

# Redstone Rocket

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# Taking to the streets for military kids

Block Party among events for Month of Military Child

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

OK, kids, are you ready for some fun? The national recognition of April as the Month of the Military Child is once again upon us. At Redstone Arsenal, that means lots of planned events where children and their families can come together to enjoy games, entertainment and free food.

"This Department of the Army recognition of the military child is very significant," said Andre Terry, MWR's Child and Youth Services Division chief.

"We tend to forget that when a family serves their country its more than the Soldier and the spouse. It's also the children who have to change schools and leave friends behind as their father or mother is transferred from one assignment to the next. And, these days, this recognition is even more significant because with deployments of active and National Guard and Reserve Soldiers we are seeing more children having to make sacrifices."

Begun in 1986, the Month of the Military Child is an annual celebration held each April at military installations. Nationally, the purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, and to support military childhood programs to meet those needs. Locally, the purpose is to celebrate childhood for military children.

Activities planned on Redstone Arsenal – including an Easter egg hunt and block party – are a way for MWR and Child and Youth Services to show appreciation to military children. This year's theme is "Good Beginnings Never End!," referring to the need to provide high quality environments for children from infancy through their teenage years.

"The things we have planned are special ways to tell military children that they are unique and that they live under special circumstances," Terry said.

On Redstone Arsenal, Morale Welfare and Recreation's programs for children begin with the Child Development Center, which provides care for infants through preschoolers. Those programs continue with after-school and summer programs offered by School Age Services and Youth Services.

The month's activities on Redstone Arsenal are open not only to military children and their families, but also to the children of Army civilians and contractors.

"We want everyone who serves the Soldier and who works on the Arsenal to participate in these activities," Terry said.

Redstone Arsenal's recognition of the Month of the Military Child will begin on Monday, April 2, with a kickoff parade



Photo by Andrea Mattox

**KID-FRIENDLY FUN**— Face painting is a popular activity during the annual Block Party hosted by Child and Youth Services. Families can enjoy many fun activities, including a Diaper Derby, karaoke, carnival games and bingo, and free food during the event, scheduled April 14 at the Youth Center.

beginning at 10 a.m. at the Child Development Center, marching around the chapel and ending at the Youth Center.

One of the major events of the month is the Child and Youth Services' annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is scheduled for April 7 at 10 a.m. at Vincent Park. The event is made possible by sponsors Redstone Federal Credit Union, Office Max, the Commissary and Bill Heard Chevrolet.

More than 1,500 eggs will be hidden in three different areas – age 3 and under, 4 to 6, and 7 to 10 — at Vincent Park, said organizer Wanda Quigley. Each egg will hold a surprise, either candy or a toy. About 250 children are expected to hunt for eggs.

"Prizes will be awarded for the most eggs in each age group," Quigley said. "The children will also have tickets so they can draw for prizes."

The hunt is a project that involves many volunteers.

"The staff at School Age Services will stuff the eggs," Quigley said. "We get older kids to help with that too, and they also help hide the eggs."

A highlight of the hunt will be a visit from the Easter Bunny.

The annual open house for the Child Development Center will be April 12 at 5 p.m. Parents of students at the center as well as parents considering using the center's services are invited for a tour and to meet with staff, said CDC director Mary Washington.

"This is an opportunity for parents to visit the center, and meet and greet the teachers and see what learning is all about here," Washington said. "Children learn through play and through doing, and here at the CDC we use centered-style learning where children interact and play while learning. We will have areas that will show parents how we teach things like math skills or science activities. It will let parents see what children do during their time at the CDC."

The CDC is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Then, on April 14, the Child and Youth Services annual Block Party will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. The block party will be set up along Youth Center Road in front of the Youth Center, building 3148.

"This event is open to the whole Redstone community," said Kevin Frankson, director of Youth Services. "You can live on Redstone Arsenal or work on Redstone Arsenal. It's open to everybody. It's a great way for us to give something back to the community because it is a day of family fun at no charge."

The block party will be sponsored by Carrabba's, Papa John's, Bill Heard Chevrolet, Office Max, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Babies R Us, Commissary, Coca Cola, FPI Paintball, Knology, WZYP, Safe Kids, Huntsville Humane Society, Moe's Southwest Grill, Red Bull and People First-TM.

See Children on page 19

# An open lane random survey

*Who's your favorite cartoon character and why?*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil



*Carolyn Thomas  
Resource Management*  
**"Dilbert. I guess because they focus on what's going on in the government, and some of it is true. It's always talking about something going on with government, and you can relate to it."**

*George Langston  
Recreation assistant*  
**"Wile E. Coyote. No matter what happens to him, he keeps trying."**



*John Traylor  
Air Traffic Control Product Office*  
**"Dilbert. There's realism to today's office environment."**

*Master Sgt. Marius Dockery  
Air Traffic Control Product Office*  
**"Superman. I've always loved Superman. When I was a little boy, it was because he could fly. But now it's because of what he represents to me. He's strong, he's truthful and appears that he cannot be destroyed. However, just like in life, everybody has a weakness. His is kryptonite. He's a superhero; however, kryptonite makes him just like us. We're super in many ways, but we all have our own kryptonite. And of course my kryptonite is my wife, Melanie, and our children (son, Madison, 12, and daughter, Maci, 9)."**



# Salute to Army doctor

**M**y thanks to Kari Hawkins for the nice writeup on our Col. Smith (in the March 21 paper). It's been a long time since we in the MEDDAC have had reason to look upward to the Command Suite and find the strength and resolve in what we see to look outward to the future of better Army medical care.

It is encouraging indeed to

again have a medical colonel grounded in the honor of leadership, tested in the field, and willingly able to walk the talk. This is an Army doctor not a doctor in the Army looking for a future in private practice. He's ours, but we're willing to share.

**Gary Skaggs  
MEDDAC**

# Motorcycle rider wants space

**I**am a motorcyclist. I use the motorcycle parking space and walk a little further to building 5301 almost every time I ride my bike. "Name withheld" (March 21 letter) didn't consider that when they parked in the motorcycle spot, any rider who came along later either had to go buddy up with the first bike, or go occupy yet another car space. That causes even more resentment against riders! The note "Name withheld" received, though curt compared to one I occasionally print and leave, was well deserved. One space out of 3,500 is reserved

for our special parking needs. (Concrete that does not soften in hot weather, etc.) That is certainly not excessive: when the weather is nice, it may not accommodate all the bikes! Car drivers should accept, rather than resent, that federal law, state law and post regulations allow motorcyclists to take advantage occasionally of their narrowness and unique performance characteristics, while car drivers are required to allow motorcycles a full driving lane or space at ALL times.

**Larry Frakes**

# Concerned about communication

**O**n March 15 an emergency evacuation, school closure and relocation of students message was sent out to some of the Team Redstone employees notifying them of this situation. I am aware of three e-mail notification messages that went out, which I did not receive. I am concerned because my child attends this school and I was not notified until a former co-worker informed me of the situation (thinking they had

heard me mention at one time that my child attended this school).

This could have been mentally distressful for me and my family and possibly could have placed us in harm's way, because of the route we take to get to this school. My child's school is normally very good about calling us to inform us of any changes, but they had to evacuate very fast. After being informed, I immediately tried to contact the school; obviously no one was there to tell me about the situation and where to pick up my child.

I am blessed and thankful for having good friends and co-workers. The evacuation of the students went very smoothly, but I believe the communication process by Team Redstone and Homeland Security needs to be improved and

See **Communication** on page 7

## Quote of the week

**'G**olf is an exercise in Scottish pointlessness for people who are no longer able to throw telephone poles at each other.'

— Florence King  
author

# Detour impact by the numbers

**A**s one of those who have to take the Mills Road detour each morning to avoid the Martin Road overpass on Patton, it has gotten me thinking on how much natural resources have been wasted in having the detour. It is about two miles extra, give or take, to use the detour to get to the Sparkman Center. Assuming 500 cars use that detour daily that is 1,000 extra miles driven daily, or 5,000 miles per week. Assuming the average car gets 25 mpg, that is 200 gallons of additional gas per week just for that detour. Over a year, which is about how long it seems this repair will have taken, that amounts to over 10,000 gallons of gas that has been expended in using this detour. To put that into financial terms, that detour has cost the people using it around \$25,000 for the extra mileage.

Further, if you look at the additional mileage assuming an average set of tires gets 50,000 miles before having to be replaced, over five sets of tires were worn out while awaiting the bridge repair. Tires are made from petroleum products, the last time I read. Maybe more thought should have been given to speeding up the bridge repair and more attention is paid in the future when other major road repairs are undertaken. My numbers may be off some, but I think that planners often forget the impact they have when they shut down roads.

**Bob Mulkey**

# Puzzled by garden plot fee

**T**he garden plots have been controlled by DPW/Family Housing for many years and utilized by active duty military, retired military and current and retired civilians at no cost.

Now for unknown reasons there is a charge of \$25 a plot. The old Housing Office is controlling the garden plots, but MWR is collecting the money. There were two areas that were utilized — off Vincent Road and Wesson Road. Wesson's are not being used because of the new housing contractor. I understand

See **Fee** on page 7

# Inconvenience part of life

**I**would first like to address the first line of the comment: "I went out Gate 7 (recently) for the first time" (March 21 letter to the editor).

If this is the first time this person has been out Gate 7, how do they have any idea of what the improvements were?

Obviously they feel the only thing that was done was the installation of some guard rails. Anyone that travels Martin Road to Gate 7 on a regular basis can

See **Life** on page 7

# Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

email: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil  
Rocket articles are available online at the following:  
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## Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn  
Reporters: Kari Hawkins  
Kelley Lane-Sivley  
Kim Henry  
Sgt. Eliamar Trapp  
Copy Editor: Scott Seeley  
Advertising Sales: Susan Lavender  
Shelia Smith  
Lacy Pruitt

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# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

**Name:** Italian Army Lt. Col. Arpad Erdelyi

**Job:** Italian liaison officer to Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office

**Where do you call home?**  
Torino, Italy

## What do you like about your job?

Learning so many new things, especially related on how the U.S. Army works in the acquisition process. From a European perspective, the way the Americans do business is seen as amazing, very efficient and frequently with terrific impact on global economy and defense policies for NATO countries and partner countries.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

Being a father. My children are very young, so I realize I'm very lucky to have been given the opportunity to have a regu-



lar kind of job that allows me to go back home and see them every night. (He and his wife, Daniela, and daughter Barbara, 7, and son Stefano, 3, reside in Madison.)

## What are your goals?

If promoted I hope to be assigned to be commander of an artillery regiment. If not promoted and I stay a lieutenant colonel, I'd like to be assigned to the NATO Rapid Deployable Headquarters near Milano, Italy. And since working here I'm given the opportunity to see the outstanding performance of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, I'd like to see the Italian artillery be given the opportunity to acquire this weapon system. The GMLRS is outstanding. And most of the performance is in theater, not range tests.

## What's your favorite type of music?

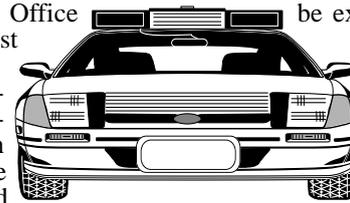
1970s pop music – I started learning English singing along with the Beatles – and some American country.

# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

**March 18:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with no driver's license after he stopped at Gate 9 and said he was lost. A check revealed a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested by Redstone Police and transported to Huntsville Municipal Jail.

**March 20:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, after running into a bollard at Gate 10. He had to



be extricated by Redstone Fire Department, and was transported to the hospital for treatment. He was processed for driving under the influence. He was later released after his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level. He was also issued two violation notices.

**Traffic accidents reported:** two without injuries, one with injuries.

**Violation notices issued:** 12 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving under the influence, 2 parking violations, 1 failure to maintain control.

## Engineer earns Defense achievement award

Jim Colson of Logistics Support Activity has received an award from the Defense Standardization Program Office for outstanding contributions to the Defense Department last fiscal year.

Colson, an engineer, was cited for leading the effort to gain agreement on and finalize a Government Electronics and Information Association standard, GEIA 927, that melds the data concepts of diverse functional areas into one related entity.

The Defense Standardization Program Office presented awards to two individu-



Jim Colson

als and four teams during a ceremony March 13 in Arlington, Va.

Colson began his government career nearly 20 years ago. He works in the logistics engineering division, for Louis Sciaroni, in the Logistics and Engineering Center at LOGSA.

He has a master's in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University. He also

holds two degrees from Idaho State University: a bachelor's in general engineering (electrical), and a bachelor's in French language and literature.

## Safety advice for bicyclists

Bicyclists are common on Redstone roads with the arrival of warm weather.

Redstone police provided the following safety advice for riders:

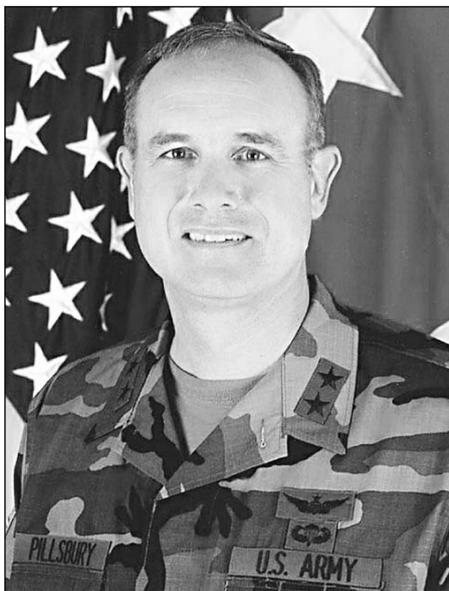
- Although riding two abreast is technically legal, riding single-file, especially in the dark at rush hour, is the safest option.

- A red reflector, visible from 100 to 600 feet when viewed from directly behind, is all that is legally required, but due to the heavy volume of vehicle traffic, the addition of a red light, preferably one that pulsates or flashes, is the safe, common-sense solution.

- Wear a helmet, in accordance with AMCOM regulation 210-2.

## Health tip to live by

Having trouble sticking to your exercise program? Fitness should be fun; so grab a friend, neighbor or co-worker to make it a social event. Take a walk during lunch, go to the gym together or attend an exercise class. Oftentimes when you have someone to go with, you will look forward to exercising and be more likely to stick to it. So get moving! (Garrison release)



File photo

## Going to headquarters

The Army has announced the next assignment for Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal. He will become deputy chief of staff for logistics and operations for the Army Materiel Command at Fort Belvoir, Va. Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Test and Evaluation Command in Alexandria, Va., is expected to succeed Pillsbury in July.

## Retiring chief to continue serving community

*Hobbs starting new career as Junior ROTC instructor*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil](mailto:skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil)

A true Soldiers' Soldier is entering a new phase of his life.

Harry Hobbs, a chief warrant officer 5, is joining the civilian world. He's retiring from the Army with more than 29 years service.

A retirement luncheon in his honor was held March 21 at the Officers and Civilians Club. After officially retiring Aug. 31, he will start a new career as a Junior ROTC instructor at Columbia High School.

Hobbs, 46, has also been hired as a professor at Florida Institute of Technology to instruct the graduate level Management and Human Resources courses at night.

The Louisville, Ky., native has served as the personnel pro-

ponent chief for the enlisted and warrant officer specialties at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

"It's been a fantastic journey of service and growth," Hobbs said. "There is no greater honor than to serve your country and have a grateful nation."

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski was among the 100 attendees at the luncheon.

"This is what right looks like," Olshefski said, pointing at Hobbs as the crowd applauded.

Col. Jose Enriquez, commander of 59th Ordnance Brigade, presented a certificate of appreciation to Hobbs on behalf of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

"It was very comforting to know that he was there and I was able to go to him," Enriquez said. "A true professional, a true leader, he was always there."

Hobbs will reside in Madison with his wife of 26 years, Erica. They have two daughters, Shara and Shauna, and a granddaughter, Cree.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**FROM THE BRIGADE—** 59th Ordnance Brigade commander Col. Jose Enriquez reads a certificate of appreciation to Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs, retiring with more than 29 years service.

# Applying 'positive pressure' to cure Tricare

Retired Air Force colonel seeks more access to medical specialists

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Years ago, retired Air Force Col. Bryan Bennett remembers telling his wife not to complain too loudly about the military's medical coverage.

He was afraid her complaints would "get me in trouble," he told members of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition at their monthly meeting March 21.

"It was a very real problem then. It's a very real problem now."

Bennett, whose military career included working political and military affairs for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and who has been a community volunteer in Huntsville for more than 10 years, and president of the local Air Force Association chapter and Kiwanis Club, is very familiar with the military's medical insurance system.

As the recently appointed Tricare project coordinator for the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Bennett is taking an active role in pushing for changes in Tricare at both the national and local levels. He has met with several officials regarding Tricare, including the administrators of both Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Hospital, local administrators of Humana Military Healthcare Services who manage Tricare matters in North Alabama, and Jim McCamy, staff director for Rep. Bud Cramer.

He told the coalition's members that the Tricare scenario is often the same for local military families — servicemembers and their spouses and chil-

dren are forced to travel long distances for the specialized care they need not because "we don't have specialists in Huntsville, but because those specialists don't take Tricare."

Complaints about Tricare from physicians nationwide include slow reimbursement, intensive paperwork requirements and low reimbursement rates. Bennett said congressional leaders representing North Alabama have been asked by the Madison County Medical Society and other political leaders to, at the very least, change payments so that Tricare is reimbursable at the same rates as Medicare.

"Tricare is the lowest reimbursable," Bennett said. "That has the effect of putting the military and its families as a pawn in the medical system."

Although Bennett is confident that Tricare reimbursement levels will eventually be made equal to Medicare levels, he is concerned that the cost of today's war, the push in Congress to "zero out" the budget by omitting or deleting costs of current projects to pay for new costs and the desire by several congressmen to fund new projects could slow down the push to get new reimbursement levels for Tricare.

Locally, Bennett believes there are two groups of medical professionals who must be convinced to accept Tricare before local issues with physician availability can be resolved. Those groups are, one, the medical practitioners, and, two, medical group administrators within practitioner offices.

Bennett hopes to "get receptivity" from doctors in Huntsville.

"We want to keep positive pressure, not negative pressure on our doctors," Bennett said. "We all have stories (about problems with Tricare doctor accessibility) and they are all true. We don't

See Tricare on page 9



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**ROLLING UP SLEEVES**— Retired Air Force Col. Bryan Bennett is working to get acceptance of Tricare among the local medical community's specialists. As the Tricare project coordinator for the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Bennett told members of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition that he hopes to make a difference for Tricare's military families and military retirees in North Alabama who need better accessibility to medical specialists.

## Big plans take care of North Alabama veterans

VA mega-clinic eyed for future construction

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

As a Korean War veteran suffering from diabetes and other health problems, Hollis Bridges often makes the two-hour trip on I-65 to Birmingham for medical checkups at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Although there are two VA community based outpatient clinics in the Huntsville area that provide primary care, eye clinic and mental health services, Bridges must travel to the VA Medical Center for appointments with a podiatrist and ophthalmologist. On a recent trip to Birmingham to see the VA's eye doctor, Bridges tried to also see a dentist for a simple and quick procedure to have a loose crown sealed back in place. But, he could not be squeezed into the day's already over-booked patient schedule.

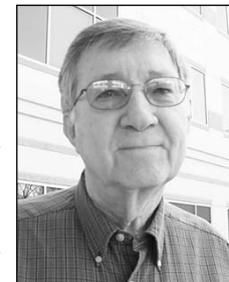
"They told me I would have to come back another day because they were so full of patients," Bridges said. "So, I just came back to Huntsville and ended up paying a dentist here \$79 out of my own pocket to re-glue the crown."

As a past member of the State Board of

Veterans Affairs, Bridges is now working on the behalf of 80,000 veterans in 10 North Alabama counties to establish a Veterans Affairs Mega-Clinic in Madison County. He has spent the past year discussing the subject with local, state and national leaders, and VA administrators. Now, it seems, his efforts are going to make the mega-clinic a reality.

"It's going to happen. I'm confident of that," said Bridges, who is the legislative director for Disabled American Veterans in Alabama. "This will be good for veterans in North Alabama, and it will be good for this community."

In November 2006, Joe L. Davis, director of Redstone Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works, sent a letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs stating that seven acres on the Arsenal at the corner of Zierdt Road and I-565 have been put on hold status for the construction of a VA mega-clinic. Besides Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski and other



Hollis Bridges

See Clinic on page 11

# Communication

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can use this as a good lessons learned. All of the Team Redstone community should have been officially informed of the school evacuation situation. There may have also been employees who lived in or near this area.

Thank God no one got hurt in this situation, but we should be ready to the best of our abilities for the next event, which may happen. Let's remember the Be Ready campaign, <http://www.ready.gov/>. I believe that Team Redstone is doing a good job, but there is always room for improvement.

## Angeline Brownlow

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Protection and safety of personnel and family members is always top priority for the Garrison-Redstone. We are constantly reviewing new technologies and communication techniques to improve emergency noti-*

*cations at Redstone Arsenal.*

*"As technology is only a tool for people to use in situations such as described, each person, in the Redstone community, is the key to communicating emergency information. Your co-worker should be commended for their concern and compassion. He/she is the first line of communication and their performance in this emergency reflects on commitment to Army Values.*

*"Your school should also be commended for having a process for emergency notification. This provides a multi-factor communication process for emergencies. Each factor serves to strengthen the other.*

*"The communication technique (people, process and technology) demonstrated during this emergency provides a strong foundation for future improvement. I want to assure you that the Garrison appreciates the feedback and will act on your comments to improve the Team Redstone emergency notification process with the North Alabama community. America is the greatest country in the world because of concerned people providing feedback such as this."*

## ■ Garden plots among program changes

# Fee

continued from page 2

that the Garrison commander wanted to charge this amount and more, but why? Why is there a \$25 charge? Why does everything have to be about money?

The active duty and retired military, and civilians have not earned at least this much to use the field without being charged. We know that DPW has the plots tilled up twice a year and let us use the water during the planting season. But you are not talking about a whole lot of money. There has been no improvement to the area since the last planting season, but you still want to charge for the use and this is so very unfair. Please let us continue to use the garden plots without any charges.

## Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "We understand your concern about charging \$25 for garden plots but charging for the garden plots prevents us from closing them down all together. There are a multitude of changes occurring across the Army in many program areas. Privatization of Army Housing is one of these 'program area' changes. With Privatization of*

*Army Housing, the Garrison no longer receives Army Family Housing money and therefore can no longer maintain garden plots.*

*"We understand the garden plots are a high interest item particularly for retired Army personnel and their families and we want to continue offering the garden plots. However, in order for those plots to continue to be offered the costs associated with operating them (water, tilling and administrative costs) will have to be paid by the users of the plots. To make this work, the management and operation of the plots were turned over to Morale Welfare and Recreation. They were turned over to MWR because the appropriated side of the Army (Army Housing Office comes under appropriated) cannot accept payment for services from individuals. The non-appropriated side of the Army or MWR can accept payment for services from individuals.*

*"The Redstone MWR will use the fees received for the garden plots to maintain them for the gardeners. Originally we planned for the government Housing Office to assign the plots and MWR would operate and maintain them but decided there would be less confusion if MWR managed all aspects of the garden plots. The MWR Membership Office, located in building 1500, will assign and manage the garden plots."*

## ■ Just get over bridge repairs

# Life

continued from page 2

tell what the improvements are. Granted, there is no "showplace of improvements with flashing colored lights," but why would there be?

I travel to the Arsenal from two counties west of Madison and I use Gate 7 on a daily basis. I used Gate 9 or Gate 8 on Goss Road during the downtime that Martin Road was under repairs and Gate 7 was closed, which, by the way, was less than six months. I used no more gas and got to work no later than usual. Gate

9 would usually back up around 7 a.m., but I never had to wait on more than two cars coming in Goss Road.

I am not sure of the expense to repair the three bridges on Martin Road, but I do know I would rather be "inconvenienced" for a short period of time to repair these old bridges rather than be the one that was crossing one of them as they gave way.

Inconvenience is a part of life and we will all experience it at some time. Some people just need something to complain about.

**Michelle Johnson**

## Crafts help shape future for at-risk youngsters

Community program brings group to Arts and Crafts Center for class

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Half the youngsters watched an instructional tape on pen turning, while the others took their turns on the lathes.

They were learning how to make wooden writing pens Thursday afternoon at the June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center. The 13 boys and five mentors represented the 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter's "Men of Tomorrow Program."

Each year members of the chapter take a group of at-risk youngsters, who are from single parent homes, for an educational visit to the crafts center.

"There are many great kids with aptitudes that do not have the opportunities," Mark Wolfson, the center's assistant manager, said. "This (program) gives them the opportunity and we here at the arts and crafts center support that very positive role in our society."

Sam King, a professor of acquisition management at Defense Acquisition University, was among the mentors. The others included Nat Meador, Hodges Washington, Jim Gibson and Harold Jones. Meador, who works in AMCOM's Readiness Directorate, materiel fielding division, is the chapter's Mentor of the Year.

"In the program, we've got about 31 young men, all from single parent homes," King said. "And we as an organization decided to mentor these young men so they can have a positive black male role model. And we're just trying to make a difference."

The youngsters were from grades 5 through 12. The chapter assigns each young man a mentor. The mentor is responsible for communicating with his "mentee" on a weekly basis. That can be through e-mail, phone call, home visit or at school.

The mentors meet with them as a group every second and fourth Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until noon at the Bo Matthews Center in Huntsville. There they eat breakfast and talk to the young men about life experiences. They also bring in civic leaders, church leaders and educators to share their life experiences. The youngsters then receive about two and a half hours of tutoring from certified teachers in math, reading and the sciences.

This program has been in existence about seven years. One of its alumni, Devin Allen, has graduated from high school and is now a freshman at Alabama A&M University.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**MENTORING**— Nat Meador, a mentor with the 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter's "Men of Tomorrow Program," watches DeQuan Vann, 13, during Thursday's visit to the June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center.

DeQuan Vann, 13, the Mentee of the Year, was among the boys at the wood crafts class.

"Since I want to become an engineer, I think it's going to help me with my ability," Vann said, "because I want to build houses."

Said Gabrienne Pickett, 13, "It's real fun, because it's helping me learn carpentry and stuff. When I grow up I might want to be a carpenter."

The other youngsters included Kelvin Hunter, Kemonte Harris, Robyn Grays, Demetrius Childs, Rodney Williams, Teiko Davis, William Hereford, Malique Hewlett, Jordan Reeves, Dominique Hewlett and Delondo Harris.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TURNING PEN**— Wood shop facilitator Boyce Allen helps Gabrienne Pickett, 13, use a lathe to turn wood.



# Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

■ Military retiree wants remedy for Tricare situation

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- Watch for the AER Online Auction [www.aer-redstone.com](http://www.aer-redstone.com). Brought to you by PEO Aviation. For information call Maj. Mathew McCauley 313-4260.

- You can support AER by drinking Bay Springs 100 percent Natural Spring Water. During the campaign, Bay Springs will donate \$1 to AER for each 5 or 3 gallon bottle ordered by any Redstone Arsenal offices or post housing occupants. The delivery price for 5 gallon bottles is \$5.75. Monthly cooler rental is \$9. No contract is required; and only a \$6 per bottle deposit is required – or they'll accept any bottle you may have already bought. To start delivery or get a sample of Bay Springs water, call toll free 1-800-815-7704.

- Check out the Integrated Materiel Management Center events at web site <http://immcweb.redstone.army.mil/aer/>.

- IMMC is holding an aluminum recycling campaign. Collection boxes are located in break rooms throughout the Sparkman Center. If you have aluminum cans at your house that you would like to donate, call Maj. Owen Ward 876-4541 or Eric Cowan 313-1572.

- An Easter Basket silent auction, sponsored by Depot Maintenance Army, IMMC, is today from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sparkman Cafeteria hallway. Two baskets will be auctioned to the highest bidder. Call Bruce Johnson 842-6411.

- AMCOM G-8 is selling Sonic Value Cards for a minimum donation of \$5 until May 15. There are two cards to choose from. Call Larry Bowlin 842-7103.

- From now until May 31, you can support AER by eating lunch at Chick-Fil-A on Thursdays. Every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the campaign, Chick-Fil-A at 11820 South Parkway – just past Redstone Federal Credit Union and Wal-Mart – will donate 10 percent of its total lunchtime sales to AER. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are there to support Redstone Arsenal's AER campaign.

- Coupon books are being sold by ILS/Manprint Office. The \$15 books contain discount coupons for local restaurants and businesses. Call Cheryl Baker 842-8695, Ranny Vinson 842-8793 and Kim Sharp 876-8696.

- Get freshly-popped popcorn Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at building 5400, SELA wing, second floor. Call Brandi Ricketts 842-9393.

- Project Manager's Office, PEO Aviation, will hold "The Great American Pastime" Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5309. Hot dogs, brats, chips and drinks will be served. Call Jo-Ann Rice 313-3742.

- AER 2007 Blue Star Golf Tournament is Friday at the Links at Redstone. Hosted by the Acquisition Center, the start time is 9 a.m. Call Colleen Rodriguez 876-8849 and Steven Froniabarger 842-7284. The rain date is April 27.

- A cinnamon roll sale is April 3 from 8 a.m. until all sold at building 5302, second floor kitchen, and building 5308 entrance. Call Aubrey Fencher 876-4009 and Austin Lundy 842-7853.

- A cookie buffet, hosted by Aviation Mission Equipment Product Office, is April 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. between buildings 5308 and 5309. Six cookies cost \$3. Call Ruthy Gordon 876-3654.

- The Acquisition Center will hold an Easter Bake Sale April 5 at the Sparkman Center near building 5303. Call Candice Scruggs 842-7304.

- A pizza sale, hosted by AMRDEC, is April 5 at building 5400, SELA lobby. Cutoff date for orders is April 2. Call Dorothy May 842-8391 and Gay Horry 842-8389.

- Handmade lanyards are offered in the SELA lobby, building 5400, daily from 6:30-9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Dorothy May 842-8391 and Gay Horry 842-8389.

- PEO Missile and Space, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office – building 5250, room B200A – will hold a brunch for AER on April 5 from 8 a.m. until all gone. Call K.C. Bertling, Jill Mayes or Maria Roth 876-1195 or 876-8121.

- 2007 AER Idol performance dates are April 10 for round one and May 23 for round two at 1 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Cost is a \$5 suggested donation per show or \$8 donation for both. Call Anthony Grayson 955-9002, Sherry Miller 842-0736 and Sharon Nolen 842-9431.

- Barbecue lunch plates, sponsored by IMMC, are available April 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 106 Wynn Drive. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068, Dave Moudy 313-1069 and Pam Reyer 313-1077.

- IMMC Readiness Directorate will hold an AER Spring Cleaning Yard Sale on April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**BAKE BENEFIT— Billy Sanders and Savannah Atchley, both of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, hold an AER bake sale March 20-22 in the Sparkman Center. The sale was conducted by members of the Management Maintenance Directorate's supply management division and logistics and analysis division.**

of building 5301. All proceeds will be donated to AER. If you have items you would like to donate call Eric Cowan 313-1572, Maj. Owen Ward 876-4541 or bring them to 5301 from 7-9 a.m. the day of the sale.

- Old Skool vs. Nu Skool Softball is April 12, hosted by the Acquisition Center. Call Chris Campbell 876-3448. The rain date is April 19.

- AMRDEC System Simulation and Development Directorate will hold the second annual "No-Limit Texas Hold-em" Poker Tournament on April 12 at 10 a.m. at the Rustic Lodge. Winner will receive the Redstone AER Poker Tournament Trophy. Participation is limited to the first 100 persons to pay entrance fee. Call Pat Hooper 876-4273.

- Command Analysis Directorate's annual Book Sale will be held April 16-20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 5300, first floor in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. It will accept donations of books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape from now until April 18. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

- A hot dog sale is April 17 and April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside building 5302, sponsored by NMP, IMMC. Call Kay O'Brien 313-2451, Greg Jones 876-9644 and Rod Mathewson 313-2454.

- Bake sales, sponsored by the Utility Helicopter Project Office, are April 18 and May 8 from 7-9 a.m. in the lobby of building 5308. For information call Donna Luke 955-8964.

- AMRDEC Engineering Directorate Golf Scramble, a four person scramble is April 19 at the Links at Redstone. Registration deadline is April 5. Call Chris Farmer 313-6553, Will Lovell 955-2370 and Ken Nebrig 842-4994.

- Fish Fry is April 16, hosted by the Acquisition Center. Call Colleen Rodriguez 876-8849. Rain date is May 3.

- Fox Army Health Center, Vets with Vettes, Corvette Owners will hold the fifth annual Cars and Camouflage Car Show on April 21 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Museum on Airport Road. The event is open to all. Registration for judged vehicles is \$20. There will be special rides and motorcycles plus Tommy Mac, DJ, will be there to play music. Military equipment displays, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and more are planned. For information call Seth Wood 755-7422 and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Perkins 955-8888.

- The White Elephant Dollar Day Sale, sponsored by PEO Aviation, PM AV-AS, is April 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at building 5309. All items are \$1. Call Jo-Ann Rice 313-3742, Ruthy Gordon 876-3654, Julie Rice 955-9531 and Cathy Knipe 955-0729.

- Barbecue lunch plates, sponsored by IMMC, are available May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5309. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068, Dave Moudy 313-1069 and Pam Reyer 313-1077.

- AER Hoop it Up 3-on-3 basketball, hosted by Missile Logistic Directorate, is May 17 at Redstone Fitness Center. Cost is \$20 per team by May 11, or \$25 per team on May 14. Tickets to attend will go on sale April 30 for \$2, or \$3 at the door. For information call James Minnon 955-9300 or Whitney Stone 842-6218.

## Tricare

continued from page 6

want this to become an 'us' and 'them' issue. But, we do want to hold a mirror up to the medical community to say are you really supporting the military or not ... This is a movement to get a willing acceptance of Tricare in this community."

Bennett said the local effort will be helped by Col. Mark H. Smith, commander of Fox Army Health Center, who is committed to encouraging the local medical community to accept Tricare patients. Bennett would also like the coalition to take an active role by establishing a Tricare committee and allowing him to lead its efforts.

"This is a bread and butter issue. We are able to serve our Soldiers by working this issue," he said. "This is a big issue for all of us. This is something we can do and I am absolutely convinced we can make a change in this community."

Also at the coalition meeting, the family of deployed National Guard Sgt. Nathan Childers of the 1169th Engineer Group received a Blue Star Service Banner, which is given to the families of deployed Soldiers to hang in their window during the deployment. Childers' family, which includes mom and dad, retired Sgt. 1st Class Bill and Pauline Childers; sister Cassy Childers; cousin Carly DeRisi and fiancée Jennifer Ramont, were unable to attend the Blue Star Service Banner ceremony held in February for the families of the 1169th.

Bill Childers, who served with the 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment during the first Gulf war, said he is proud of his son's service and talks to him frequently.

"It doesn't matter how long the phone call is," he said. "As long as it's 15 seconds and I can hear his voice, I know he's all right."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SPECIAL FAMILY— Retired Sgt. 1st Class Bill Childers and his wife, Pauline, hold a Blue Star Service Banner they received during the March 21 monthly meeting of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition. Their son, National Guard Sgt. Nathan Childers, is serving in Iraq with the 1169th Engineer Group. The Childers family members received their banner at the coalition's meeting because they were unable to attend a Blue Star Service Banner Ceremony for the unit's families that was held in February.**



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**DONATION—** From left Still Serving Veterans director Werner Baker, vice president Becky Pillsbury and executive board member Dawn Reynolds accept a \$20,000 check from Hyo Sang Lee, CEO and president of Science and Engineering Services Inc.

## Company contributes to Still Serving Veterans

*Maryland-based firm promises annual gifts*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer

[kellyqa@bellsouth.net](mailto:kellyqa@bellsouth.net)

Still Serving Veterans, a non-profit Huntsville based organization, goes the extra mile to help severely wounded Soldiers and their families get and stay on their feet. It received a boost Thursday.

Science and Engineering Services Inc. CEO and president Hyo Sang Lee delivered a check for \$20,000 to board members. SESI is a technology research, development and manufacturing company based in Maryland. With manufacturing operations in Huntsville, the company has a commitment to the area. However, the bond Lee feels with SSV is more personal.

"My son is a captain in the Army. He's training at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. I heard about this (organization) and wanted to give my support from my heart," Lee said. "I know in talking with my son that supporting wounded veterans is a critical issue for Soldiers. Our country is having a hard time with how best to do that. Here at the grassroots in Huntsville, citizens have already taken action to do something. It's a very noble thing to do."

This donation is only the first, Lee said. SESI has pledged two more contributions of the same amount, one for 2008 and another for 2009. The commitment is bigger than money, though. Lee has also offered SSV office space free of charge and promised to help place veterans and spouses in open positions within the company as need arises.

"SESI is extremely grateful to our veterans and their families for their sacrifices. We have a deep respect for their contributions to this country, and we show our appreciation with outreach support that recognizes their service and improves their quality of life," he said. "We are committed to partner with Still Serving Veterans and assist our veterans and their families as they continue to serve our community and our nation. We will never forget their dedication and sacrifices as they served our country and they will continue this same dedication and sacrifice after leaving the military. We stand side-by-side with our veterans and we honor them, so it is only fitting that we support them in their life after the service."

Becky Pillsbury, vice president of Still Serving Veterans, said this was a benchmark moment for the organization. It is the first repeating guaranteed contribution they have received. They hope it will inspire others to do the same. Regardless, it makes reaching more Soldiers a little easier.

"We're very excited," Pillsbury said. "We're very passionate about helping Soldiers. They are what matters."

Just as important to the charity is the level of support such a donation signifies. Dawn Reynolds, SSV executive board member for work force transition, thanked Lee and SESI.

"We are so grateful," Reynolds said. "You can't top that kind of good will."

Donations to Still Serving Veterans are tax deductible, and the organization's services to Soldiers are free. To make a donation or for more information, call 866-SSV-4MIL (866-778-4645). The web site is [www.StillServingVeterans.org](http://www.StillServingVeterans.org).

## Support rolls in for Caring House

*Resource managers' group contributes money, time*

Members of the American Society of Military Comptrollers showed they cared in their recent community project.

Thirteen ASMC members, joined by four non-members, helped out at the Caring House's annual bowling/pizza party March 10 at Pin Palace on North Memorial Parkway. The Caring House, a program of Hospice Family Care, provides bereavement support for children age 3-18, their families and adults who have experienced a death of someone close to them. Hospice doesn't have to be used by families to utilize this service. This service is free of charge to anyone in the community.

In February the ASMC purchased and delivered 53 journals to be used in sup-

port groups with Lee High students. The local chapter also purchased and delivered snacks for three support groups for Valentine's.

Attendees at the bowling/pizza party included 35 children, Hospice Family Care worker Richard Willey, and Caring House bereavement coordinator Kelsia Smith.

ASMC members and non-members helping out at this event included Connie Atchley, Larry Bowlin, Nathan Briggs (husband of Darlene Haynes-Briggs), April Brooks, Tiffanie Cooper, Ron Grant, Darlene Haynes-Briggs, Lisa Hughey, Ed Kyser (friend of Brooks), Bob Nichols, Debbie O'Neal, Kay Patton, Jackie Shaw, Carolyn Thomas, Lisa White and her son Brady, and Loretta Johnson (friend of O'Neal). (American Society of Military Comptrollers release)

# Clinic

continued from page 6

Redstone Arsenal officials, Bridges said he has also received support for the mega-clinic project from Still Serving Veterans.

In addition, Bridges has received notification that in April the VA will officially decide to finalize plans for the proposed mega-clinic and seek funding for it in the '08 congressional budget. And, Bridges has also verified that the State of Alabama has plans to build a road connector from I-565 to Zierdt Road in the next two years, crucial to making the mega-clinic easily accessible to veterans throughout North Alabama.

"I think this project fits in well with the VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program," Bridges said. "It's a good fit especially with the BRAC moves to Redstone Arsenal. There are a lot more military coming to this area. But, right now, we don't have the VA medical facilities we need here."

Plans for the mega-clinic call for an 80,000-square-foot facility that will provide primary care and related specialties, behavioral health, eye clinic, non-surgical specialties, cardiology, orthopedics, pathology, radiology and related specialties, surgical and related specialties, and urology services. The project, which is estimated to cost between \$30 million and \$35 million, will consolidate the Huntsville and Madison/Decatur community based outpatient clinics.

"Right now, we have no specialists here," Bridges said. "We want to have specialists here and we want to be able to have operations performed here."

With a mega-clinic in Huntsville, surgical procedures for VA patients would be performed at hospitals locally. The mega-clinic would have 10 beds contracted for VA patients at a local hospital.

"Now, if we need specialty care or an operation, we have to go to Birmingham," Bridges said. "With the mega-clinic, we would have a doctor on staff who would oversee the hospital work. The doctor would do operations at a local hospital or get local specialists to do the operations."

Because of the demand for VA medical services, it can take up to three months to get an appointment in Birmingham, Bridges said. And, now with the

growing number of wounded veterans returning from Iraq, that wait time is increasing.

"Wounded Soldiers coming back from war are required to see a doctor within one month," Bridges said. "That's working. But, it's pushing the rest of us back. The CARES program is built to offset that by bringing care to the community."

The CARES Initiative is a system-wide process to prepare the VA for meeting the current and future health care needs of veterans in modern health care facilities.

An executive summary from the Birmingham VA Medical Center has been submitted by center director Y.C. Parris to the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning the need for the mega-clinic.

**T**he executive summary reported that "at times, patients (in North Alabama) choose to cancel or otherwise avoid care that requires travel to Birmingham. It is likely that travel distances result in delays in diagnosis or treatment, and serve as a barrier to comprehensive and coordinated care.

"The (mega-clinic) project will improve the quality of care by bringing common specialists closer to the veteran's home, improving timeliness, reducing time to diagnose and treat conditions requiring specialist input, and improving outcomes on performance measures and clinical practice guidelines."

The summary also stated that current VA facilities in the Huntsville area do not provide the adequate space to meet the growing demand for VA health care services.

"Without this project, patients would have to receive fragmented care from community providers, continue to drive long distances for care or would experience long delays in accessing needed services. This project will also help meet the gaps in care as described by the CARES Initiative," it said.

Once funding for the mega-clinic is approved, Bridges said the VA would oversee construction. He hopes design plans will be similar to the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann veterans' home located in Huntsville.

During his tenure on the state Board of Veterans Affairs, Bridges was involved in overseeing the construction of Tut Fann and veterans homes in Bay Minette and Alexander City. Besides serving in the Air Force, Bridges is also a Redstone Arsenal retiree.

# The making of a great propulsion engineer

*Lab's young professionals get on-the-job training*

By MERV BROKKE  
For the Rocket

Four years ago, Nathan Mathis, a Benton, Ky., native and recent graduate of the Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville was hired as an aerospace engineer for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Propulsion and Structures Directorate. Mathis had just earned his master's in chemical engineering, with an emphasis in environmental engineering, and was glad to get the job.

However, his work at the university did not involve propulsion engineering. In fact, his thesis was written about lab work conducted on samples of solid municipal waste – that's right – garbage.

"Despite being intimidated by the word 'propulsion', I submitted my resume and was privileged enough to get the job – a

job that I really wasn't sure I was qualified to do.

"The only thing I really knew how to propel was my car via the gas pedal. Making fire out the back end of a rocket motor was a whole new world," said Mathis, an aerospace engineer in the propulsion technology function of Propulsion and Structures Directorate.

The anxiety over this new job was elevated not long after he hired on, when his supervisor, Dr. Jay Lilley, came by his desk one day.

"During the course of our conversation he said, 'We're going to make you a propulsion engineer.' I don't remember anything else he said during that talk. All I can recall thinking was 'Well, I guess that makes it official,'" Mathis said.

In spite of his concern about working in propulsion and starting a new career in general, Mathis has experienced more here than he ever experienced in school.

"I've learned a lot in the four-plus years since graduation. A



Photo by Merv Brokke

**CLOSE LOOK—** From left, Matt Smith, Nathan Mathis, Lance Hall and Amy Gerards, junior engineers in the Propulsion and Structures Directorate, inspect a successfully-fired Kinetic Energy Active Protection System rocket motor after disassembly.

formal, college education in propulsion could never have equaled the 'hands-on' experience the Army has provided. Just within the arena of propulsion

I've been able to work in solid, liquid and gel propulsion technologies and systems.

"There is a group of senior engineers and scientists who

strongly believe in learning by doing and the first four years here has afforded me the opportunity to work and gain experience in a variety of areas," he said.

Since Mathis was not the only young engineer in Propulsion and Structures Directorate, the leadership saw a need to enable these new employees and give them a unique opportunity in the propulsion field. With this need came the institution of a program to mentor and develop its young engineers and scientists and grow future experts and mentors.

"Academic knowledge without first-hand experience in this business is of limited value," said Steve Cornelius, deputy director of the Propulsion and Structures Directorate. "Until you put yourself on the line and test the limits of your abilities, you really can't understand how much you know or don't know."

Cornelius and his team developed their program by answering a basic question: How does a

See Engineers on page 18

# Big read on the way at Post Library

*Open house offers free books choice*

The Post Library will hold a “Big Read Open House” on April 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Throughout the day everyone attending will be given free tickets for two books of their choice from the library’s donated “book sale” books; and the first 75 people will also receive a free copy of the book “To Kill a Mockingbird.” This is for the entire Redstone community.

The open house is in honor of “The Big Read: Huntsville Reads ‘To Kill a Mockingbird,’” a celebration of the classic novel by Alabama author Harper Lee. The Post Library was invited by the Huntsville-Madison County Library to be a partner in their National Endowment for the Arts grant designed to encourage reading of American classics.

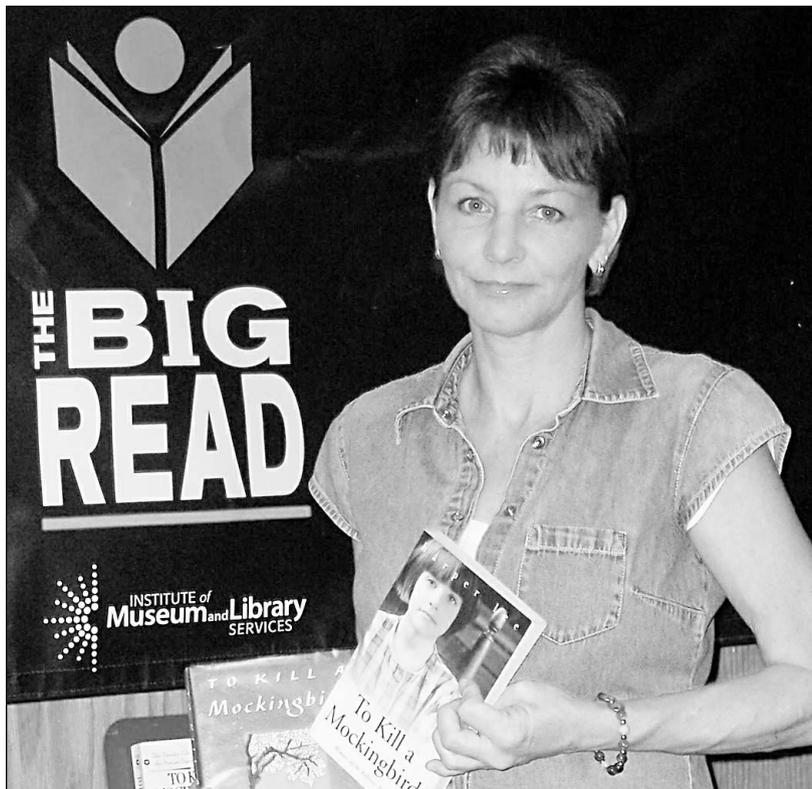
The open house will offer Big Read events brochures and “Mockingbird” reader’s guides along with refreshments, balloons and door prizes. The donated free “book sale” books include novels, non-fiction, children’s books and some sets. Visitors, including all children, may take their pick.

Huntsville is among 72 communities nationwide participating in this initiative. The Big Read for the partnering military communities is sponsored by the Boeing Company. The Officer and Civilian Women’s

Club book club is participating in the Big Read for its April meeting.

For more information about the Redstone library open house, call 876-4741. The full calendar of Big

Read events is available at [www.hpl.lib.al.us](http://www.hpl.lib.al.us) or you may call Huntsville librarians Mary Wallace 881-0275 or David Lilly 532-5975. (Post Library release)



Courtesy photo

**CLASSIC SELECTION—** Library technician Martha Piskulic holds copies of the book “To Kill a Mockingbird.”



Courtesy photo

## Home team reunion

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, left, and post Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, right, meet Pfc. Lewis Foutch during their trip to Afghanistan earlier this month. Foutch is the son of Wiley Foutch, of the Security Assistance Management Directorate, and Angie Foutch, of the Sparkman Management Office. “Command Sgt. Maj. Yates has been a great inspiration and role model for my son and son-in-law Spc. Lee Buller, who is also deployed in Afghanistan,” Angie Foutch said. “It is also a great comfort to us to have someone we know who cares about the welfare of our boys. We have great friends in AMCOM who have sent both our boys packages, cards and letters. It means so much for them to know people care and support our troops. Go Army!”

# Post champion 326<sup>th</sup> Chemical has cast of heroes

*Dragons ride momentum to successful title defense in troop basketball*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

The 326th Chemical Company basketball team wasn't the same after David Gleaton made a shot worthy of ESPN's SportsCenter highlights.

Rewind the tape of the post-season tournament to the 326th's game March 13 against the Marines. Gleaton hit a half-court basket as time expired to give the 326th a 48-45 win at Pagano Gym. The Dragons went on to beat Bravo Company 57-39 in the winners bracket final March 15 and again 57-43 for the championship March 19.

The road to the 326th's second straight title may have been paved by Gleaton's gem.

"That shot turned the whole season around," Gleaton said. "I mean we got some momentum we never let go of after that."

The Dragons had plenty of other heroes, too. Just look at the score sheet from their win over Bravo in the final game. Darrin Johnson had 13 points and eight rebounds. Kenster Shannon scored 12 points. Billy Clark had 11 points and nine rebounds. Gleaton had nine points and 10 rebounds. Point guard Louis Baldwin added six rebounds and

five assists. "Everybody turned out," 326th coach Eddie Bryan said.

Bravo coach Rod Brown was particularly impressed by Baldwin, who proved all season that scoring is just part of the game. Baldwin only had two points, both on free throws, but his rebounds and assists were valuable.

"Number 22 (Baldwin) controlled their offense well and he broke us down on defense," Brown said. "I think he was the difference in the game, I really do. He controlled the tempo of the game and picked us apart."

The score was similar to the Dragons' win over Bravo in the winners bracket final. Bravo then beat the Marines 48-33 to advance to the championship game.

"We just went with what worked against them last time," Baldwin said. "And we executed."

The 326th led 25-20 at half-time and built a 37-27 advantage by midway in the second half. The Bulldogs got within 40-34, but the Dragons scored the next seven points to keep control.

"It was determination," said Clark, the 326th's center, who had several key rebounds down the stretch. "All through the regular season, we were expected to get put out (in the double-elimination postseason tournament). We fought, we never gave up. We were determined to prove everybody wrong, and we did it."

Said Gleaton, the 6-foot



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**DRAGONS RULE**— The 326th Chemical Company team celebrates its second straight championship March 19 at Pagano Gym.

shooting guard, who was still smiling about his classic shot from the previous week, "I think we just came out strong. We kept it going the whole game, kept the

intensity up and put a lot of pressure on them on defense."

The Dragons finished 10-4 and successfully defended their title again at the expense of

Bravo, last year's runner-up.

Ronell Roberson had 11 points and seven rebounds and Lawrence Scott had 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs (11-3).

## Civilians' overworked eyes can use a break

*Vision screening program begins for frequent computer users*

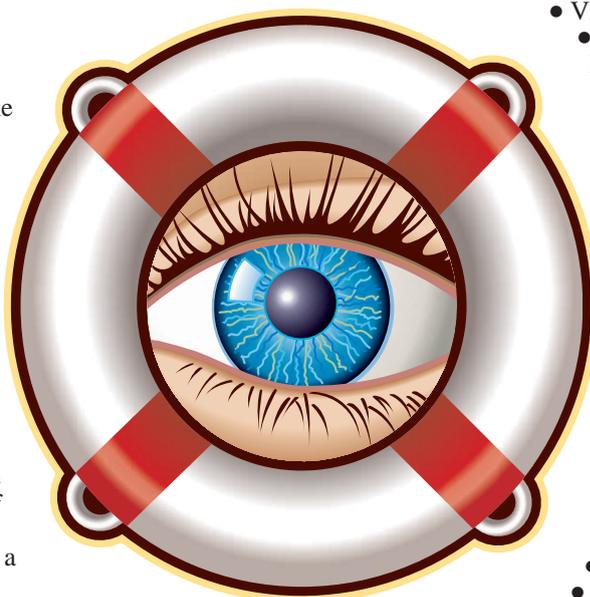
Computer work can be strenuous on the body, as well as the eyes. Eyestrain is a common health problem reported by people working at video display terminals.

Symptoms include blurred vision or difficulty focusing, double vision, tiredness, and burning, sore or itchy eyes. In addition to eyestrain, there is a risk of back, neck and other muscular discomfort from prolonged VDT use. If this sounds familiar, you may be one of the 50-90 percent of computer users who experience symptoms.

So, what's the difference in using a video display terminal and reading a book? The variables of a VDT increase the possibility of adverse effects to the eyes.

Take a look at the differences between a VDT and book:

- VDT — colored screen. Book — white pages.
- VDT — colored letters. Book — black letters.
- VDT — self-illuminated. Book — reflects light.
- VDT — eyes straight ahead. Book — eyes lowered about 40 degrees.



- VDT — distance 20 to 39 inches. Book — distance 14 to 16 inches.
- VDT — glare. Book — no glare.

In accordance with the Army Health Professional Support Agency, VDT users are defined as any workers who use a video display terminal for at least 20 hours of work per week. Does this sound like you? Then take advantage of a new program at Fox Army Health Center.

To assist Army civilian employees at Redstone Arsenal, Fox Army Health Center Occupational Medicine is starting a VDT Vision Screening Program. Its goal is to evaluate and maximize efficiency of the civilian work force using video display terminals for 20 or more hours per week. Its intent is to identify employees needing further evaluation, thus helping to reduce accidents due to vision issues. The VDT Vision Screening Program includes the following areas: VDT questionnaire; testing of intermediate vision, the distances between 20 and 40 inches; and education in office ergonomics.

An initial evaluation should be completed and then repeated every three years thereafter. Please bring the following information with you to the examination:

- Distance from your eyes to your computer screen.
- Distance from your eyes to the keyboard.
- Location of your source document and its distance from your eyes.
- Location of the VDT relative to windows and other light sources.
- Typical font size, color and screen background color.

Army civilians at Redstone Arsenal may call the Occupational Medicine Clinic at 955-8888, ext.1026, to schedule an appointment. (Fox Army Health Center release)

# Huntsville Center arranging Army office furniture

## Centrally managed program should help transformation

By KIM GILLESPIE  
Engineering and Support Center

The way Army installations buy administrative furniture for their buildings is changing and the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is the central manager for that change.

The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Installation Management Command instituted the Centrally Managed Administrative Furniture program in fiscal 2006 and designated Huntsville Center as the program management support, procurement and delivery agent for this task.

"IMCOM was very impressed with the success of Huntsville Center's management of the Unaccompanied Personnel Housing furniture program," said Bill Sugg, chief of the Engineer Branch, Public Works Division at headquarters IMCOM. "Huntsville's record of customer service, on-time delivery, cost savings through competitive procurement and centralized tracking and management convinced us that Huntsville Center should manage the administrative furniture program, too. We anticipate additional synergies and saving through combining both programs."

The relationship between the team members requires close coordination. OACSIM is responsible for policy and programming of funding. IMCOM receives Army funding, sets priorities and disperses funding to Huntsville Center. Huntsville Center is responsible for program and procurement support, including data collection and historical analysis, overseeing the collection of furniture requirements, procurement management, and execution and delivery of furnishings.

## Transformation support

While the focus of the OACSIM, IMCOM and Corps of Engineers initiative is administrative furniture, the mission is still about supporting Army personnel.

"Ensuring Army Soldiers and civilians have quality furniture that arrives on time is critical to the success of Army transformation," Alicia Allen, Huntsville Center's furniture program manager, said. "In addition to ensuring quality, centralizing administrative furniture procurement also standardizes furniture to ensure the same quality of life is maintained at all

Army installations. Cost is also an important factor in that we will standardize the design to ensure quality, but, whenever practical, furniture will be procured through competition to get the best prices available for that level of quality."

Education is important to the success of the program, according to Scott Wick, the Corps of Engineers proponent for furniture at headquarters.

"This is a big change, and personnel may not understand how centralized management works and why it was necessary to implement this program," Wick said.

Instead of funding each installation separately for the procurement of administrative furnishings, IMCOM now sends funding to Huntsville Center and the center will use customer requirements to make the procurement.

"We make sure they get what they need and get the best value," said Stephen Evans, Huntsville Center project manager for administrative furniture. "Our role is to help the installation in every way we can."

## Progress seen

The challenge for Army personnel is shifting from proprietary to performance-based thinking and acquisition, according to Evans. Like standardization, performance-based thinking is another Army initiative that installations and personnel will enjoy once they start seeing the benefits.

"It has only been 19 months since Centrally Managed Administrative Furniture was first conceived by the OACSIM," Evans said. "We received the final go ahead from Corps headquarters in late January, so we still have a lot of work to do to make this system fully operational, but we are making good progress."

The Centrally Managed Administrative Furniture Program is being modeled after the success of the Unaccompanied Personnel Barracks Furniture Program, which is also managed by Huntsville Center for OACSIM and IMCOM. The UPH Furniture Program is a partnership with OACSIM, IMCOM, Garrisons (or Installations) Corps Districts, and the General Services Administration vendor community. The UPH Furniture Program regularly produces on time deliveries at least 98 percent of the time, realizes significant programmatic savings, and has increased the expected life of the UPH furnishings by as much as 50 percent, according to Allen.

"We've had 12 years to develop the barracks furniture program, but we have a much shorter time frame to get the Administrative Furniture program running smoothly," she said.

Establishing standard procurement methods is the first step. Eventually, standardized designs for standardized facilities are envisioned.

"Standardized designs will meet the functional demands of the customer," Allen said, "and must complement the facility designs."

The program must also use the most efficient procurement process, which can best be done by competition, usually through the GSA schedules whenever practical, Evans said. To the maximum extent possible, the use of Blanket Purchase Agreements will be used to provide the furniture.

"The competition will be done up front," Allen said.

Allen said the interior design function remains a critical part of the furnishings process.

"Even Centers of Standardization facilities may require design changes, although they may not be drastic modifications," Allen said.

## Team effort

Although centrally funded furniture funds will improve the ability to provide furniture when needed, the amount of funding will still be limited. So IMCOM is ensuring that furniture procurement is being made the right way and prioritized

correctly, Allen said.

"We are also developing a strategy to ensure small business goals are met," Allen said. "Whether this is through the vendor, rather than the manufacturer, has yet to be finalized. But we know we can fulfill many of our small business goals through GSA procurements, as we have done with our UPH Barracks Furniture program."

The Administrative Furniture program had its first challenge at the end of fiscal 2006. Funding was received in August 2006. Within six weeks, 79 furniture designs were completed, and 127 building procurements were made.

"This is a great example of a team effort and getting the job done," Allen said. "A Product Delivery Team was developed that consisted of OACSIM and IMCOM Centrally Managed Administrative Furniture personnel, Huntsville Center's administrative furniture team, installation customers and Corps District representatives who all worked together with many long hours to ensure the furniture would be on its way. To make it happen, and to assess the best features of a number of types of methods, the PDT utilized a variety of contracting methods. The Corps' Baltimore District also played a significant role - they took the lead in awarding the bulk of the contracts."

The experience and data gained from this initial design and procurement effort is being

used to develop the final program process and structure.

"We plan that by centrally managing the administrative furniture program, we can assist OACSIM and IMCOM by developing a data base detailing the type and amount of furniture purchased," Evans said. "By having all the administrative furniture data in one location, it will be much easier to program and prioritize the replacement of furniture. Prioritizing procurements will become easier as we implement the program."

Allen and Evans are also optimistic that customers will be pleased with the quality and service resulting from central management.

"The design standards and procurement methods are a good guarantee that the furniture will have its promised life span, or beyond," Allen said.

Evans summarized the administrative furniture mission as "getting the best value for the customer, and best value means a standard for quality, competition for cost and timely delivery and service."

"The Corps stresses the four 'Rs' (Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable), and Lt. Gen. (Carl) Strock (chief of engineers) has emphasized how these four elements are connected," Evans said. "Our joint OACSIM, IMCOM and Corps of Engineers program incorporates the four Rs - we are doing the right thing in the right way, and when we say we can do something, we do it!"

## Army announces wounded Soldier hotline

### Phone call center opens to identify health issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army has opened the phone on its new Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline, providing wounded and injured Soldiers and their family members with another way to resolve medical issues.

The hotline also provides an information channel for Soldiers' medical-related issues to go directly to senior Army leadership in order to improve the way the Army serves the medical needs of Soldiers and their families, said the commander of Army Human Resources Command, Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne.

"We designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what Soldiers say about their health care issues so as issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas and senior leaders can better allocate resources," Byrne said. "It's all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It's that simple."

Many wounded and injured Soldiers who have supported the Global War on Terror, and their families, are enduring hardships in navigat-

ing through the medical care system, Byrne said.

"Our Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care for the men and women who have volunteered to serve this great nation," he said. "But recent events at Walter Reed Army Medical Center made it clear the Army needs to revise how it meets the needs of our injured and wounded Soldiers and their families. In certain cases, the chain of command could have done a better job in helping to resolve medically related issues."

Leaders in the chain of command need to know that this call center exists, and that it was not created to circumvent the chain of command, according to Byrne.

"In this particularly challenging time, as our senior Army leadership looks to ways to improve our service to wounded and injured Soldiers and their families, this is another step in the direction of improvement," he said "Our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families expect and deserve the very best care and leadership from our Army."

The "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline" can be reached from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (800) 984-8523. The call center is under the command of the Army's Human Resources Command. (Army News Service)

# Engineers

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newly-graduated person gain the knowledge and experience necessary to lead complex design and development programs and evolve into one of the nation's top defense scientists or engineers?

The PSD team thinks it came up with a very good answer.

"At PSD, we try to foster an atmosphere where the work force, whether young or not so young, can take smart risks, learn and succeed without fear of retribution or the untimely ending of a career," Cornelius said. "We like to put young engineers in a situation, with appropriate backup and mentoring, which takes them out of their comfort zone and makes them stretch their limits.

"Our goal in all of our mission areas is to do real, hands-on engineering and science in-house. We have the tools, facilities and mission that enable our young employees to go all the way from paper design, through fabrication and analysis, to test and data reduction for all types of tactical propulsion systems. In using these in-house assets for hardware-centric programs, we are growing the next generation of experts from our young engineers and scientists."

## Project a real keeper

About a year ago, Mathis was tasked to lead the development of the propulsion system for an active protection system Army Technology Objective program designed to protect lightly armored vehicles from attack.

The overall system and propulsion system requirements were extremely difficult, the schedule was very compressed, and pressure was on by management to do the work in-house, quickly and successfully. An interesting aspect of this important AMRDEC project, locally known as KEAPS or Kinetic Energy Active Protection System, was that junior engineers were given the lead in making the propulsion system work.

"Other junior engineers with about my level of experience were on the team," Mathis said. "Matt Smith and Lance Hall, both mechanical engineers, were leading the design of the case and nozzle for the rocket motor. Amy Gerards, an aerospace engineer, worked with me on the ballistic analysis and performance predictions."

The opportunity to work on this project gave Mathis a different perspective on

engineering and the Army.

"Ordinarily, the development of a system under such a tight schedule would not be the best place for a group of junior engineers to refine their budding propulsion skills," he said. "I've come to the conclusion that since the Army is pushing for shorter development cycles and emphasizing getting effective products to the Soldiers faster, it is absolutely necessary to have experts within the Army to help accomplish the mission. This being considered, I guess a program of this nature might be the best place for us to 'cut our teeth' and develop our own toolbox of skills."

Ultimately, it was a team effort. Everyone worked together in their new and unique roles including the most experienced engineers and scientists in PSD.

"It also helped that the KEAPS program manager and chief engineer fully supported our involvement. I realize that this was not because we have some great potential to push back the frontiers of science. It goes back to the idea of actually getting in the lab and learning to do the job by doing the job," Mathis said. "The very people that we, as less experienced staff, would typically support became our support staff. It was very encouraging to have literally hundreds of years of propulsion engineering expertise to support us and our work."

## Explosive beginning

After months of design, analysis and fabrication, the day to test the first rocket motor designed and built by the team finally came.

The rocket motor wasn't a big one, so the damage caused by its explosion when it was ignited was by no means catastrophic for anything but the rocket motor itself and some instrumentation. There was no crater in the ground, debris was contained, and no one was injured.

The most devastating part of the motor firing experience was the expression of shock, disappointment and disbelief on the faces of the young engineers who designed the motor. Although this was a team effort, no one wanted to be the "one."

"The motor case guys, Matt Smith and Lance Hall, were hoping that none of the parts they had designed had caused the failure. All of the propellant folks, including me, prayed it wasn't the propellant," Mathis said. "After the explosion there was a strange kind of tension in the air. No one wanted to pass blame, but everyone hoped it wasn't them."

Soon after the failure, Jerry Arszman, a longtime Army propulsion engineer and now consultant for PSD, postulated the probable cause of the explosion. It was the propellant but not its chemical composition. Instead it was the design of the arrangement of the solid propellant grain within the motor case that led to the explosion.

"When he stated his hypothesis, it was like a giant billboard with flashing lights was hovering right in front of us pointing to the problem," Mathis said. "For some reason, we couldn't see it before that point in time.

"That was my part. I had configured the propellant. I had designed the tooling and had the machine shops build the hardware necessary to form the propellant. The first rocket motor of my first real rocket motor program had failed due to an oversight I had made."

It was a bad day for Mathis and the others.

## Learning environment

As unfortunate as the rocket motor failure and resulting "Red Team" investigation seemed at the time, Mathis regards it as one of the best teaching tools he has had during his time with the Army.

"I found out that designs that look good on paper still have to go through 'real life' to prove their worth. School really doesn't teach you that. As a student, you tend to believe whatever comes out of a calculator, or off a computer screen, or even out of a professor's mouth. Maybe this is OK for some jobs, but not for building missiles for the Army," Mathis said.

The team showed that it learned from its mistakes by making minor hardware modifications when building the next rocket motor. This motor, incorporating the lessons learned from the failure and investigation, was manufactured quickly and successfully fired within a few weeks. This time the motor performed as intended.

"We have now fired five successful rocket motors to support the development of this system," Mathis said. "Each firing has offered us data with which we can further refine the design of our subsystem. As with most research and development programs, the first design is typically a 'pathfinder' to help lead the effort towards the final configuration.

"Currently, we are working towards the design's second iteration. Some things have changed within the design, but we are lucky to be able to take our lessons learned with us. We fully intend not to make the same mistakes again."

## Reflections on team

Months have passed since the first rocket failure but the images are still fresh for Mathis.

"The sickness in my stomach lasted quite a while. It is still there when I think about that day but just not as bad," he said. "However, the immediate response from the assembled senior staff at the firing surprised me. Their responses and attitudes regarding the failure may be one of the biggest reasons that I have grown to truly enjoy my job and the work I do. I was never chastised. I never got a lecture."

In addition to the images that remain of the firing, there are many other more personal memories that Mathis will never forget.

"The first came from the wisdom gained through many years of Arszman's career. With gentle sincerity, he told me that my error really falls into the 'stupid mistakes' category, but more importantly, he said 'I bet you'll never make this same mistake again,'" Mathis said. "The second came from the lead test engineer. He told me 'The motor firing was not a failure. This motor did exactly what it was supposed to do, what you designed it to do.' We just didn't have our hands completely wrapped around the design. Now we do and can redesign accordingly.

"The third was more of an action than spoken word. The day following the test, my day off, a member of management called me at home, just to see how I was doing."

Mathis is proud to have been a part of this team working to provide technology to the war fighter quicker. The experience working alongside his peers and mentors has provided Mathis and his teammates with knowledge and experience that will propel them into their future.

"I hope that my peers and I one day will be considered great propulsion engineers, but I realize that today we are only just engineers," he said. "I have a feeling it will take a long time, working on other programs like this, to become an expert, it is the nature of learning by doing."

Cornelius is proud of his program and mentors but even more proud of the four engineers who accepted a challenge and took a big step in their careers.

"Nathan, Amy, Matt and Lance's progress in the development of the KEAPS pathfinder motors was a tribute to their willingness to take measured risks with huge potential payoffs for the AMRDEC and the Army," Cornelius said. "These experiences will follow them as they continue their careers in Army missile research and development."

# Detainee admits roles in terrorist attacks

WASHINGTON – A detainee at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has admitted to helping orchestrate the bombings of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998 and the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000.

The Defense Department on March 19 released the transcript of Walid Muhammad Salih bin Attash's combat status review tribunal hearing, held March 12 at the detention facility. The tribunal was an administrative hearing to determine only if Attash could be designated an enemy combatant.

Attash is one of 14 high-value detainees who were transferred Sept. 6, 2006, to Guantanamo Bay from CIA custody. The CSRT hearings for these detainees are not open to media because of national security concerns, DoD officials said.

After hearing allegations against him, including his involvement in the Aug. 7, 1998, embassy bombing and the Oct. 12, 2000, attack on the USS Cole, Attash said he carried out "many roles" in the attacks. *(American Forces Press Service)*

## Suspected terrorists captured in Iraq

WASHINGTON – Coalition forces nabbed numerous suspected terrorists and uncovered several weapons caches in operations in Iraq in recent days, military officials reported.

Coalition forces captured 12 suspected terrorists during separate raids March 18 targeting the al Qaeda in Iraq network and associated makeshift bomb cells.

During an operation in Ramadi, five suspected terrorists were captured, all with alleged ties to car bomb and rocket attacks against coalition forces. Coalition forces also captured two suspects in Baghdad for their reported involvement in

procuring bomb-making material.

Two other suspects were detained in Mosul with alleged ties to foreign fighter facilitation and makeshift bomb operations. In Habbaniyah, coalition forces captured three suspects with alleged ties with the al Qaeda in Iraq network.

"Coalition forces will continue systematic operations to kill or capture al Qaeda and associated terrorists," Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a Multinational Forces Iraq spokesman, said. "Terrorists captured will be prosecuted for their crimes under the Iraqi justice system." *(American Forces Press Service)*

## ■ Children's month includes Easter egg hunt, block party

### Children

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"We'll provide hot dogs, sodas and chips," Frankson said. "Also, food vendors from the Huntsville area will provide free food."

Activities include face painting, moon bounce, a diaper derby, karaoke, bingo and door prizes. There will be inflatable slides, carnival games and entertainment, including Tae Kwon Do demonstrations and high school drill band performances. There will be static displays from the Garrison and the Redstone fire department. Several Arsenal organizations will assist with the party, including the Marines, Garrison, program management offices

and Army Community Service.

More than 1,400 people are expected to attend the block party.

"This year will be bigger than ever," Frankson said. "We will have more inflatables and more games. We look to build this up every year. There is something for kids of all ages."

The month's activities will also include two other events for children at the Child Development Center. On April 20, the CDC will conduct Olympic Day for its students at the soccer field on the corner of Hughes and Goss roads beginning at 10 a.m.; and on April 27, a Western Day Barbecue will be provided at the CDC for the parents of students.

Also, during the month, at-home daycare programs coordinated through the Family Child Care Program will be highlighted.

# Rocke Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Super Bowl honoree

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Association of Alabama A&M University will hold a banquet honoring Robert Mathis, a defensive end for the 2007 Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts. This event will be held April 21 at 6 p.m. at Elmore Gym on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Tickets are \$35 and reserved tables are available. To purchase tickets, call the Office of Alumni Affairs 372-5286 or Jacqueline Hurt 372-5671. Proceeds from this event will benefit the university 2007-08 Council Challenge Campaign.

### Hawaii tour

Join the Leisure Travel Office in September for Redstone Arsenal's Hawaii tour. "We have seven nights and eight days at the beautiful Hale Koa Armed Forces Recreation Hotel right on Waikiki Beach, just minutes from Honolulu on the breathtaking island of Oahu," a prepared release said. The travel dates are Sept. 19-26 and include roundtrip air fare from Huntsville aboard American Airlines, transfers to and from Honolulu International Airport and partial ocean view rooms at the Hale Koa. "Included are escorted tours to the Arizona Memorial and Honolulu City Tour, the Hale Koa's delicious and authentic luau and the Polynesian Cultural Center that includes the IMAX movie presentation, luau dinner and spectacular evening show, 'Horizons,'" the release said. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today. For more information or to sign up, call the Leisure Travel Office 313-0090 or e-mail [grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil](mailto:grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil).

### Bass tournament

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America invites you to participate in its spring 2007 bass tournament April 21 at Goose Pond Colony on Lake Guntersville. A social will be held April 20 at 5 p.m. at rental cabin 11, tournament headquarters. The tournament starts at first safe light April 21 and ends at 2 p.m. with weigh-in immediately following. For more information call Bob Vlasic 881-4144, Chuck Ogle 883-7974, Matt Boenker 313-9117 or Tom Geoffroy 876-5359 or visit the chapter web site <http://www.tennvalleyquad-a.org>.

### Inline hockey league

Join CYS Sports for its Inline Hockey League, which is for children ages 5-18 as of April 1, 2006. Registration continues through Friday. Registration is \$85 per player. Practices begin the week of April 9 and games run May through June. Teams are age-appropriate. For more information, call 313-3699. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

### Senior softball league

The Huntsville Senior Softball League, under the auspices of the Huntsville Senior Center and the City of Huntsville Recreational Services, is seeking softball players who turn 55 or older by Dec. 31. The league consists of players of all skills and abilities, so join the fun, make new friends, and enjoy the popular summer-

time sport of slow pitch softball. First practice is 10 a.m. Saturday at field 4, and the season starts around mid-May. For more information, call Ray Beverly 859-7419 or Fred Garcia 883-1135.



## Conferences & Meetings

### Materials conference

Registration for the Metamaterials and Nonlinear Materials Conference has begun. This conference will be held April 4-5 in Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, visit the conference web page at <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/MNM07> or e-mail [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil).

### Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel have Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. The morning Bible studies are at 9:30 a.m., the lunch Bible study at 11:30 a.m., and the evening Bible study at 6:30 p.m. Nursery care is provided for all Bible studies. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 489-3018 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

### Small business forum

North Alabama Small Business Conference 2007 is May 3. The various speakers include the luncheon speaker, Tracey Pinson, Secretary of the Army's director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. The cost for this all-day event is \$95, which includes lunch. There is also the option to attend the lunch and networking session only for \$20. You must be an NCMA or HASBAT member to attend the lunch only. Anyone can attend this conference. Register through National Contract Management Association [www.ncmahsv.org](http://www.ncmahsv.org).

### Veterans association

National Dusters, Quads and Searchlights Association will have its 2007 reunion July 11-15 in Evansville, Ind. The site is

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Walk it out

Merrie Duncan of Huntsville enjoys Thursday's spring weather with her dog on the walking trail.

the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 4101 U.S. Highway 41 North in Evansville. For more information, call 721-0913 or e-mail [sgmstokes@juno.com](mailto:sgmstokes@juno.com).

### Test week 2007

The Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center, in cooperation with the International Test and Evaluation Association, will sponsor Test Week 2007 from June 11-15 at the Von Braun Center. The theme this year is "How to Make Test and Evaluation Relevant to the Joint Warfighter." The web site is [www.test-week.org](http://www.test-week.org), where you can pull off a preliminary agenda, registration form, exhibitor registration form, and floor plan. The conference is also in TIP, Catalog F73TW. For more information, call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

### Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St. The scheduled speaker is Norman Shaw, founder of the Sultana Association and the Knoxville Civil War Round Table. He will speak on "The Explosion on the Civil War Steamer, Sultana." There were 1,800 deaths when the boilers of the steamer exploded while carrying the former Union POWs from the Confederate Andersonville, Ga., and Cahaba, Ala., prison camps. Use the Elk's Club north entrance for this meeting, which is free to the public. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. For more information, call 858-6191.

### Computer users

The latest in Internet web browsers and computer operating systems will be discussed at the Huntsville PC User Group meeting April 14 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. HPCUG president Kevin Wangbickler, co-leader of the windows/Internet special interest group, will speak at 9:15 a.m. Microsoft Office specialist Mona Slaven will speak at 10:45. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 830-2232.

### University women

The American Association of University Women will meet April 3 at the UAH Beville Center. New member orientation starts at 5:30 p.m., registration at 6, dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7. The meeting is open to the public. The program, "How Do You Spell Success: Women Who Make a Difference," will focus on successful choices in careers. Speakers include Edna Gentry, owner of Super Suppers; Dr. Donna Reed, the University of Alabama-Huntsville director of internal audit; and Dr. Virginia Caples, professor at Alabama A&M University. Reservations for the dinner must be made with Lois Guendel 880-8643.

### Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military



Courtesy photo

## Lab work

**International student Alicia Urquilla from El Salvador visits the Space Lab experiment display at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The International Military Student Office took three students on a Field Studies Program trip to the center March 16. The students were from India, El Salvador and Italy.**

Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Lube Cohelska, Madison County executive director of the International Service Council, is the scheduled speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

### Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) presents a free public talk April 5 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Stephan R. Davis, NASA MSFC, deputy manager of Flight and Integrated Test Office Ares I-X at Marshall Space Flight Center, is to speak on "The First Step in the Long Journey Ahead." For more information, call Ronnie 509-3833.

### Weight loss group

Let's Battle Obesity And Succeed Together (Let's BOAST) will meet at the Huntsville Public Library auditorium April 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. This support group meeting is free and open to all weight loss surgery patients or people interested in bariatric surgery. The scheduled speakers are Dr. Douglas Olsen, surgeon from the Centennial Center for the Treatment of Obesity in Nashville, and Larry Jess, Let's BOAST founder and successful weight loss surgery patient.

Make reservations by e-mail to [info@letsboast.com](mailto:info@letsboast.com).

### Defense acquisition

Defense Acquisition University's community conference, "Trends in the Acquisition and Program Management of Services in DoD," is April 17 at the DAU campus at Fort Belvoir, Va. The conference will be broadcast live to the South Region via video-teleconference. The VTC will be sponsored by the DAU Alumni Association South Region at Raytheon Company located at 401 Jan Davis Drive in Huntsville. For more information or to register, go to <http://dauaa.org> or send e-mail to [DAUAA.South@dau.mil](mailto:DAUAA.South@dau.mil).

### Trade show

The 2007 GSA International Expo is May 15-17 in Orlando, Fla. This free training conference and trade show is designed for procurement and program professionals. Training will be available on topics such

as government contract law, performance based acquisition, strategic sourcing and other procurement-related courses. All classes grant Continuous Learning Points. Admission is free. For more information and to register, call 1-888-272-5565 or visit web site [www.expo.gsa.gov](http://www.expo.gsa.gov).

### Toastmasters

Tennessee Valley Toastmasters meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Inn, 8721 Highway 20 West, Madison. For information call 876-8706 or e-mail [amy.donlin@us.army.mil](mailto:amy.donlin@us.army.mil).

### Strategic speakers

Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in room 3018 of building 5225 (Von Braun Complex). Toastmasters is a non-profit organization that assists with the development of communication and leadership skills. For more information, call C. Purifoy 651-3621 or 313-4696 or e-mail [cpurifoy@bellsouth.net](mailto:cpurifoy@bellsouth.net).



## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Master Sgt. Harold Cook 319-8456 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

### Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions

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# Rocket Announcements

overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

## Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. Go to [www.gsauctions.gov](http://www.gsauctions.gov), search by State of Alabama; and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The Thrift Shop will be open April 14 from 10-2. The shop is accepting spring items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

## Water cooler refills

The Thrift Shop has begun to stock water cooler refills as part of its goal to raise more money to give back to the community. Water cooler replacement bottles, 5-gallon jugs, are available at good prices at the shop. For more information, call Christi Graves 881-6992.

## Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

## Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except Friday) - noon Catholic Mass. Saturday — 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday — 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

## Green to gold

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented young enlisted Soldiers who want to earn baccalaureate degrees. If you are a quality enlisted Soldier with officer potential and have served at least two years on active duty, then you are allowed to voluntarily participate and enroll in Army ROTC through these Green to Gold Programs. For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail [arotc@uiuc.edu](mailto:arotc@uiuc.edu), or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/army-rotc/>.

## Lateral entry

If you are qualified prior service or a member of the National Guard or Reserve and wish to become an officer, the University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program may be for you. The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the Reserve Officer Training Corps as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation. For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail [arotc@uiuc.edu](mailto:arotc@uiuc.edu), or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

## Call for papers

A call for papers has been issued for the "Workshop on Algorithms for Autonomous & Aided Target Recognition" June 6-7 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, e-mail Angie Cornelius at [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil). ... A call for papers has also been issued for the Conference on Reconfigurable Systems, Microsystems and Nanotechnology, May 8-10. For more information, e-mail [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil).

## Community volunteers

Do you have a few hours to volunteer with Soldiers and family members? Volunteers are needed at Army Community Service. Training and orientation are provided. If interested call volunteer coordi-

nator Kim Anton 876-5397 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Grissom High reunion

Grissom High School Class of 1977 is planning a reunion in July. Organizers are looking for all graduates from that year. If you are a grad or know one, please e-mail [GHS77@comcast.net](mailto:GHS77@comcast.net).

## Math tutoring

ACT and SAT Math Prep Tutoring Sessions will be held at the Youth Center through May 8 from 4:30-6 p.m. These sessions are free to children that are registered with Child and Youth Services. For more information, call 876-5437. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## Youth classes

SKIESUnlimited classes are offered to enrich the academic, physical and emotional lives of youth. This program is open to youth ages 4-18. SKIESUnlimited offers Tae Kwon Do, Dance, Drumming, and Kindermastics. For more information, call 876-7801.

## Car wash benefit

The Optimist Club will hold its annual car wash fund-raiser, benefiting local youth, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Lee's Magic Tunnel Car Wash. Wash, vacuum and double hot wax costs \$8; and street or "walk in" sales are \$14.

## Business honorees

The first Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama Business Hall of Fame, "A Celebration of Legends and Legacies," will be held April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, South Hall. This black tie event will honor four laureates who were chosen because they have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and have set new standards for future business leaders while serving as inspiring role models for young people. For more information, call the Junior Achievement office 533-4661.

## Civilian of year award

The Association of the U.S. Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award and Dinner on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local DA civilians who have demonstrated

exceptional performance as members of the Army team. This year AUSA will expand its award program by recognizing nominees from three groups: Management/Executive Award, Professional/Technical Award, and Supporting Staff Award. Support your outstanding civilian nominees by attending the recognition dinner. Tickets can be purchased from the AUSA event coordinator, Jerry Hamilton. Cost is \$30 for individuals, and \$240 for a corporate table of eight. For a reservation form, call Hamilton 971-7065.

## Book sale benefit

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for the Army Emergency Relief campaign is April 16-20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5300, first floor, in the corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. "As in the past, we accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes," a prepared release said. "We will be able to receive donations (now) until April 18." If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

## Business scholarships

The Redstone Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals invites students to apply for its scholarship program. Two scholarships for \$750 each will be awarded to students majoring in business (high school and college). For more information, call Dorothy May 842-8391. The application can be found at [www.geocities.com/iaaprsa/current.htm](http://www.geocities.com/iaaprsa/current.htm).

## Professional development

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a seminar on "Putting Your Best Foot Forward - Managing Your Career" April 11-12 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Airport Road. The same session will be held each day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is from 7-8 a.m. Janie Walters of Champion Communications is the seminar leader. Cost is \$75 for ASMC members, \$85 for non-members. For information call Cody Swinford 876-3363, Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Sandy Balog 842-8012 or Theresa McBride 842-9272.

## Walk benefit

The "Walk for Wishes," a fund-raiser for the Make a Wish Foundation, is April 14

at the University of Alabama-Huntsville duck pond. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk at 10. For information on helping out or joining the walk, call Vicki Brewer 509-4823.

### Security professionals

The eighth annual NCMS/DSS Security Seminar "Security For a Changing World" will be held April 12 at the Von Braun Center. For exhibitor and registration information, call Sonja Wood or Leslie Weil 890-3001. The program features presentations by DOHA, NSA, and the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff. For exhibitor and registration information, call Sonja Wood or Leslie Weil 890-3001. Registration cost is \$65 before April 1 or \$80 thereafter (includes continental breakfast and sit-down lunch). Registration details and more information are available at <http://ncms-midsouth.org>.

### Wine tasting

Join the Officers and Civilians Club for an International Wine Tasting on Friday at 6 p.m. There will be many different wines from different countries. Advance tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Tickets at the door are \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members. For more information, call 830-2582.

### Stuffed animals wanted

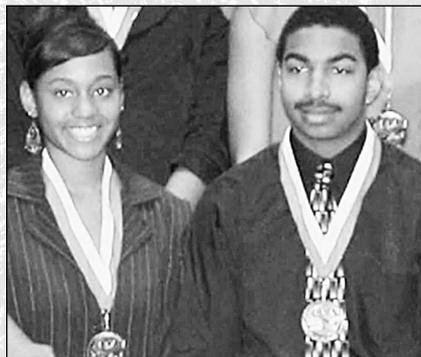
Amy Balch is collecting new or gently-used stuffed animals for the pediatric ward at Huntsville Hospital East. Contact her at [gospelsonglover@yahoo.com](mailto:gospelsonglover@yahoo.com).

### Fund-raiser walk

To celebrate Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Society of Alabama is hosting a "Walk for Autism" April 21 at Chapman Middle School. Everyone is invited to participate. A \$25 pre-registration fee includes a walk T-shirt. Registration on the day of the walk will be \$30. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m., with registration opening at 8:30. Fun activities planned for after the walk include a moon bounce, slide, food, drinks, face painting, mini-resource fair, music, balloons, raffle prizes, etc. For more information on the Huntsville walk, call the local walk coordinator 527-8061.

### Grant program

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association conducts an annual community support grant program to give back to Soldiers, military families, and community. Local tax exempt organizations that qualify under Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code may apply for one of the grants. Typically, the ADAA does not fund: (a) recreational activities, (b) tax supported institutions, (c) cultural/civic organizations/businesses, (d) religious organizations/institutions, (e) social organizations/committees, and (f) political organizations/campaigns. Rather, the grant is designed to support



Courtesy photo

## Student achievers

**Tori Massey and Kevin Anderson were among the 300 students recognized at the 28th annual Honors Convocation held March 11 at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church. Each year the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. awards high school students from Huntsville and surrounding area schools for academic excellence. Seven students were recognized by the sorority as four-year scholars; and Kevin and Tori had the highest grade point average among the seven four-year scholars. Tori, who attends Lee High School, is the daughter of Barbara Massey, intern budget analyst in G-8, and Jeffery Massey, employed with Huntsville Utilities. Sparkman High's Kevin is the son of Cheryl Anderson, financial systems analyst in G-8, and Tommy Anderson, equipment specialist in PEO Aviation.**

organizations and activities involving the education, health and/or social welfare of all Soldiers and their families. Representatives of eligible organizations may request a grant application from the ADAA Grant Committee chairman, Ron Sumera, at 774-1054 or via e-mail at [Ron.Sumera@cas-inc.com](mailto:Ron.Sumera@cas-inc.com). The deadline for the submission of grant applications for this year is Friday.

### Helicopter society

The American Helicopter Society, Redstone Chapter will award two one-week scholarships to the international Aviation Challenge at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for 2007. "This award is to kindle interest in, encourage and promote students in fourth through 12th grades to pursue education in the fields of rotorcraft and vertical takeoff and landing aircraft," a prepared release said. Call scholarship chairman Steve Parker 313-5421 for eligibility and application requirements. Deadline for submission is April 7.

### Women's history program

A Women's History Month program will be held Friday at 10 a.m. in Morris Auditorium, NASA/building 4200 on Rideout Road. The keynote speaker is NASA astronaut Col. Catherine G. "Cady" Coleman.

rium, NASA/building 4200 on Rideout Road. The keynote speaker is NASA astronaut Col. Catherine G. "Cady" Coleman.

### Ty Herndon concert

Athens State University will be the site for an outdoor concert featuring country music sensation Ty Herndon at 8 p.m. May 12 to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of North Alabama. Southern Crossroads and Kix96 country radio are bringing Herndon back home to kick off his new CD, "Right About Now." Get tickets for \$20 in advance at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or \$18 with military/student ID at any Railroad Bazaar in North Alabama or at Prestons Western Wear in Athens.

### Alcorn scholarships

Alcorn State University announces its annual Tennessee Valley Alumni Scholarship Award Program. Scholarships are for incoming freshmen who would like to attend Alcorn State University (proof of enrollment/acceptance required). Amounts will be \$500 for each scholarship awarded. Scholarships will be awarded to successful applicants who maintain a 2.5 on a 4.0 point system and will be awarded without regards to race, sex, creed or religious preference. Applications packets have been mailed to high schools' senior counselors in Huntsville and within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Submission deadline is April 6. Application packets should be mailed to Tennessee Valley Alumni Alcorn State University, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 5413, Huntsville AL 35814. For more information, call Melvin Mayo 721-9336 or Sam King 882-7733.

### Family online seminar

A Military OneSource "webinar" on Recordkeeping for Special Needs Families is scheduled Thursday at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. A webinar is a free interactive online workshop available through Military OneSource. Anyone with Internet and phone access can attend. Registration is required. To register, visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) and click on the Webinar link under the Events and Community section on the left side of the page. Choose a session date and click on the registration link. Once you have registered, you will receive an e-mail confirmation providing the information that you need to join the session. For questions regarding registration, send an e-mail to [webinars@militaryonesource.com](mailto:webinars@militaryonesource.com).

### Brunch benefit

PEO Missile and Space, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office — building 5250, room B200A — will hold a brunch for AER on April 5 from 8 a.m. until all gone. Call K.C. Bertling, Jill Mayes or Maria Roth 876-1195 or 876-8121.

### Bone density screenings

Fox Army Health Center will conduct bone density screenings May 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Redstone Fitness Center for the MWR Health Fair. The fitness center is located on Aerobee Road, east of Patton Road.

### Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on April 3 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Red-eye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Civilian employees, contractors and spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

### Train rides

The North Alabama Railroad Museum will kick off its 2007 season Saturday with the Peter Cottontail Express. The train rides will be at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m., and the tickets are \$12 for all riders. The trips are designed for children age 10 and younger. "Peter Cottontail will be on the train to meet with the kids and hand out some Easter basket goodies," a prepared release said. For tickets call the Chase Depot 851-6276 on Saturday and Wednesday mornings, and make your reservations now. The Chase Depot, 694 Chase Road, can be found by taking Highway 72 east of Huntsville to Moores Mill Road and then to Chase Road. Or local traffic may wish to take Meridian Street north to Chase Road.

### Library week

The J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center, Alabama A&M University

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will hold activities to celebrate National Library Week, April 15-21. The third annual Friends of the Library Membership Dinner is April 16. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the A&M campus. The honorees this year will be Dr. Carl Marbury, founder and former dean of the Alabama A&M University School of Library Media Program and seventh president of A&M; and Lila White, retired school librarian of the Jefferson County school system in Bessemer. The second annual Friends of the Library Book Sale is April 19-20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the First Floor Computer Lab of the J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center (Library).

## Scholarships for youth

YOUTH Friendship Foundation Inc., in partnership with the Investing in Our Youth Partnership, announces its annual scholarships for the youth. This scholarship is open to all high school seniors. Students should contact their school counselors for applications or call Maj. Alonzo McGhee 655-9616. All applications must be received by April 18. Investing in Our Youth Partnership members include Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter, Lockheed Martin Corp., Northrop Grumman, Dynetics Inc., Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co., Advanced Systems Development Inc., Intergraph Corp., COLSA Corp., Peduzzi Associates, Engineering Management & Technology Corp., SAIC, Advanced Engineering & Planning Corp., Tec-Masters Inc., General Dynamics, Analytical Services Inc., Intuitive Research & Technology, Booz Allen Hamilton, Advanced Federal Services Corp., Holiday Inn Research Park, DESE Research Inc., Systems Studies & Simulation Inc., Gray Research Inc., Green Hills Grille, Mercedes Benz of Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Working Group, Suzuki of Huntsville, and U.S. Space & Rocket Center. For partnership information call 655-9616.

## Senior service college

This announcement is directed to civilian Acquisition Corps members who occupy positions within the Army in grades GS-14 and 15 or equivalent grades within a Demonstration Project or the National Security Personnel System. Employees interested in applying for the Senior Service College Fellowship Program opportunities commencing in 2007 should respond by April 24 to announcement number SSCF-Huntsville-07H. AL&T work force members who do not currently possess Acquisition Corps membership but who wish to participate in this opportunity must be members of the AC at the time of application. The purpose of the SSCF Program is to provide leadership and acquisition training to prepare senior level civilians for senior leadership roles such as product and project managers, program executive officers and key acquisition positions. Individuals who complete the program will be awarded equivalency for the Program Managers Course; and those attending the Huntsville offering will be provided the option to obtain a master's degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville. For more information call Shirley Hornaday, regional director of the Acquisition Support Center, Southern Region, at 955-2764.

## Admin professionals

The Officers and Civilians Club will celebrate Administrative Professionals Day, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a buffet style lunch. Cost is \$12 per person. There will be a number of door prize drawings, and gifts for the admin professionals. Tickets are available in advance at the club cashier's office, or you can purchase them at the door the day of the event. For more information, call 830-2582.

## Young stars pageant

The "Sparkling Stars Pageant" is April 7 in Huntsville for ages 25 and under, with boys and girls divisions. For information call 658-5553.

## Motorcyclists meeting

Calling all motorcyclists – military, civilian, contractors, NASA and retirees on Redstone Arsenal: The 59th Ordnance Brigade is holding an initial gathering of riders to introduce a Motorcycle Riders Safety Program. Stop by Brooklyns Sports Bar in Redstone Lanes on Patton Road on Thursday anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to provide input and meet new and old friends. For more information, call Chief Warrant Officer William Bradshaw 876-5628 or e-mail [william.bradshaw@redstone.army.mil](mailto:william.bradshaw@redstone.army.mil).

## Experienced rider course

Whether you have been riding for one year or 31 years, the Experienced Rider Course has something for you. This one day, seven-hour course is the perfect place to discuss motorcycling strategies with other riders and to sharpen your cornering, braking and emergency maneuvering skills. Upcoming dates for the Redstone Arsenal, Installation Safety Office, Motorcycle Safety Foundation ERC include April 10, April 23 and April 28. The course is held from 9 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m., with a 30-minute lunch break, next to Heiser Hall across from the bowling center on Patton Road. For more information, contact rider coach Ralph Harris 93hdsc@bellsouth.net.

## Yard sale

It's spring cleaning time, so clean out your garages and closets and donate your gently used items to the IMMC Readiness Directorate sponsored AER Spring Cleaning Yard Sale. The yard sale is April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5301. All proceeds will be donated to Army Emergency Relief. Any remaining items will be donated to Army Community Service or a local charity. If you have items that you would like to donate, call Eric Cowan 313-1572 or Maj. Owen Ward 876-4541 or bring them to 5301 from 7-9 a.m. the day of the sale. "We ask that all donated items be clean with a suggested

price attached," a prepared release said.

## Welfare requests

The Thrift Shop is accepting written requests for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. Please include your federal tax exemption number, point of contact, telephone number, the amount requested and the specific use of this donation. The deadline for requests is April 5. Requests can be delivered or mailed to: Thrift Shop, Attn: Mary McCarthy, welfare chairperson, building 3209, Hercules Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

## Bunny tree

School Age Services, building 3400 on Gray Road, has a "Bunny Tree" through April 2. "Stop by SAS to adopt a bunny from our Bunny Tree and help a less fortunate child living at the Downtown Mission," a prepared release said. "Each bunny will have the name of the child, as well as their shoe and clothing size. These children are thrilled to get new clothes, shoes, toys or candy." The gifts must be returned to SAS by April 2. Please make sure the name of your bunny is prominently displayed on the gift. For more information, call 876-6595.

## Graduate courses

Florida Tech Graduate Center's courses for the summer semester begin April 30 at building 5304 with class once per week from 5-8 p.m. Those interested should call the administrative office 881-7878 or visit room 4326 in 5304.

## Fraternity convention

The Southern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. will hold its 76th Anniversary Convention Thursday through Sunday in Huntsville. More than 1,500 members are expected to attend this year's convention. The Redstone community is

invited to participate and attend the following events: Alpha South Public Program, "Go to High School Go to College: A Conversation with University Presidents," Friday from 6-8 p.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall, free admission; Alpha South Step Show, Friday from 9:30-11 p.m. at VBC South Hall II, \$8 in advance for Soldiers, \$10 in advance for the general public and \$15 at the door; Alpha South Miss Black & Gold Pageant, Saturday from 7-9 p.m. at VBC South Hall Ballroom, \$8 in advance for Soldiers, \$10 general admission; and an "Evening of Jazz" concert featuring Between 9 & 7 Band, Saturday with pre-reception at 9:06 p.m. at the VBC South Hall Ballroom, \$20. Tickets are available at James Records and Tapes, Mr. Shoe's or by calling 651-0981. For more information, e-mail [vstrickland@knology.net](mailto:vstrickland@knology.net).

## Administrative seminar

The Huntsville Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its fourth annual Seminar and Education Forum, "Pride in Professionalism," on April 24 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Huntsville. This is an all-day event open to all administrative professionals. It includes keynote speaker Beverly Marchelos on "Maximizing Human Potential" and a choice of attending two afternoon workshop sessions. Full registration is \$125, and registration after April 14 is \$140. The deadline is April 19. To register call Rozella Coggin 824-2907.

## Bring child to work

In conjunction with the national Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, AMCOM will host its second annual Bring Your Child to Work Day event April 26. The event is open to employees of AMCOM, Program Executive Office for Aviation, PEO for Missiles and Space, the Research Development and Engineering Center, Logistics Support Activity and the Garrison. Since the registration for the event filled in two days, spaces have been added to accommodate more registrants. Registration for the additional spaces will begin April 3. Please know that regardless of whether or not you're able to register, you can still bring your children to the parade field that day during session 1 or 2 to see the Military Working dogs, military equipment displays, or Firefighter Demonstration. Also, you're encouraged to bring your children



Courtesy photo

## Gift of hope

Huntsville native and retired professor Dr. Clifton Adams donates a copy of his recent work "Sunsports" to post librarian Gail Alden. "It's a book of fables, but it is suited to people of all ages. It can be read on many levels," he said. "As I was writing the fables, I wanted them to provide hope to the reader; and, although none of them are directly about hope, many of the initial readers have referred to it as a book of hope."

to your workplace during the afternoon. All information about the event, including registration is on the Bring Your Child to Work web site at <https://bringyourchild-to-work.redstone.army.mil>.

## Bikers against abuse

The Alabama chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse will sponsor its third annual 100-mile BACA National Child Abuse Awareness Ride on April 28. The ride increases community awareness about child abuse and child abuse prevention, and raises funds in support of abused children. There are more than 1,500 child abuse reports in Madison County each year. Registration for the ride will begin at 11 a.m. The ride will start at noon at the National Children's Advocacy Center on Pratt Avenue and include stops in Athens, Decatur and Hampton Cove. The cost to ride is \$10. Additional information about BACA can be found at <http://www.bacausa.com> or e-mail [Alabama@bacausa.com](mailto:Alabama@bacausa.com). Or you can call 797-2097 or 417-2522.

