

Redstone Rocket

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Exchange news



Gasoline pumps due for a change

Page 8

Around town

Celebrating Flag Day
Page 12



Hail and farewell



Knight reflects on 30 years

Page 16

Win or lose

Marines rolling into postseason
Page 17



Getting technical



Old rocket motor just fades away

Page 18

Shoplifting like stealing from yourself

Universal crime hurts taxpayers

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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There is no typical shoplifter. They run the gamut from retirees to youngsters. They're civilian, military, sponsors and family members.

Picking up items at the store without paying for them is truly a universal crime. But it's still against the law.

"We caught 15 shoplifters in 2006," Post Exchange general manager Carl Carpenter said. "It could be a retiree, it could be a child. There's no set profile."

Fifteen shoplifters apprehended represent an average year at the PX. Five people were caught this year as of June 13.

About a year ago, the PX spent \$80,000 on a new camera system for its detectives.

"And what (detectives) do, they don't profile people when they walk in but they will look at areas," Carpenter said. "For example (these include) cosmetics, electronics, highly-pilferable areas. And when they see somebody acting strange in those areas, they'll pick up and start following them. And that's how they pick up most of their subjects."

If a customer has passed the opportunity to pay for merchandise, loss prevention associates turn the issue over to military police. In addition to action pursued by military police, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows the Army & Air Force Exchange Service to enact a Civil Recovery Program, which began March 1, 2002. The flat, administrative cost, applicable to every shoplifting incident, is \$200 and there may be further fees depending on the condition of the recovered stolen merchandise.

"The costs involved in shoplifting affects more than just



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MINDING THE STORE— PX general manager Carl Carpenter looks at part of his store's new camera system for surveillance.

the shoplifter," the Army & Air Force Exchange Service said in a prepared release. "AAFES has a mission to return dividends to Morale Welfare and Recreation programs, so it ultimately affects everyone."

Shoplifting in military exchanges costs servicemembers millions of dollars annually. It is also an issue of concern at the Commissary.

"Every day we're finding 3-6 packages that are empty," Commissary store director Amber Bray said.

The wife of an Army retiree was apprehended and subsequently prosecuted for shoplifting at the store May 26. The Commissary's surveillance cameras periodically reveal suspicious activity by customers.

"They can lose their privileges, they can lose their post access and they can face prosecution," Bray said.

The Commissary is an appropriated-fund operation, which means any losses are taxpayer dollars.

"When people steal from a commissary, they're stealing from the taxpayer," Bray said. Unlike a profit organization, the Commissary sells grocery items at cost.

"If you really need food that you have to steal from a commissary, come see me and I will connect you with somebody that can help you. There's the chaplain fund, AER (Army Emergency Relief) fund; there are assistance programs throughout the Army," Bray said.

Capt. Roger Triplett, operations officer at the Directorate of Emergency Services, said shoplifting increases at certain times of the year.

"Mainly summertime and Christmastime," he said. "Other than that, we do have a few. It is a problem, not a major problem.

"Shopliftings go up when school is out for the summer and right before Christmastime," Triplett said. Of the 58 cases in recent years, one was at the Commissary and the rest at the Post Exchange.

Since this occurs on a federal property, it is considered a federal offense and the fine usually ranges from \$200 to \$500. There can be jail time but "it just depends on the monetary value," according to Triplett.

"Anything over a thousand dollars (in value stolen) it's a felony," he said. This can mean a sentence in U.S. district court of 1-3 years.

Triplett recalled a case here several years ago in which a woman, feigning pregnancy, hid a colander under her clothing which she filled with merchandise while pushing a baby stroller. She stole more than \$2,000 worth of stuff.

An open lane random survey

What's your 232nd birthday message to the Army?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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*Sgt. Clayton Jennings
Charlie Company
"Continue driving on. It's another great year of service to the country. Army Strong."*

*Pvt. Atorina Malik
Charlie Company
"Happy birthday. Live long, strong and proud."*



*Pvt. India Felemban
Charlie Company
"Thank you, Army, for you have survived this long in protecting me. So now I can serve for you."*

*David Meagher
Northrop Grumman
"I hope you celebrate the 332nd birthday."*



Quote of the week

'It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato.'

— Lewis Grizzard

Letter to the Editor

Suggestion for ceremony

On June 7, my granddaughter received an award to go to Space Camp which was presented on Redstone at Heiser Hall. With your security concerns being as they are, perhaps we should have these awards to be given out at another location off post, perhaps the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Searching cars is completely under-

standable. But the attitude of the guards at the Patton Road gate brought me to mind of a Third World country. As I said, perhaps it is time to change the location of the presentation of awards so that family and friends can be there.

James E. Brown
Huntsville

Some fireworks approved during drought

City gives go-ahead for five public events

After consideration and consultation with the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Alabama Forestry Commission, chiefs of police and fire and rescue, Huntsville public safety director Rex Reynolds decided to approve five permits to have firework events.

Reynolds made his recommendation to Mayor Loretta Spencer who concurred with the decision.

"I support the permitted firework events," Spencer said. "It provides our citizens an opportunity to celebrate the Fourth of July with a safe and supervised alternative especially given the dry weather conditions."

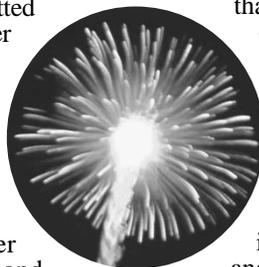
Said Reynolds, "After discussing the issue and logistics with Chief Danny Loggins, we feel comfortable that by assigning Fire and Rescue personnel and trucks to the events that we can handle any emergencies. While it is my recommendation to proceed with the events that have requested permits, I must remind citizens that it is illegal to discharge fireworks within the city limits. I have instructed Chief

Henry Reyes to be at full staff and have police officers strictly enforce the city's law that prohibits the use of fireworks."

Police will patrol neighborhoods where people are illegally discharging fireworks. Individuals and organizations that violate the city ordinance, face citations, fines and possible liability should a fire occur because of the severe dry conditions. Parents should also be aware that they are responsible for their children's actions.

"We are all in total agreement that Huntsville is a very patriotic community with strong ties to our military and federal government," Reynolds said. "We are proud to celebrate our nation's birthday. But we are also responsible for the public safety of individuals and property, and we will work to uphold all state and municipal ordinances."

The following organizations and dates were approved by the City of Huntsville for public firework events during the Fourth of July holidays: the Huntsville Stars on June 15, U.S. Space & Rocket Center on June 18, the Huntsville Stars on June 29 and July 4, and the Exchange Club on July 4 at Ditto Landing. (Huntsville public safety release)



Getting to know you

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

Name: Kelley Lane-Sivley

Job: Staff writer, *Redstone Rocket*

Where do you call home?
Okeechobee, Fla.

What do you like about your job?

I get to meet new people every week and see lots of things on the Arsenal that most people don't.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a big sports fan. I watch a lot of football and hockey. And spend time with my children (daughter Harley, 10, and twin sons Jackson and Deegan, 7 months).

What are your goals?

To eventually write a novel.

What's your favorite type of music?

Punk rock



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Good doctor

Post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury wears the lab coat he received Thursday from Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity. His patient is executive assistant Carolyn Caudle.

Redstone Rocket

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School bus signup just around corner

All military personnel living on Redstone Arsenal who desire bus transportation to the four core schools for school year 2007-08 must register each child for transportation.

Registration is July 16-20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Extended registration will be held at the Parent/Principal Night, July 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711.

Redstone will provide bus transportation to the following core schools: Williams Elementary (grades K-5), Williams Middle (grades 6-8), New Century Technology, and Columbia High (grades 9-12).

The City of Huntsville has agreed to provide bus transportation for students residing on Redstone Arsenal to special needs (handicapped) and magnet schools in the city. No transportation will be pro-

vided students residing on Redstone who attend private schools.

Registration for City of Huntsville bus transportation to the magnet schools and special needs schools will be conducted at the aforementioned location, dates and times.

To qualify for school bus transportation, each registrant living on post must show proof of active duty status. Department of Defense personnel living off post will show proof of active duty status, or a Redstone Arsenal Employee identification badge, and enrollment in the School Age Service Program. Registration should be completed during this scheduled period to allow sufficient time to develop routes and establish bus stops.

For more information call Carl Pack, supervisor of bus operations for Northrop Grumman, at 876-3938, or Ray Boles of transportation division, Garrison Directorate of Logistics, 876-3119. (Garrison release)

Workshop to have and to hold for couples

Marriage seminar draws 68 people

Good habits are worth keeping, but bad habits are hard to break. Some couples at Redstone have taken a step in the right direction.

Sixty-eight members of the Redstone community attended a daylong workshop June 9 titled "8 Habits of Successful Marriage."

Dr. John Covey of Franklin Covey Institute presented this free event at Redstone Lanes conference room. Participants said the workshop provided good ideas and was helpful.

"I felt that this workshop was wonderful and that it reached out to a large group of people," one attendee said.

"I'm very grateful you brought this to our community," another said. (Garrison release)



Courtesy photo

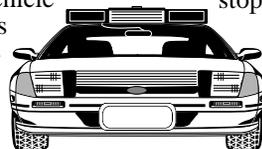
YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS— Dr. John Covey of Franklin Covey Institute tells Redstone couples how to stay happily married.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

June 7: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after stopping at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

June 8: An individual stopped at Gate 10 and requested directions, at which time the guard smelled an alcoholic beverage. The subject submitted to the field sobriety test, failed and was arrested for driving under the influence. The passenger was checked out and three warrants for his arrest had been issued by Arab police department. He was arrested by Redstone police department and then later turned over to Arab police department. The DUI subject was issued three summons for court after several hours in the detention cell, then released.



June 9: An individual failed to stop at Gate 10, running through. The road spikes were deployed, deflating all four of the tires on the SUV. He finally stopped and was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license. Further investigation revealed that he was driving under the influence of alcohol and was in possession of an open container. He was issued three violation notices and placed in the detention cell until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

Traffic accidents reported: one without injuries, none with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 21 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 expired tag, 2 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 1 inattentive driving, 5 move over law.

Counseling services available to returning troops

OSSINING, N.Y. — The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping severely wounded Global War on Terrorism veterans and their families rebuild their lives, has announced a partnership with Give an Hour, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a national network of licensed mental health volunteers to respond to acute and chronic needs.

The program, dubbed Returning Hero Counseling Network, will provide therapy specifically aimed at meeting the counseling needs of returning U.S. troops and their families who are affected by the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The network of licensed mental health professionals that are to join the program will Give an Hour of their time each week to provide free mental health services to military personnel and their

families for as long as it takes. Give an Hour continues to recruit volunteer providers and will offer a variety of training opportunities to registered counselors. Connections between troops, their families and providers are already being made through the network, underscoring the need for such services.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is providing a grant to Give an Hour to develop the Returning Heroes Counseling Network. The coalition will handle recruiting and qualifying servicemembers who need help, while Give an Hour will manage the professional network and specific counselor training.

For more information, visit the web site <http://www.saluteheroes.org> or www.giveanhour.org. (Coalition to Salute America's Heroes release)

New test to help place aviators

FORT RUCKER — A team of Fort Rucker researchers is assembling a new computer-based test that will help the Army determine the best aircraft and mission for aviator candidates.

The computer-based test, called the Track Assignment Classification Tool or TACT, will replace the traditional order-of-merit aircraft selection process and should, according to officials, maximize the likelihood of a pilot completing a successful career as an Army aviator.

"The whole idea is that this should increase pilots' job satisfaction because we are placing them where they look like they best fit based on their skills, abilities, personality constructs and demographics," research psychologist Dr. Larry Katz said. "The rationale is that if we could assign individuals to the aircraft and mission type that they are best suited for, it might increase retention and improve an aviator's career overall." (Army News Service)



Courtesy photo

Graduation fellowship

The first year of the Defense Acquisition University's Senior Service College Fellowship culminated June 1 with a graduation dinner. Claude Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, was the keynote speaker. DAU-South dean James McCullough presided at the ceremony for the class of nine SSCF Fellows from the Redstone community. From left are graduates Steve Pierce, Wayne Bruno and Duane Gotvald, McCullough, graduate Byron Lawing, Bolton, graduate Diane Williams, DAU vice president James McMichael and graduates Sherry Sexton, James Springer Jr., Greg Pruitt and Steve Whitmore.

Missiles and space family has week of change

Program executive office under new leadership

Bob Jones Auditorium stayed busy last week with ceremonies for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

And the PEO Missiles and Space in turn saw a number of changes in its family album.

Some of the comings and goings included:

- Col. Earnest Harris retired as the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems project manager and was succeeded by Col. David Rice.
- Susan Christiansen moved up from the deputy product manager for the Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile to become the interim product manager, following the retirement of Lt. Col. Walt Jones.
- Col. Lloyd McDaniels retired as Integrated Air and Missile Defense project manager's position and was succeeded by Robert L. Thomas.
- Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco took over for retiring Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon as the program executive officer for missiles and space.

Editor's note: Dan O'Boyle and Julie Frederick provided information for this article.



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

TAKING REINS— Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco speaks after succeeding Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, who retired as program executive officer for missiles and space.



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

ACCEPTING ROLE— Susan Christiansen accepts the product manager flag for Cruise Missile Defense Systems. Making the presentation is Col. Ed Mullin, the Cruise Missile Defense Systems project manager. Christiansen is the interim product manager following the retirement of Lt. Col. Walt Jones.



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

TRIBUTE— Col. Earnest Harris, outgoing Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems project manager, receives the Legion of Merit from Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space. Cannon later joined Harris in retirement.



Bob Blankenship/Photo Lab

ALL THE BEST— Col. Lloyd and Deborah McDaniels talk with well-wishers after his retirement ceremony. He was succeeded by Robert L. Thomas as the Integrated Air and Missile Defense project manager.

Aviator redefines women's role in combat

Childhood dream becomes reality

By Spc. BRYANNA POULIN
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq — Every child has a dream of what they want to become when they grow up. Whether it's a doctor, lawyer, or teacher, dreams are ambitions that pave the way for future endeavors.

Yet many times, childhood dreams are left behind when Saturday morning cartoons are swapped with a brewed cup of coffee and a Sunday newspaper.

However, for one female Black Hawk crew chief with 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, her childhood dream is a day to day reality in a job that is mostly performed by males.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I always wanted to fly and do something concerning aviation," Sgt. Jenell Munson, crew chief with B. Company, 2-25 Aviation, said. "It's exhilarating to be able to fly and go places that many Soldiers never have the opportunity to go."

Munson is one of the few female Soldiers in a male dominated Military Occupational Specialty and has overcome the many obstacles that have come her way. Although Munson is not the first woman in a combat role, nor will she be the last, she is part of the small number of female Soldiers performing combat missions daily.

"When I first came to B Company I was the only female crew chief and worked with all males," Munson said with a chuckle. "It took them (males) awhile to get used to working with a girl...now I fit right in."

The soft spoken crew chief overcame the gender stereotype from co-workers, but continues to receive looks of astonishment when passengers see her working.

"Being a female crew chief and a gunner, people often associate those roles with males ... a crew chief is a combat arms MOS," she noted humbly about her role as a Black Hawk gunner. "Being a door gunner, people have asked if I know what I am doing, it is shocking for people to see a female firing this huge weapon. It's usually not a female role."



Photo by Spc. Bryanna Poulin

PREFLIGHT CHECK— Sgt. Jenell Munson, crew chief with B Company 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, checks the tail rotor blade on a Black Hawk. The inspection was performed as pre-maintenance before a mission.

Test command acts as gatekeeper of tactical systems

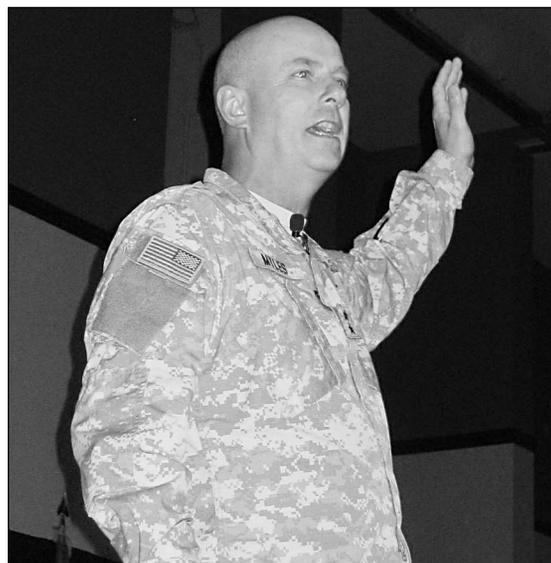


Photo by Kari Hawkins

PROVIDING THE BEST FOR SOLDIERS— Maj. Gen. James Myles emphasizes the importance of supporting Soldiers with testing and evaluation that ensures military systems provide protection, safety and survivability on the battlefield. Myles is the commander for the Test and Evaluation Command. He will become AMCOM's commander in mid-July.

Maj. Gen. Myles details role during Test Week 2007

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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They don't test and evaluate medical equipment or Soldier uniforms. But the Soldiers, civilians and contractors working for the Army's Test and Evaluation Command are committed to providing testing information on everything from Army rifles to National Missile Defense systems.

And with their detailed, exacting and thorough assessment reports, the Test and Evaluation Command acts as a gatekeeper to ensure Soldiers on the battlefield have the best and most capable weapon systems possible.

"In everything we do, we always maintain the trust of the Soldier," said Maj. Gen. James Myles, ATEC commander. "When he pulls the trigger, an extremist or a terrorist or an al Qaeda needs to fall at the other end. When he pulls the trigger he wants something to happen."

Myles spoke last week about the changing role of ATEC in the post 9/11 environment at Test Week 2007, a four-day conference of government-sponsored presentations, events and exhibits at the Von Braun Center. Test Week 2007, now in its ninth year in Huntsville, is sponsored by the Defense Test Resource Management Center in conjunction with the International Test and Evaluation Association. More than 800 government employees, contractors and Soldiers participated in this year's event.

Myles will assume command at AMCOM/Redstone Arsenal in July when Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury is transferred to his new duties as deputy chief of staff for logistics and operations at the Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va. Myles has visited Huntsville several times to participate in past Test Week conferences.

Speaking to a standing-room only audience, Myles provided an overview of ATEC; its subordinate commands, which are the Developmental Test Command, Operational Test Command and Army Evaluation Center; and its accomplishments, stressing the importance of the Soldier in development testing,

operational testing, evaluations, assessments and experiments of weapon systems and other military equipment.

"Testing helps make systems better. Operational testing makes sure they work with the Soldier," Myles said. "An assessment comes down to two questions — 'Does it work?' and 'How do I know?' If you don't know the answer, then you've just passed on a risk to the Soldier and that is fundamentally wrong."

In the post-9/11 environment, testing and evaluation has changed to keep Soldiers one step ahead of the enemy threat.

"We're about as close to the fighter as we can get without being in Iraq," Myles said. "We have changed what we do and how we do it in a very big way. We have fundamentally changed how we do business because our mission has changed ... We are supporting the Global War on Terror plus traditional acquisition. We are the strategic mirror for the U.S. Army. We ensure capabilities ASAP without rushing failures."

Before 9/11, it could take up to 12 months to ensure a system was mature enough for an operational test. But, that time frame had to be reduced because terrorist groups develop their attack strategies at a much faster rate.

"This is a war of adaptation," Myles said. "We have to change and modify within the terrorists' time frame ... It's all about getting systems in the field that are effective, suitable and survivable."

When Myles took over as commander of ATEC three years ago, new systems that were getting to the battlefield weren't being tested and evaluated enough to fully understand how well they work.

"Systems were being provided, but we didn't know their capabilities or limitations," Myles said.

A system of rapid testing was put in place, with some operational testing taking place at ATEC locations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In some cases of rapid testing, systems are built, tested and fielded before requirements are finalized while in other cases systems are fielded before full life cycle assessments are complete.

Besides providing capabilities and limitation reports, ATEC's 10,000 Soldiers, civilians and contractors also work to develop system training plans and logistic support plans. They also confirm the safety of a system and review how well it works with other fielded systems. In the past 2 1/2 years, ATEC has tested and evaluated 279 systems at its 26 locations.

Those systems have worked to keep Soldiers "alive and safe, and have made them more lethal on the battlefield," Myles said.

ATEC expertise has also aided the Army's counter IED fight.

"The enemy has had to change tactics and procedures (with IEDs) in ways that have exposed them," he said.

See Systems on page 7

Government-led conference focuses on war fighter

Test Week 2007 deemed success for test and evaluation industry

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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Test Week 2007 is a Huntsville-based conference organized annually by the Defense Test Resource Management Center.

This year's conference, held last week at the Von Braun Center, involved more than 800 government and civilian employees and 96 exhibitors associated with testing and evaluating government and Department of Defense products, said conference host Michael McFalls. The theme of this year's conference was "How to Make Test and Evaluation Relevant to the Joint Warfighter."

At one time, the conference was centered only on Army products. But three years ago it expanded to include all government-related products, McFalls said. This year's conference participants included the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, NASA and, for the first time, Coast Guard, Homeland Security and Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"The conference is growing," McFalls said. "There is a greater interchange between government agencies and organizations. It's all about 'How we can help you and how you can help us.' The missions might not be the same, but the science is very similar."

The conference is unique in that it's organized and managed by a government agency "to allow for the professional interchange of information among the test and evaluation community," he said.

Conferences activities, including panel discussions, tutorials, presentations, keynote speakers, exhibits, receptions, social events, a golf tournament and a bike ride, provide opportunities to build partnerships among government and contractor professionals in the T&E industry.

With 75 to 90 percent of the conference attendees from out of town, McFalls knows it has a big impact on Huntsville's economic bottom line.

"We filled up the Embassy Suites and the Holiday Inn. We had people at other hotels, too," McFalls said.

"But, this conference also builds respect and knowledge of what's going on in DoD in Huntsville. It's keeping Huntsville on the map as a high-tech area."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CLOSEUP OF CAPABILITIES— Sgt. 1st Class John Holbrook of the Air and Missile Defense Battle Lab at Fort Bliss, Texas, discusses the finer details of the CH-47 helicopter with government contractor Willie Huerth of Dataline at Test Week 2007.



Courtesy photo

Target simulator

Nicole Robinson explains to Greg Tackett, director of the System Simulation and Development Directorate at AMRDEC, the Virtual Targets Center capabilities at Test Week. The Virtual Targets Center is a collaborative technical effort between the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, and Targets Management Office. Its purpose is to create and facilitate the housing and redistribution of target models and simulation inputs for use with simulations in support of test and evaluation for the Army.

■ Command assesses everything from rifles to national defense systems

Systems

continued from page 6

“We’re trying to stop IED devices. It’s a cat and mouse game that can’t be done in the normal traditional way. We have to stay one step ahead to keep the Soldier alive. IED battles are about tactics, techniques and training. The IED fight is the most important fight we have in Iraq today.”

With rapid acquisition and testing, problems are inevitable, especially in areas of interoperability; understanding tactics, techniques and procedures; train-

ing and logistics. In addition, not all systems fit the Rapid Test Model, Myles said.

But, ATEC employees are committed to using rapid testing to quickly aid Soldiers on the battlefield. That goal is achieved by working as a team with system developers and builders.

“We want to help you develop a system that’s the most capable it can be,” Myles told his government and contractor audience.

“And, then we want to step back and tell you how well it does. We have a moral obligation to take care of the Soldier in Iraq first. Testing builds Soldier confidence in a system, and it makes Soldiers more lethal and a better fighting force.”

PX gasoline pumps due for replacement

New pumps will blend mid-grade gas and increase volume for unleaded

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The gas pumps at the One Stop Shoppette need more fuel to meet increased demand.

That's why the pumps are being replaced in July. The Post Exchange will receive new pumps July 20 and install them July 29-30, a Sunday and a Monday, the two slowest business days. The pumps will be shut down those two days and reopen July 31.

"In the ground right now we have three 10,000-gallon tanks – one for unleaded regular, one for mid-grade and one for premium," PX general manager Carl Carpenter said. "And what happens is we sell about 10,000 (gallons) of unleaded regular every day."

Gasoline is delivered in 8,500-gallon trucks; and the PX gives the supplier only a 2-3 hour window to make its deliveries to prevent overfilling the tank in the ground or running out of gas.

The new pumps will have a blender which will mix the unleaded regular and the premium to dispense a mid-grade product. With this new configuration, customers will be drawing off two tanks in the ground for unleaded regular for a storage capacity of 20,000 gallons. The third 10,000-gallon tank will provide premium gas.

This means the supplier will have a much larger window to deliver fuel and in turn should eliminate the problem of running out.

"That's why we're replacing these pumps," Carpenter said. "It just has to be done. And the current situation is a disservice to our customers. I just think this will speed up the pumps."

"The volume (of business) in this station has increased significantly over the past three or four years," he said.



FILLED UP— Gas pumps at the One Stop Shoppette will be replaced in July to meet the increased business in recent years.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army's birthday event recognizes changing of guard

AUSA chapter honors service of senior and young Soldiers

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
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They came to celebrate the shared birthdays of the U.S. flag and the Army.

But the evening's ceremony for the general membership of the Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army at the Officers and Civilians Club on Thursday included another American tradition – the changing of the guard.

After the birthday cakes for the Army's 232nd birthday and the flag's 230th birthday were cut, the general membership meeting of nearly 450 participants included AUSA president Emily Vandiver stepping down from her two-year term and introducing new AUSA president retired Col. Mike Howell; AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury mentioning his soon-to-be successor Maj. Gen. James Myles, who will assume leadership at AMCOM in mid-July, and other changes in AMCOM leadership; a symbolic presentation by non-commissioned officers and young Soldiers of the 59th Ordnance Brigade that expressed their commitment to reaching their highest potential; and the swearing in of the new AUSA officers and directors for 2007-08.

To top that all off, Pillsbury's recognition of the youngest Soldier at Redstone Arsenal – 17-year-old Pvt. Christina Lowe – and the young Soldiers he saw in action during a trip to Iraq and Afghanistan in March was testimony to the Army's commitment and ability to train, lead and grow the leaders of tomorrow.

"Every time we change command, we get better because our Army learns from its leaders," Pillsbury said. "Our Army evolves to get better."

Part of that evolution is helping young Soldiers like Lowe reach their military goal, whether that is to be a command sergeant major, chief warrant officer 5 or major general.

"She (Lowe) will be infinitely better than I," Pillsbury said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

THANKING THE TROOPS— AUSA-Huntsville Chapter's outgoing president Emily Vandiver and current executive vice president Steve Taylor thank Soldiers from the 59th Ordnance Brigade for providing color guard and other Soldier duties during the chapter's general membership meeting and Army birthday celebration at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"She's from Michigan and wants to go to airborne school. She wants to jump out of airplanes 200 plus times and lead Soldiers into combat. She got off the couch and became part of the solution, not part of the problem. And, I thank her for that. And, I thank all of you who have served your nation in whatever capacity."

He assured the AUSA audience that "your Army is OK" and morale is high among the troops.

"How do I know? I've been in the Army for 34 years and I can walk into a unit and tell you in 30 seconds if morale is good," Pillsbury said.

"I can look into a Soldier's eyes and ask them how they are doing, and know they are telling me the truth because the eyes don't lie. Those Soldiers are telling me 'Sir, I'm brave. I'm wonderful. I'm great. Now, get out of my way so I can do my job.'"

"They want to do what's right. They know what right is and they are doing it. The Global War on Terror must be won and they want to win it."

Although the war is a joint mission of all services, Pillsbury said the "heavy lifting is being done by the Army and the Marines. And, we are doing it daily."

Pillsbury described his experience flying in a Black Hawk with the helicopter's crew chief in Iraq. He showed the chief his 101st patch from the first Gulf War.

"I pointed to the patch because I'm proud of it," he said. "This crew chief with the 101st turned his right shoulder to me and pointed to his patch and then put three fingers up in the air. This was his third tour and he told me 'Sir, I just re-enlisted. Hey, sir, I'm part of a winning team, and we are going to win this thing for you all.'"

Pillsbury said that 14 months ago the Army missed its recruiting goals. But every month since then, it has met those goals. And, once in the Army, Soldiers are taught and led by NCOs who know how to train leaders.

"Once they are in, they stay," Pillsbury said. "All the aviation brigades in Iraq met



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CUTTING CAKE HONORING FLAG— The Army shares its birthday with Flag Day and recognizes it with a birthday cake cutting in recognition of the U.S. flag. This year, the Flag Day cake was cut by Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, left, and Redstone Arsenal's oldest Soldier, Col. Walter Lorcheim. The cake was cut following the cutting of the Army birthday cake during AUSA's general meeting. The Army celebrated its 232nd birthday on June 14 while the flag celebrated its 230th birthday.

their re-enlistment goals. Are we stretched? Yes. Are we broken? No.

"The Army is older than this country. And, we get stronger every day. We get better every day."

Lowe plans to be very much part of the Army's future as she pursues her goal to someday become a chief warrant officer.

"I joined to have a better life," said the Soldier, who is attending her advanced individual training as an ammunitions specialist at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

"I joined for the better opportunities and, physically, it's fun. I want to be an officer. I want to be an officer through the warrant system. I want to be airborne. I want to jump out of airplanes."

Lowe also hopes to make a difference through her service and hopes to be deployed to Iraq.

"I want to put my time in, too," she said.

Beginning her Army career as Pillsbury's partner in the Army birthday cake

Space and Missile Defense Conference set for August

The 10th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition will take place Aug. 13-16 at the Von Braun Center. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating 50 Years in Space and Missile Defense."

The conference is widely attended by professionals and individuals from throughout the United States and its allies around the world. Event sponsors include the National Defense Industrial Association's Tennessee Valley Chapter, Army Space and Missile Defense Association and the Air Defense Artillery Association's Huntsville Chapter.

Conference highlights include presentations from internationally recognized experts in the areas of global

ballistic missile defense systems development and operation, as well as integration, synchronization and capability development to meet new threats. The conference also will include a training and technology track focused on emerging technologies. Sessions will also cover space support to the war fighter, homeland defense, and the integration of cruise missile defense.

Confirmed speakers include Gen. James Cartwright, commander, U.S. Strategic Command; Gen. Kevin Chilton, commander, Air Force Space Command; Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, director, Missile Defense Agency; Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT; Lt. Gen. Michael Hamel, command-

er, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command; retired Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, first director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization; retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford, former astronaut; and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.

There will be exhibit displays throughout the VBC and daily attractions in each hall, including celebrity authors, the Liberty Bike, and — displayed for the first time in a public forum — the Liberty Guitar. The conference will also have a technology trek, a scavenger hunt, and a theater projection of the Army's video game. All of these attractions, along with the viewing of all exhibits, are free and open to the public. *(SMDC release)*

■ Association has birthday party for Army and flag

Birthday

continued from page 10

cutting at Redstone Arsenal sets Lowe on the right path toward her goal. AUSA members are committed to supporting her and other Soldiers as they do their best to serve their country, said incoming AUSA president Howell.

"Our basic mission is to support the Army," he said. "I've been a member of AUSA since 1965. I've always appreciated what AUSA can do to build support for the Army.

"We've got a great chapter here in a unique community. Huntsville is a fabulous place for the military. I'm proud to be part of this community and lead AUSA."

The local AUSA chapter is enjoying a

three-year winning streak as AUSA's best chapter, with the first win coming under the leadership of AUSA president Joe Fitzgerald and the second two wins coming under the leadership of outgoing AUSA president Vandiver. Howell hopes to make it a four-win streak when the winner is announced later this summer.

In her review of AUSA activities, including the Veterans Day Dinner, Operation Christmas Bear, Armed Forces Week and the establishment of satellite AUSA chapters in North Alabama, Vandiver said the chapter's activities are done for reasons beyond award recognition.

"This is the kind of community that really supports the military," she said. "We know what the right thing is, and that's continuing to support our Soldiers and their families, and our Department of the Army civilians."

Vandiver will go on to serve a three-year term on the National Advisory Board of Directors for AUSA and as AUSA's third region vice president.

AUSA also honored three Soldiers at the dinner as winners of the second annual 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award. They are: Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Dobbins of the Army, Master Sgt. Mitch Jackson of the Army Reserve and Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Head of the National Guard. Also recognized with a standing ovation were three representatives of the Waiting Spouses organization whose husbands are deployed: Kelly Black, Pam Petrie and Ginny Taylor.

In closing, new president Howell thanked the audience for their attendance.

"Your presence signifies your love of country, of the Army and of the community," he said. "With your help, AUSA and its board members will continue a legacy of excellence and set a new standard of

excellence."

Corporate sponsors for the AUSA Army Birthday/Flag Day dinner were AAR Brown International, Aerojet, Analytical Services Inc., Applied Data Trends, Bell Helicopter, Boeing, Booz Allen Hamilton, COLSA, Computer Sciences Corp., Davidson Technologies, DESE, DRS Test & Energy Management, Dynetics, EADS-NA Defense, EDO-CAS, General Dynamics-ATP, Huntsville Rehabilitation, Intergraph, ITT Corp.-Defense HQ, Lockheed Martin, Madison Research Corp., MEI Technology, Miltec, Northrop Grumman, Omega Psi Phi, Orbital Sciences Corp., Premier Professional Systems Inc., Raytheon, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Redstone Recognitions Inc., Rockwell Collins, S3, SAIC, Sanmina-SCI Corp., ServisFirst Bank, SRS Technologies, Teledyne Brown Engineering, *The Huntsville Times*, The Whiteford Group, Westar and Westwind Technologies.

Boy Scouts honor veterans at Flag Day ceremony

Coalition coordinates event for Old Glory

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Slowly and carefully, the Boy Scouts of local Troop 400 removed the U.S. flag from the flagpole at Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Huntsville and folded it into a triangle.

Though not damaged or tattered, the flag was retired on one of the nation's most patriotic days – Flag Day 2007.

And, during the retirement ceremony, Old Glory was delivered into the hands of one of the nation's heroes – retired Chief Petty Officer Maynard Pless of Huntsville, whose Navy career included service during World War II and the Korean War.

"It's always nice when people do something like this," the 84-year-old veteran from Huntsville said. "They overdo it, though."

"I'm not a coward. I'm not a hero. I'm just in between those someplace. All of us who lived through those times (of World War II), whether in the military or not, we're heroes."

Sitting with Pless was his fiancée Eva Braun, whose late husband, retired Army Lt. Col. Albert Braun, received a Purple Heart for his service in the Korean War. He also served during World War II and Vietnam.

"It amazes me that so many young people are interested in World War II," Pless said. "This generation of young people thinks we were heroes because we fought in World War II. But, all people back then were equally embroiled."

The young Scouts of Troop 400 were glad to show respect and honor to Pless and other veterans who attended the Flag Day Ceremony. They traveled back from their week at Camp Comer in Jackson County just for the ceremony and had plans to return afterward.

"It's a good thing for us to get focused and do this," said Boy Scout Malik Bradford. "It's a good thing to recognize the sacrifices made for our country and our flag."

The Flag Day Ceremony was coordi-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FLAG FOR A HERO— Boy Scout Jamiah Thomas hands a small version of the U.S. flag to retired Chief Petty Officer Maynard Pless, who served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

nated by the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

"We are proud to bring you this ceremony honoring our flag's colors. We approach it with the spirit of our founding fathers," said Russell Kimball, vice president of the coalition.

"We are here today to honor the symbol of our country. For centuries, mankind has fought on the front lines of battles. Today, they fight on the front lines of freedom."

The U.S. flag, Kimball said, is a worldwide symbol for liberty, freedom and justice.

Once Old Glory was folded, the Boy Scouts hung a new U.S. flag over Veterans Memorial Park.

As it flapped in the wind, Scout leaders rang 12 bell tolls, each one representing a war where American Soldiers died. The wars were announced slowly followed by the number of American lives lost: American Revolutionary War, 4,435; War of 1812, 2,260; Indian Wars, estimated 1,000; Civil War, 140,414 on the Union side, 74,524 on the Confederate side; Spanish-American War, 385; World War I, 53,402; World War II, 291,557; Korean War, 33,741; Vietnam War, 47,410; Gulf War, 147; and War on Terror, 3,500 plus.

Old Glory was then presented to Pless by David Carney, coalition president, and retired Lt. Col. Randy Withrow, director of the Veterans Memorial Museum. Pless saluted the two retired Soldiers and then bent his head over the flag in his hands as the audience sang "God Bless America."

Huntsville Center workers honored for service

The Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, recognized seven employees and one team for their service during its annual Engineer Day celebration June 8. The annual event commemorates the birthday of the Corps of Engineers which turns 232 years old June 16.

Kim Gillespie was awarded the Commander's Leadership Award for her superior leadership as the chief of the Public Affairs Office.

Donna Ragucci, Acquisition Support Division, was named the Contracting Professional of the Year for her work with the Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Program which consists of 359 active projects.

Ken Arrington, Installation Support and Programs Directorate, accepted the Employee of the Year Award for his work as the project manager for the Utility Monitoring and Control System program. Sandy Wood, Engineering Directorate, was named the Innovator of the Year for leading the Huntsville Center's first

Building Information team for a child development center standard design.

Jeffrey Hardin garnered the Engineer of the Year Award for providing exceptional professional engineering support for the largest medical facilities program in the 29-year history of the Medical Facilities Center of Expertise and Standardization.

Debra Valine, Public Affairs Office, was named Volunteer of the Year for her accomplishments in the community as a member of the Girl Scouts of North Alabama Board of Directors and at Huntsville Center where she served as the loaned executive for Combined Federal Campaign.

Anne M. Williams was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work as the administrative officer to the Engineering Directorate in general and the Civil Structures Division in particular.

The Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Program Product Delivery Team was awarded the Teamwork Award based

on its efforts to increase its workload, which resulted in adding more than \$70 million worth of work and tripling project actions. Members of the team include Laura Mabee, Bill Borders, Ken Arrington, Joan Theusch, Chuck Holland, Will White, Chris Newman, Mitch Duke, Candido Damian, Elaine Wales, Donnie Lambert, Kathy Sparks, Jonathan Stephens, James Steele, Suzanne Wear, Lisa Parker, Donna Ragucci, Chuck Williams and Linda Merschman.

Norman Blake Baughman, was named to the Huntsville Center's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, becoming one of only 19 employees to be honored by this distinction since 1987. Before retiring in 1993, Baughman was chief counsel at Huntsville Center for 13 years. The Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees identifies, recognizes and honors civilian employees for their service. They have made significant contributions to the center and served as role models and mentors. *(Huntsville Center release)*



Photo by Tarah Hollingsworth

Goodbye kiss

Newlyweds of two months, Dana and Sgt. Rudy Will kiss goodbye just before he steps onto a bus for a 12-month deployment to Iraq. Both work on Redstone Arsenal. Will is a member of the 1st of the 167th Infantry Alabama National Guard in Cullman. The unit left for training at Camp Shelby, Miss., in preparation for its search and security mission in Iraq. About 50 Soldiers from the unit provided security at Redstone Arsenal for about 12 months following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



Courtesy photo

Honor graduate

Candice Bryan, former summer hire at Redstone Arsenal and granddaughter of Sarah Bryan, test control officer for 25 years at the Education Center, graduated magna cum laude May 13 from University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. Candice received a scholastic scholarship at Duke University Law School, Durham, N.C., and will pursue her master's in conjunction with a degree in international law. She attended school as well as worked in Germany two summers after her three summers of employment at Redstone.

Student from India had enjoyable stay

A member of the India army says he'll remember the time he spent at Redstone Arsenal.

Maj. Deepak Rishi attended the Ammunition Specialist Course from March 12 until June 1. Like other international students, he was assigned to Headquarters & Alpha and participated in field studies trips arranged by the International Military Student Office.

"I had an extremely enjoyable and comfortable stay at Redstone Arsenal," said Rishi, 33. "The lodging and dining facilities were of high standards. Also utilized and appreciated the other facilities like the

library, gymnasium and the bowling center.

"I tried to see as much of America as possible when I was not attending my class," he said.

The most memorable thing from his stay was "the interaction with the American Soldiers and the visits organized by the IMSO office."



Maj. Deepak Rishi

Servicemembers encouraged to apply for scholarships

Hire a Hero program provides opportunity

CARLSBAD, Calif. — The non-profit Hire a Hero program plans to award 122 academic scholarships to the military community.

Aug. 17 is the application deadline for the scholarships, which are in recognition of May's military appreciation month.

These scholarships are available to active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, National Guard members, Reservists and their spouses. Lincoln Educational Services Corporation, the title sponsor of the Hire a Hero, will provide the training in an effort to give back to those who have served. Degree and diploma programs will be available in automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology and hospitality services.

"Young veterans are almost three times

more unemployed than their civilian counterparts," Hire a Hero executive director Dan Caulfield said. "That statistic is due to the fact that when these men and women are serving, they primarily network with each other and not with people who can help them in their civilian lives. We want to provide our American heroes with a network of supporters who will help them find quality jobs and training opportunities.

"Although the military provides fabulous training and skills, some need additional certifications or desire a different career path. With these scholarships, Lincoln will provide our military community with more choices on how to transition smoothly back into their civilian lives."

Three types of scholarships are available to those who qualify:

- **Front line scholarships** – Eight scholarships awarded to servicemembers serving overseas fighting the Global War on Terrorism, with 100 percent of tuition

covered to complete associate of applied science degrees in criminal justice or allied health and the courses will be completed online;

- **National Guard scholarships** – Fifty-four scholarships awarded to National Guard members or spouses of National Guard members, with \$10,000 given to each recipient to help cover tuition;

- **Military community scholarships** – Sixty scholarships awarded to military, honorably discharged veterans and their spouses, with \$2,000 given each recipient to help cover tuition.

All servicemembers, veterans and spouses are encouraged to apply for the scholarships. The application process involves registering on the Hire a Hero web site for free at www.hireahero.com and uploading a written essay or short video. Winners will be announced in late August. *(Armed Forces Support Foundation release)*

Hail and farewell

Knight relishes great 30-year ride

Retiring sergeant major doesn't regret career

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Gregory Knight was working at a brake shoe factory in Sanford, Fla., making auto parts. He was 22 years old, didn't have any skills training and was trying to make a living for his wife and young son.

He woke up one morning and said he'd join the Army.

That was 30 years ago in August 1977. He has never regretted his decision.

Sgt. Maj. Knight is retiring after three decades in uniform. With an official retirement date of Sept. 1, he'll participate in the quarterly retirement ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday at Heiser Hall.

"I reached my retention control point. That's as far as I can go," he said of his reason for retiring now. "I have mixed



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STAYING PUT— Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight plans to stay in Huntsville after he retires.

emotions. I'm happy to be making this transition at this point in my life. But at the same time, I'm somewhat sad to have to stop doing something I've been doing 30 years, as far as being a Soldier.

"And like everything else, it's going to be an adjustment period going from the military to the civilian sector."

He's asked military retirees if they had an adjustment period and some said they did while others said they didn't.

"I think joining the military was the best decision I've ever made," Knight said, "in terms of the growth, professional development. It has taken care of me and my family. It has given me some opportunities I would not have gotten had I not joined the military. I've met some fantastic people, did some extensive travel. And if I had it to do over, I'd do it again."

He served as the Directorate of Instruction sergeant major at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School since August 2004 after arriving from Fort Lee, Va.

"I plan to take the training experience I've gained in the military and utilize that, maybe doing contract work or as a DoD civilian. I still want to work with the military in the government," he said.

Knight and his wife, Mary, have two daughters and two sons. Regina Tatum, 26, resides in Huntsville; Jennifer Jones, 24, lives in Atlanta; Joshua, 14, is entering the ninth-grade at New Century Technology High; and Gregory Jr., 35, lives in Las Vegas.

He enjoys running, sports and fishing. He is also an accomplished singer, who occasionally gets requests to sing the national anthem at various events. He sings on the eight-member praise and worship team at his church, New Hope Outreach Ministries in Huntsville.

Knight, 52, has a master's in human resources development and management from Webster University in St. Louis in 2002, a bachelor's in liberal arts through Regents College out of Albany, N.Y., in 2000 and an associate degree in general



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times

UPLIFTING VOICE— Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight sings the national anthem during the Huntsville Havoc hockey team's Military Appreciation Night on Feb. 10 at the Von Braun Center.

studies from Calhoun College in 1995. He said he would not have achieved these if it wasn't for the Army. He was born in Tacoma, Wash., the son of a veteran. He got married at 17 and had to drop out of school so he could work during the day and go to night school.

He planned to just get the initial Army training and get out, but got a positive impression from his first assignment — with the 563rd Ordnance Company in Wiesbaden, Germany. Now he's retiring with 30 years service.

"It's been a great ride," Knight said. "I've exceeded my expectations. I achieved the highest rank possible and I never thought I'd get there."

"Any success I've achieved in the military and all the glory and honor goes to God, because without him nothing is possible."

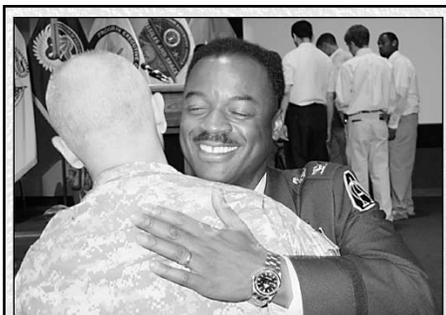


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Ending career

Col. John Vaughn is congratulated on his retirement June 13 after 25 years service, including the last three years and eight months as the Lower Tier project manager. His successor is Eric Edwards, a civilian.

Marines hit stride entering postseason tournament

Beat Bravo Company
16-6 as season ends

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The Marines wanted to start the playoffs right away. Bravo

Company wanted to improve first. That was the mindset of the two teams after their game June 11 in the final week of the softball season.

The Marines tuned up for the postseason tournament by beating Bravo 16-6 at Linton Field. The playoffs are scheduled June 18-25.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

READY FOR PLAYOFFS— Marines slugger Sean Newsom blasts a two-run homer against Bravo Company in the final week of the regular season.

“We’re just ready to get it on,” said Marines coach/short-stop Sean Newsom, who hit a two-run homer. “We know it’s only us and National Guard. So we should skip the whole tournament and go straight to the championship game.”

It’s hard to disagree since the Marines improved to 11-1, the same record as the National Guard. They split the two games against each other.

“Good hitting” was the key against Bravo, Newsom said. “And good pitching by Lee Burket.”

Burket, the winning pitcher, helped himself at the plate by going 2-for-3 with an RBI double and scored four runs.

Bravo pitcher Ronell Robertson took the loss in six innings. But he went 2-for-3 with a double and run scored. The Bulldogs trailed 4-0 after the first inning and 8-2 after the second.

“We made a lot of errors,” Bravo coach/left center Jarvis Payton said. “We were hitting the ball pretty good, but they capitalized on errors. I think they’re the best team in the league right now.”

Payton hoped his team, which fell to 7-5, would improve its defense in the postseason.

“We’ve got to work on the small things,” he said, “just the fundamentals – pitching, fielding and hitting our targets.”

Earlier that night, the NCO Academy received a forfeit from Charlie Company for its first win of the season after 10 losses.

“We’ve been steadily making improvements throughout the season,” NCO Academy coach/outfielder/second baseman David Kinney said. “We’ve

been scoring more as the season’s been going on. As long as we still have the players, we should be hopefully going for it all.”

Last week’s results included:

• **June 11** – NCO Academy won by forfeit over Charlie Company and the Marines def. Bravo 16-6.

• **June 12** – Bravo won by forfeit over Charlie and NCO Academy def. Headquarters & Alpha 9-7.

• **June 14** – Marines def. Headquarters & Alpha 16-6.

The final regular season standings had **Eastern Conference** – Marines (12-1), Bravo (8-5) and 326th Chemical (2-10); **Western Conference** – National Guard (11-1), Headquarters & Alpha (5-8), Charlie (4-9) and NCO Academy (2-10). The 326th Chemical is not participating in the postseason tournament.



Courtesy photo

State champions

The Alabama Ballers 13-and-under girls AAU basketball team won the state title May 25-27 in Birmingham. These girls will represent Alabama in the AAU 13U national championships July 13-21 in Kings Island, Ohio. The Ballers beat the Southern Starz 53-49 for the state championship. From left, in the bottom row, are Lauren Harris, A.C. Scarlett, Regime McCombs and Shaylene Cooper. In the middle row are Sierra Sales, Alycia Garrett, Breonn Walker, Lydia McGee, Jordon Jennings, Karschella Shoulters and Danielle Smith, daughter of Dedria Smith, contractor for Jacobs Technology, G-3 Operations. In the top row are coaches Dewayne Shoulters and James Cooper.

Spartan rocket motor successfully demolished

Missile parts were stored for more than 30 years

By JOAN GUSTAFSON
Anniston Army Depot public affairs officer

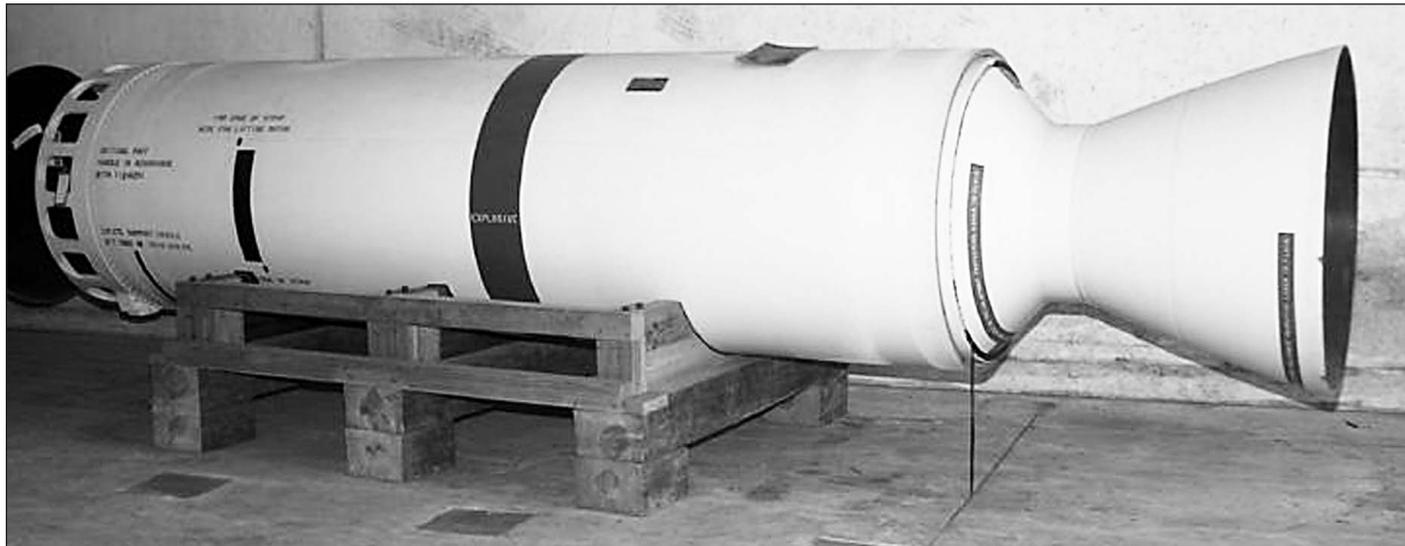
After a brief rain passed over Anniston Defense Munitions Center June 8, what had taken a team from the Propulsion and Structures Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center almost four years of intensive planning and pre-testing, risk assessment and establishment of Standard Operating Procedures was completed in the blink of an eye as the first of the 22 Spartan first stage rocket motors, weighing about 12,000 pounds, was demolished in a controlled burn.

The Spartan rocket motors were originally part of the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system which was decommissioned in 1973 and have since been in storage for more than 30 years.

In the summer and fall of 2004, the AMRDEC team, working with Lt. Col. Garry McClendon, ADCM commander, and Larry Gunter from the Aviation and Missile Command G-3, the AMRDEC began its work inspecting the rocket motors and performing safety and condition assessments.

Teamwork, coordination and communication among all the Redstone Arsenal subject matter experts were crucial.

“Early on, there was a lot of misinformation regarding the Spartan motors being circulated amongst the technical community,” said Dr. Robert Little, chief of the Missile Sustainment Function, Propulsion and Structures Directorate. “So much so, that our team had to perform



LONGTIME GUEST— A Spartan first stage rocket motor resides at Anniston Army Depot.

Courtesy photo

the safety and condition assessment just to demonstrate that some of the perceived risks did not exist. Because the Army Missile Command was the original sponsoring agency, the team had access to engineering drawings, records, reports and configuration data which could be used to evaluate safety for handling and transportation, and for the development of an appropriate means for demilitarization.”

The AMRDEC team was not alone in this mission. An even larger number of personnel from ADCM, specializing in logistics, transportation, safety, ammunition surveillance, and explosive ordnance disposal worked with them to ensure the project’s success.

It was indeed a team effort to complete the research and the first step in the

process and there is much more for the team to do to complete its mission.

“Despite the fact that this event represents a culminating milestone, it is clear we have much work left to do,” said Jeff Lee, team lead at AMRDEC for the Tier II Demilitarization Program. “There are 21 of the motors which remain in storage at Anniston, and another 24 in storage at Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas. In the near future, the AMRDEC team will travel to RRAD on a fact finding mission, in order to start the process there, as well.”

The AMRDEC team has already begun to stage two more rocket motors scheduled for demolition today and Friday.



Courtesy photo

PREPARATION— Propulsion and Structures Directorate workers Jeff Lee and Mike McDonald install an Aft Closure Seal as part of desensitizing the Spartan rocket motor for transport to the disposal pit.

Thrift Shop manager thanks customers, volunteers

*Appreciation Day
scheduled July 7*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Coming to a new town and a new job can be hard. When the people you meet go out of their way to make you feel at home, you say thank you. That is exactly what Annabel Sanchez, new manager for the Thrift Shop, has in mind.

"I'm very appreciative of everything they do," Sanchez said.

Sanchez took over as the manager at the beginning of the month. She had been working the three months prior as the assistant manager. She was a little apprehensive about working with an all volunteer staff.

"I was worried about having all volunteers," she said. "But now I know these people are here because they want to be. They're motivated. I never have to worry about them slacking off. This is more than just a paycheck for them."

Coming from a retail back-



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

CHANGES IN STORE— Thrift Shop manager Annabel Sanchez works behind the scenes to get the shop ready for Customer and Volunteer Appreciation Day.

ground, Sanchez said the change has been refreshing. However,

she hopes to apply some of the better aspects of the retail world

to the Thrift Shop, making it an easier and more comfortable place to shop.

She hopes to start with a little reorganization. Sanchez plans to group items into categories and departments, making things easier to find for both customers and employees.

"If we divide things up and organize it better then people can find what they want," she said. "We can also keep better track of inventory."

The other changes headed for the Thrift Shop are ones of comfort and aesthetics. Sanchez thinks a new coat of paint inside will brighten the place and visually bring the different areas together. She also wants to add a comfortable sitting area for shoppers.

"We have some retirees who come and bring their wives to shop for hours," Sanchez said. "I'd like to fix a nice place for them to sit and be comfortable."

With summer here, Sanchez hopes they will see more volunteers come in as people come and go on vacation.

"That's my biggest concern," she said. "During summer people leave to go on vacations and

things like that. I'm hoping we'll get some new volunteers so it won't be as difficult when people go."

She is very grateful for the hard work of all the volunteers and the loyalty of her customers. To show just how grateful, she has organized an Appreciation Day for them, slated for Saturday, July 7. It is being called the "Red, White and You Sidewalk Sale" to acknowledge that without the volunteers and customers, there wouldn't be a thrift shop.

"They keep this place running," she said. "They've been so great to me."

The four-hour event begins at 10 a.m. Those attending will be treated to free hot dogs, lemonade and chips. They can also take advantage of special sale items.

"We're going to have some things really reduced," Sanchez said. "We're going to have some items for 25 cents. They'll have a white tag with a star shape cut out of it."

Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday 9 to 5. They are also open the first Saturday of each month from 10 to 2.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Youth golf clinics

Join Child and Youth Services at the Links at Redstone for its summer youth golf clinics this Saturday and July 7, July 21 and Aug. 4 from 2-3 p.m. Youth can attend any or all clinics for ages 7-17. Register at CYS, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For more information, call 883-7977, 313-3699 or 876-3704.

Fall soccer

Register for Child and Youth Services fall soccer from now through July 30 at build-

ing 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. CYS soccer is for ages 4-13. Practices begin in August and games will start after Labor Day. Registration is \$50 and includes the uniform. The CYS registration fee of \$18 per child or \$40 per family must be current. The child's sports physical must also be current at the time of registration. A late registration fee of \$10 applies after July 30. Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information, call 313-3699 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Youth soccer

AYSO Region 160 is taking registrations for soccer for fall 2007 and spring 2008.

American Youth Soccer Organization is open to all children in Huntsville and Madison County without limitation to your residence. Teams are provided for ages 4 through 18 based on the age of the child on July 31, 2007. There are all-girls teams and coed teams in every division. Games and practices are at John Hunt Park (Airport Road and the Parkway). Registration is \$80 per player until after June 30, when it will be \$85. A \$5 per player discount is available if you pre-register online. Registration fees cover both the fall and spring seasons and include the uniform. For more information, call 539-6852. Instructions and other registration information are available at www.ayso160.org.



Conferences & Meetings

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will begin its summer Bible study program on Thursday, July 5. Subsequent studies will be July 12, 19 and 26 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Nursery care is provided for all Bible studies. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 489-3018 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Fleet reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Saturday at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565 Exit 3. For information call Gene Aittala 773-6283 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will meet Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club, Regimental Room. Visitors are welcome. The buffet line can be used for lunch. The networking topic of the day is mentoring. For information call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Technical communication

The Society for Technical Communication, Huntsville-North Alabama chapter, will meet Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Green Hills Grille, 5100 Sanderson St. The agenda includes introduction of new officers, a report from the national conference in Minneapolis, and pursuing a graduate degree while maintaining a full-time job. To RSVP call 882-4800, ext. 3955, or e-mail stcrsvp@creativexpression.com.

Blacks in government

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government invites you to experience The Sounds of Motown & Classic Soul/R&B on Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Von Braun Center North Hall. The musical guest is the MO'SOL Band from Atlanta. Tickets cost \$35 per person and are tax deductible. Proceeds benefit BIG Southeast Regional members who are victims of Hurricane Katrina. For information call Donovan Etheridge 551-7230 or Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Association luncheon

Maj. Gen. Michael Mazzucchi, of the Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, N.J., is scheduled speaker for the AFCEA Huntsville luncheon meeting Thursday at the Holiday Inn downtown, 401 Williams Ave. Registration for this Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association event begins at 11 a.m., lunch at 11:30 and the meeting at noon. Cost is \$25. For information call Sandra Pape 542-4334 or Christine Downing 428-5515.

Civil War discussion

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet July 12 at 6:30 p.m. at 725 Franklin St. Scheduled speaker Gerald Bartig will discuss the failure of Pickett's Charge which was the final attack of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. The meeting is free and visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. For more information, call 858-6191.

Computer users

The Huntsville PC User Group's Windows/Internet Special Interest Group will meet at July 14 at 9:15 a.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. The special interest group leader will be Kevin Wangbickler, HPCUG president. The topic will be of general interest. At 10:45, Jim Offenbecher, a local expert on computer technology, will discuss finding and downloading old-time radio shows, old cartoons, old movies and old television shows using USENET and other sources. Jim will conclude with a Question and Answer Session on topics of interest to the audience. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 830-2232.

Engineer society

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers meets for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Huntsville Center, Army Corps of Engineers, 4820 University Place. This event honors student achievers and science fair winners. The cost is \$10. For reservations call Amber Martin 895-1834.

See Announcements on page 21



Courtesy photo

Graceland visit

The International Military Student Office took nine international students on a field studies program trip to Memphis on June 8-10. They visited famous Beale Street, the Fire Museum of Memphis, Peabody Hotel, Ride the Ducks Memphis, Rock 'n' Soul Museum, national Civil Rights Museum and Graceland. Standing outside Graceland are, from left, Master Sgt. Konstantinos Arampatzis of Greece, Maj. Mun Hwan Yang of Korea, Sgt. Maj. Athanasios Vratsistas of Greece, Master Sgt. Spyridon Spyrou of Greece and Pfc. Janis Manguss of Latvia.

Retired employees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees serves those who serve and have served the nation. "NARFE is the only association dedicated to protecting and improving the earned retirement benefits of federal employees, retirees and their survivors," a prepared release said. Huntsville Chapter 443 meets at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2220 Drake Ave., on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. For information call 881-4944.

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.

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.



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 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 for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

See Announcements on page 22



Courtesy photo

Greek graduates

From left are Greek military students Master Sgt. Konstantinos Arampatzis, Master Sgt. Spyridon Spyrou, and Sgt. Maj. Athanasios Vratsistas. They graduated Thursday from the Ammunition Specialist Course. Here they visit the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg, Tenn., on one of the field trips sponsored by the International Military Student Office.

Announcements

Surplus sales

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

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. The shop will be open July 7 from 10-2. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays through Thursdays. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Sidewalk sale

The Thrift Shop is having a sidewalk sale July 7 from 10-2. "Join us for our customer and volunteer appreciation day, our way of saying thank you to our customers for supporting the community and Soldiers," a prepared release said. "Special sales and free food!"

Help wanted

The Thrift Shop is seeking a part-time assistant manager. Applications must be received by June 29. For more information, call 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.

See **Announcements** on page **23**

For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu, or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

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, or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

Hawaii tour

Sign up for Redstone Arsenal's Hawaii Tour set for September. This features seven nights and eight days at the Hale Koa Armed Forces Recreation Hotel on Waikiki Beach, just minutes from Honolulu on the island of Oahu. 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 authentic luau and the Polynesian Cultural Center that includes the IMAX movie presentation, luau dinner and evening show, "Horizons." Space is limited, so reserve your spot today. For more information or to sign up, call the Redstone Leisure Travel office 313-0090 or e-mail grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil.

Korean War veterans

Veterans of Korean War and their families are invited as honored guests for the 57th Anniversary of Korean War luncheon Sunday at 1 p.m. in the Hyun's Korean Garden Restaurant, located on South Parkway, Main Street Shopping Village. Lunch will be provided with a presentation of "Korea, Today." Proof of Korean War veteran is requested. For more information and to RSVP, call K.C. Bertling 541-0450.

Warrant group scholarship

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Warrant Officer Association will present one \$1,000 scholarship award. Eligible participants include dependent or adopted children, dependent stepchildren under age 21 (seniors in high school or currently enrolled college freshmen) and adult nontraditional students (age 21 and older who is currently enrolled as a college sophomore or above) of military – active, retired, National Guard or Reserve – and DoD civilian residing in the Tennessee Valley area. Deadline to apply is July 2. To download a packet and registration form, go to www.redstonewarrants.com.

St. Louis reunion

Former St. Louis government employees, contractors, families and friends are invited to a 10-year anniversary reunion picnic Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Vincent Park. Those attending should bring their own food, drinks, chairs and grills. A Meet and Greet will be held Friday from 5-9 p.m. at Paul Bracy's Green Room, 1914 Jordan Lane. For more information call Virgil Wiley 653-3406, Larry Young 503-3658, Reggie Burton 348-4842, Andrew Lenoir 508-4055 or Valerie Johnson 651-6697.

Motorcycle safety

To permanently register a motorcycle on any DoD installation, the Defense Department requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. The one-day course is offered free to anyone authorized access to Redstone. Classes are scheduled July 11, 14, 17, 25 and 28. For course information, contact Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bell-south.net.

Make a wish

Make a Wish will have a Festival for Wishes on June 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shriner's Picnic area at 6001 Pulasiki Pike. This family event offers carnival games, prizes, vendors, the Star Wars characters, the Search and Rescue Dog Team, clowns, a magician and food. For more information, call 509-4823.

Alabama military heroes

All Alabama military personnel who have been deployed or are presently deployed will be honored during the Alabama Sports Festival XXV Opening Ceremonies, June 29 at 6:45 p.m. at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. A specially minted bronze Liberty Bell medal will be presented to all qualifying servicemembers present. Families of servicemembers killed in action during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom will be honored and the medal will also be given to them. Any Alabama servicemember who is presently in Afghanistan or Iraq may be represented by a family member to receive the medal. Register online at www.alagames.com. For information call Daniel Monplaisir (334) 239-3297.

Substance abuse training

The Army's Substance Abuse Training is now online at <https://redasap.redstone.army.mil>. This mandatory training is directed by the Department of Army. After completing the training, the employees can get credit for it through TIPS. For more information, call Ruby Turner 842-9895.

Botanical garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is celebrating Armed Forces Week by offering all active military and their families free access to the garden. Military personnel simply need to show their military ID any

time during the week of July 15-21 for free admission. For more information, call 830-4447.

Theater performance

The world premiere performance of the theatrical adaptation of award winning author Richard Currey's book "Crossing Over: The Vietnam Stories" will be performed in the Chan Auditorium on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville on Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. "Crossing Over: The Vietnam Stories" will be directed by Ron Harris and feature a set design by Emmy Award winning designer David Harwell. The book was adapted for the stage by Andrew Sneed, a Huntsville native, who returns home with the New York based theater company The 881 Collective to fill out the cast. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 with student or military ID. Tickets can be reserved by calling 337-8476 or purchased at the door.

SMDC reunion picnic

In honor of its 50th anniversary, the Space and Missile Defense Command will hold a reunion picnic July 11 at the NASA Picnic Area. Games – softball, volleyball, horseshoes and bingo – begin at 9 a.m. A barbecue luncheon, catered by Gibson's, starts at 11. Cost of the luncheon is \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children. June 29 is the deadline for ordering tickets. Contact SMDC at P.O. Box 1500, Attn.: SMDC-FW (Kimbrough), Huntsville, AL 35807-3801. Make checks payable to SMDC Fund and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Blood drive

A Lifesouth Blood Drive will be held June 28 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5435. Alabama is experiencing a blood shortage for all blood types. Anyone that has questions or would like to schedule an appointment should call Joyce Oliver 842-7710. Remember that your donation counts.

Charity codes

Beginning with the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, each participating charity will use a new five-digit CFC code



Photo by Skip Vaughn

In concert

Dierks Bentley performs June 16 at the Redstone Activity Field.

assigned by the Office of Personnel Management. Pledges made using the former four-digit codes cannot be honored. OPM is assigning a new code to each participating charity in order to improve administrative efficiencies in the campaign and simplify charity marketing. For more information, call the CFC Office 876-9143.

Symphony offer

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra would like to honor servicemembers as well as civilian Redstone employees by offering them half-price season tickets to the upcoming 2007-08 concert season. Half-price tickets will be offered in seating areas C and E for the Pops and Classical Series and in seating area 3 for the Mainly Mozart Series. This offer is extended to all military and civilian employees of Redstone Arsenal that have not had a HSO season ticket subscription in the past three years. If interested call Nina Soden 539-4818, ext. 13.

Commissary update

The Commissary will be closed the Fourth of July and reopen July 5 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

See **Announcements** on page 26

