee's located in Madison on the corner of Hughes Road and Old Madison Pike. The cost is a \$5 donation per

individual. All proceeds support the scholarship program for local students currently attending Tuskegee University. Tickets are available from any club member or call Lawrence McRae 289-1215.

Madison beach party

The Rotary Club of Madison will hold its 14th annual "Parrots of the Caribbean: Madison's Premier Beach Party" on Aug. 27 from 6-11 p.m. at the Insanity Entertainment Complex. This is an evening outdoor event of live music, food and libations. All guests must be 21 or older. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the night of the event and can be purchased at <http://madisonrotary.org/parrots>.

Parenting class

Financial Readiness is the subject of a parenting class Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. at the ChildWise building 3467 on Vincent Drive. Kathleen Riester will talk about building a better budget, how to save money, and assist families with a financial fitness worksheet. Please bring your own calculator. The class is open to all active duty, reservists, retirees and anyone who has access to Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call Karen Church 842-8378 or email kchurch@afsc.com.

Women's Equality Day event

Team Redstone will celebrate Women's Equality Day at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 23 in Bob Jones Auditorium. The Corps of Engineers' Engineering Support Center, Huntsville is the lead for the event. The celebration will include guest speaker Lee Marshall, who will also perform an original song. She is the founder and CEO of the Kids to Love Foundation and a three-time Emmy award winning journalist. The event will also include a tribute to "Rosie the Riveter." For more information, call the Huntsville Center EEO Office 895-1573/1192.

Law enforcement report

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents from July 17-23. On July 19, an accident occurred at Walnut Circle and Vincent Drive when a driver struck a vehicle which was parked and unattended. ... An accident occurred July 19 on Martin Road when a driver struck a vehicle that had the right of way. Both individuals were transported to the hospital. ... Police on July 19 investigated a report of an assault at building 4140. Two individuals were involved in a verbal altercation which became physical; investigation continues by Police Investigations. ... On July 22, police responded

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to the Exchange on a report of larceny of government property/shoplifting. The suspect was apprehended, processed, cited and released. ... On July 23, police responded to Gate #9 when an individual requesting access was unable to produce a valid driver's license. A check with the National Crime Information Center revealed the license was revoked. The driver was processed, cited and released. ... Traffic citations included 42 for speeding, one for driving while suspended or revoked, two for expired tags, two for parking in a handicap zone, one for wrong way one way, and one for no proof of insurance.

Dog days of summer event

Therapy Partners will hold its annual Dog Days of Summer, Aug. 19. This year's event is at the Adams Street home of Connie and Rusty Stephenson from 6:30-9 p.m. and will feature live music, a silent and live auction, food and a chance to meet some of the therapy animals. Tickets for Dog Days are \$75 a person and are available by calling Nancy Farris 682-8208. Therapy Partners has 30 volunteer therapy teams of registered and certified handlers and their dog or cat partners which assist physicians, nurses, therapists and social workers to reach their health treatment goals with their patients and clients. They also work with teachers to provide educational stimuli for their students.

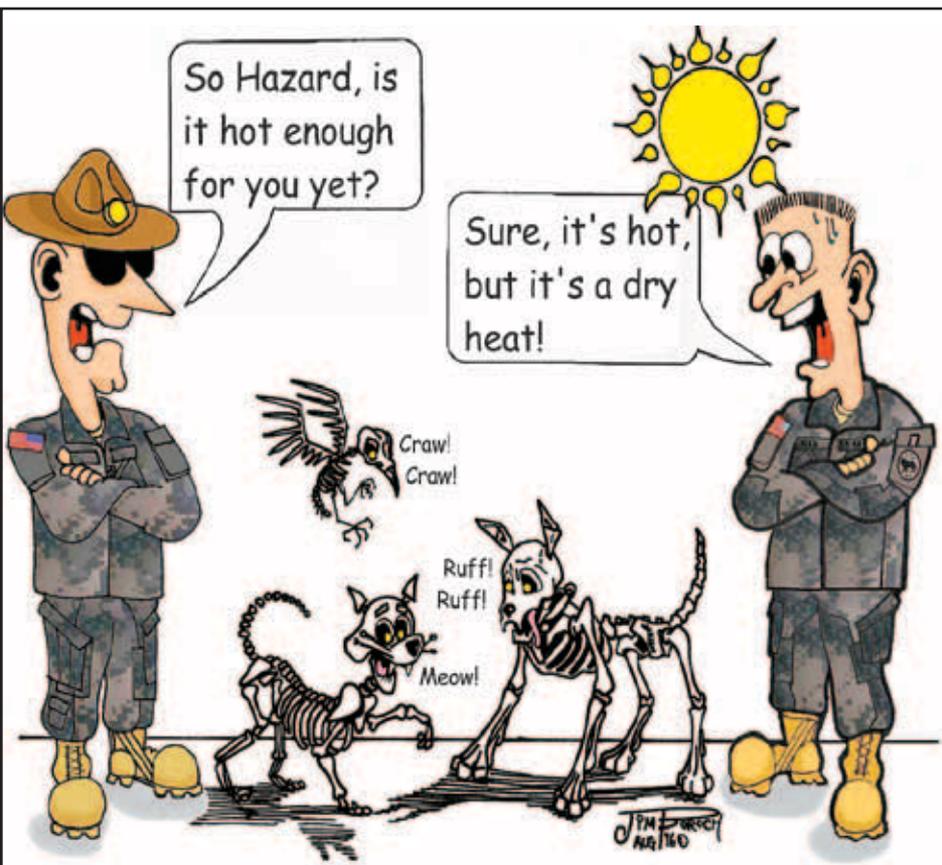


Photo by Judy Wilson

Guest speaker

Wallace Smith, vice president and director of federal services for Garver USA, speaks at the July meeting for the Society of American Military Engineers. His topic was "Things That Go Boom!"