

# Redstone Rocket

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## Over there

Husband  
deployed as  
bomb technician  
**Page 4**



## Post profile

Byrd directs  
test center  
**Page 6**



## At ease

Army game  
turns age 5  
**Page 8**



## Around town

Guardman  
and chief  
**Page 12**



## Win or lose

Post golf  
course  
goes  
three up  
**Page 14**



# Two generations of Marine heroes

Legacy of father and son  
recognized for patriotism

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

For 5-year-old John David Harrill, this year's Fourth of July holiday meant a visit to his grandparent's home in Harvest, a fishing and camping trip with his family and plenty of fun times tagging along after his dad and grandpa.

Happy, carefree and energetic, John David is still too young to fully understand what it means to tag along in the footsteps of two American heroes.

But, for many Americans, the military service of retired Marine Lt. Col. John D. Harrill Jr. and his son, Marine Maj. John D. Harrill III, more than qualifies them for hero status. The two Marines – the eldest with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart among the many medals he received for his service in Vietnam and the younger with a Silver Star for his service in Iraq – have now added the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award to their collection of honorary medals.

The father and son were presented with the international award at the Spirit of America Festival in Decatur on July 4. They told the audience of more than 20,000, including 75 Marines from the Marine Detachment at Redstone Arsenal and cadets from the Marine Junior ROTC program at Johnson High, that they would accept the award on behalf of all who have served their country.

"We both kind of feel the same way," the elder Harrill said in an interview the day before the Fourth of July celebration. "Obviously, we are honored and appreciate this award. But, at the same time, we are kind of humbled. We realize all the troops and veterans who have served, and all the families who are super patriots and have sacrificed a lot. It's a little awkward because we don't feel we are any more patriotic than other veterans."

Furthermore, Marine officers are taught, simply, not to take credit for victories, the younger Harrill explained.

"As a Marine officer, you are taught that the young Marines get all the credit for the great things that happen," he said. "The officers take responsibility for failures, but give the credit to their Marines who bear the brunt of the battle, who are the ones in the knife fight."

Yet, by accepting the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award, the Harrill father and son knew they were bringing honor to all



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**FAMILY TIME**— Both retired Marine Lt. Col. John D. Harrill Jr. and his son, Marine Maj. John D. Harrill III, have seen combat – one in Vietnam and the other in Iraq. While both have given their time in the service of their country, the father and son cherish the time they have for their family, which includes Harrill III's son, John David. The two Harrill men were honored with the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award at the Spirit of America Festival in Decatur on the Fourth of July.

Marines, servicemembers and veterans. Such has been a recurring theme of recent Spirit of America Festivals as other veterans have been honored with the award. Last year, highly decorated Vietnam War veteran retired Army Capt. Bill Hogan received the award. In 2005, National Guard Sgt. Michael Acquaviva, who served in Iraq, received it on behalf of all Alabama military.

This year, the Audie Murphy award recognized for the first time a father and son who both served in the military. With them at the awards presentation were Harrill Jr.'s wife, Gloria; and Harrill III's wife, Joanne, along with children John David and 10-year-old Jessica. The younger Harrill family lives in Quantico, Va., where Harrill III has just finished a two-year recruiting assignment. After some additional training, Harrill III hopes for a second tour of duty in Iraq.

"Iraqis want a successful, peaceful life," said Harrill III, 37. "And, I want to help them achieve that."

"Every Marine joins the Marine Corps because they know it's the toughest branch and that it will present them with a challenge. We all see making Iraq successful as a



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**GOING FISHING**— John David Harrill, 5, is all smiles as he helps his dad, Marine Maj. John D. Harrill III, and his grandfather, retired Marine Lt. Col. John D. Harrill Jr, get ready for a camping and fishing trip.

See Heroes on page 3

## An open lane random survey

What's your favorite color and why?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil



Vera Lopez  
Northrop Grumman  
"Orange – it's so sunny, cheery, summery."

Alisa Howard  
Northrop Grumman  
"Purple – it's a mixture of blue and red. Blue is calming; red is vibrant. So it's a happy medium."



Sgt. Sandy Wade  
327th Field Artillery, Fort Bragg, N.C.  
"Sky blue, because it's a color that you can mix it with about any other color and it just brightens it. I like the aura around it. It's close to majestic. It just shines; it just sparkles."



Pvt. Kane Wilson  
Bravo Company  
"I'd have to say green. Leaves start out green, and in the fall they turn a different color. That's why I like it. Plus, I heard geniuses pick green anyway (laugh)."



## Quote of the week

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

— Colin Powell

## Letter to the Editor Reduced to chill level

Reference the letter concerning "fed up with plastic utensils," published June 27. As I read this letter, a chill ran through my body, and I prayed to God that our military fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq are not reduced to the same level as the writer. To force our fighting personnel to this level is at best totally unacceptable.

Rex R. Mills  
Huntsville

## Getting to know you

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

**Name:** Spc. Aurelio Paredes

**Job:** Electronic equipment calibration and repair student, Bravo Company

**Where do you call home?**  
Lawrence, Mass.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I like everything; I like to work with electronics.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Watch movies, play chess. That's what I do. And spend time with my family.

**What are your goals?**  
Become a sergeant major; it's the highest rank you can get in enlisted. Make my family happy. Raise my (three) kids. Get a good education for my kids.

**What's your favorite type of music?**  
I like soft music.



## Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**June 28:** Two individuals were observed in the Post Exchange selecting various items and exiting without rendering proper payment. The individuals had entered the post with identification they were no longer authorized to possess.

They were issued violation notices for shoplifting, unlawful possession of military ID and criminal trespass and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**July 2:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

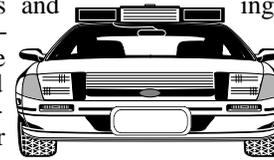
**July 2:** An individual entered a barracks room, which was not his

own, and removed other's property. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**July 3:** An individual had a disagreement with staff concerning his lodging bill. He then began screaming obscenities and being disorderly. He was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and returned to his unit.

**Traffic accidents reported:** four without injuries, none with injuries.

**Violation notices issued:** 24 speeding, 1 no driver's license in possession, 2 criminal trespassing, 1 unlawful use of government ID, 2 larceny, 2 inattentive driving, 4 failure to obey a traffic control device, 1 possession of a controlled substance, 1 no proof of insurance, 1 expired driver's license.



## Safety rules for motorcyclists

With increased gas prices, more people are likely to ride motorcycles these days. The Garrison wants to remind you about safety.

Garrison policy 385-56 prescribes safety procedures and requirements for operating a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal.

Before operating a motorcycle on post, people should successfully complete an approved rider or operator safety course.

Helmets should be certified to meet Department of Transportation standards and properly fastened under the chin. Impact or shatter resistant goggles or full-face shield should be properly attached to the helmet. A windshield or eye glasses alone are not proper eye protection.

Sturdy footwear is mandatory. This means leather/heavy canvas footwear high enough to protect the ankle.

A long-sleeve shirt or jacket, long trousers and full-fingered gloves or mittens, designed for motorcycle use, are required.

Highly reflective clothing, vest or reflective belt should be worn to allow maximum visibility to other vehicle operators. The reflective gear will be worn as an outer garment and not covered by any other article of clothing or equipment.

(Garrison release)



## Redstone Rocket

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# Blood donations sought in Armed Forces Week

You can show your support for the troops in harm's way by rolling up your sleeve.

The Armed Services Blood Program will be collecting July 17-18 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center. This will help replenish the blood supply for Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

"The best way to truly help Soldiers during Armed Forces Week is to give some blood," Amelia Flanigan, marketing manager for Morale Welfare and Recreation, said.

Many bases with large numbers of

troops have difficulty finding eligible donors because of deployments to the Middle East, small pox vaccines and tattoos, but Redstone has mostly civilian workers, which means many more eligible donors. The Armed Forces Blood Program is counting on posts like Redstone to make up for the shortage of eligible donors elsewhere.

The program has sent more than 61,000 blood products that have been used in transfusions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information, call 876-9754 or visit [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

## Annual award honors Marine father and son

### Heroes

continued from page 1

challenge. I have a vested interest to see Iraq succeed because of the relationships I built there and the people I met. We've lost a lot of Marines there in the fight for Iraqi freedom. I don't want to let them down."

Harrill III was awarded the Silver Star for actions while serving as the operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom from February to September 2005. During that time, Harrill III's "leadership and heroism while under fire contributed materially to the battalion's success in preventing the fall of Ar Ramadi, Iraq," said the medal citation.

According to Harrill III's Silver Star summary of action report, the Marine major was involved in several incidents in the fight for freedom in Ramadi and the Al Anbar province.

On March 31, 2004, Harrill III and four Marines returning from a late-night meeting with the Ramadi police chief were attacked by small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Harrill III ordered his vehicle to pull over and he led four Marines into machine-gun fire, engaged the enemy and pursued insurgents down several unlighted city blocks, during which an enemy rocket-propelled gunner aiming at fellow Marines was killed.

Five days later, Harrill III directed a raid that netted three high-value targets who were plotting a three-day counteroffensive to start within 48 hours, the report said. Within hours, three companies were engaged in fire fights in at least eight separate locations across several miles. While directing the fire fights, Harrill III's exposed vehicle started taking machine-gun fire. He suppressed the threat and then continued to direct the actions of six companies. The fire fight continued for nearly seven hours, killing about 200 enemy fighters and defeating the enemy.

During another battle, Harrill III's battalion was ambushed by insurgents. While

coordinating battalion combat units, Harrill III personally suppressed enemy machine-gun and rocket-propelled-grenade posts. The fighting continued for three days, during which Harrill III helped to hunt down insurgents and restore order to the city of about 450,000. While his battalion suffered 14 deaths and 40 to 60 Marines wounded, the enemy lost between 500 and 600 insurgents in the fire fight.

Harrill III continued to lead the battalion throughout many fire fights that occurred during his seven-month deployment.

"We got there right after the insurgents broke out in full force in Ramadi," Harrill III said. "We fought on a daily basis and laid the foundation for some of the successes we're having there now. But, we did more than that. We met with the governor daily. We organized a police force and an army battalion. We assisted with new businesses, and helped build schools and sewage systems. We basically helped build the city from scratch."

They also worked with city officials who were establishing a court system to execute and adjudicate law.

"We saw them reading Thomas Jefferson and Paine as they tried to get their hands around democracy," Harrill III said of the Iraqis he worked with.

"Now in the Al Anbar province, violence seems to have declined dramatically and a lot of tribes are in line with the armed forces and with keeping peace. Hopefully, I like to think we laid the groundwork for that."

Throughout his deployment, Harrill III lived the Marine motto and code of ethics - "No better friend. No worse enemy," "First, do no harm" and "Keep your honor clean."

"You can become a physical casualty. But, if you are not there doing the right thing and keeping your honor clean then there will be far more casualties," he said.

Though Iraq is not a mirror image of Vietnam, Harrill Jr. does see similarities in the courage and heroism of the Marines and Soldiers fighting there, and in the desire for freedom among the country's people.

# Downed helicopter crew rescued

WASHINGTON - An AH-64 Apache helicopter crew rescued two U.S. pilots after enemy fire brought down their OH-58D Kiowa helicopter south of Baghdad on July 2.

The OH-58 pilots suffered minor injuries. An Air Force Thunderbolt II destroyed the downed helicopter with two 500-pound laser-guided bombs after the pilots were evacuated from the area.

In operations July 3, coalition forces killed three terrorists, detained 29 suspects and destroyed a cache of bomb-making materials, U.S. officials said. (American Forces Press Service)

Harrill Jr., 65, served two tours in Vietnam. During his first tour in 1966-67, he was an infantry company commander, leading about 200 Marines in missions to "find, fix and destroy the enemy" in northern Vietnam. The South Vietnamese army had to face not only a well trained and equipped North Vietnamese Army but also the Viet Cong, who Harrill Jr. described as "South Vietnamese insurgents."

Harrill Jr. received the Bronze Star with valor during his second tour for action while serving as the senior adviser to about 600 South Vietnam forces from June 1970 to June 1971, his citation said. In support of the Eighth Infantry Battalion, Vietnam Marine Corps in Operation CUU LONG I, Harrill Jr. engaged the enemy while also coordinating all U.S. supporting arms, including tactical air, helicopter gunships, artillery, resupply and medical evacuation support.

As an adviser to the Fourth Infantry Battalion, Harrill Jr. also participated in Operation LAM SON SEVEN ONE NINE, which was the invasion of Laos in an attempt to destroy the Ho Chi Minh Trail. U.S. losses were high, with 257 killed in action, 1,149 missing in action, 107 helicopters downed and five planes destroyed. Harrill Jr.'s leadership contributed to the saving of many U.S. lives.

"His outstanding effectiveness in this regard greatly increased the morale and combat efficiency of the Vietnamese Marines and contributed immeasurably to their ultimate success during combat operations ... Throughout his tour, he performed his duties under the threat of enemy terrorist squads and rocket and mortar attacks," his citation reads.

It was also during his second tour that Harrill Jr. sustained a head wound, for which he received a Purple Heart.

"We were rocketed and mortared daily by the North Vietnamese," Harrill Jr. said. "They would hit us at times when we'd be gathered together, like at chow time. We were eating dinner and we heard bullets whistling by. We started for the foxholes and a piece of shrapnel hit the back of my head."

The shrapnel is still lodged in Harrill Jr.'s head, a souvenir of war that still can set off metal detectors.

# Schoolbus 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 provided 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)

After retiring from the Marines in 1983, Harrill Jr. came to Huntsville, taking over as the senior Marine instructor of the Junior ROTC program at Johnson High. During his 17 years there, his son was one of his cadets.

"I always had an interest in the Marines," said Harrill III, who graduated from Johnson in 1988.

"He was a good one," his dad said, smiling. "He was the battalion commander his senior year."

As the afternoon grew shorter, it was time for the Harrill father and son - joined by the young John David - to finish packing for their fishing and camping trip, which they planned to take after the July 4th awards ceremony.

Time will tell if John David decides to follow in the footsteps of the two heroes in his life.

"I'll let John David decide if the Marines are for him," Harrill III said. "It's a good life. But, he has to make his own decision."

# Worker prays for husband's safe return from duty

*He's serving in Iraq as bomb technician*

By **BECKY PROAPS**

*Huntsville Engineering Center*

For many people July 4 is a holiday spent celebrating this country's freedoms with barbecues, fireworks, family and friends. For one Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, employee, it is another holiday she spends worrying about her husband's safety and praying for his safe return home from Iraq in March 2008.

"Tyler's specialty is EOD (explosive ordnance disposal). He is a bomb technician," explained Anita Ayers, a contract specialist on the Contract Placement Team. Her husband, an active duty staff sergeant, is assigned to the 725th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company from Fort Drum, N.Y., and is stationed at Camp Warhorse (renamed Camp Freedom 1), near Baquba, about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. His unit deployed in December 2006.

Communication or lack thereof has been one of the biggest challenges they face.

"We only get one five-to-10-minute phone call every three to four days if that. Sometimes we go as long as a week. I've told him he's going to have to learn how to use a pen, because I have to hear something," Ayers said. "Everybody laughs at me because I go to every meeting and the first thing I do is apologize for my phone. It's gotten to the point where everyone understands that I have my phone with me and why I have it. It is my lifeline to him — if it rings I excuse myself and answer it because that is all I get; that is all I'm

going to get for who knows how long. And everyone at the center has been very supportive and understanding."

Communication is a big challenge, but worrying and lack of information is the most difficult part to deal with daily.

"Everyone tells you not to watch the news but that's the only link you have to information. You fervently watch it, even though it's upsetting, but you just want to know, you just want to hear something. Even when I talk to him, I know not to ask because I know he can't tell. He was injured a while back and I didn't know for two weeks," she said.

"Tyler loves what he does but unfortunately what he does over there has proven to be very, very dangerous. The day he was injured, his vehicle took a direct hit from an IED (improvised explosive device) — a targeted hit," Ayers said. "Because it was a direct hit the blast threw all three men against the roof of the vehicle. They had concussions for three days and all their ribs were bruised. But it could have been so much worse."

EOD teams are now traveling in vehicles called Cougars (mine-protected armored patrol vehicles). "They are the new vehicles with diamond shaped hulls so when the IEDs explode they don't implode on the Soldiers," Ayers explained. "They deflect the blast away from the occupants and are ultra armored."

Ayers gets through every day by staying busy. She bought a home in Brownsboro and is renovating it with help from her family who lives nearby.

As hard as it is for her, she admits it's so much harder for the wives with children and for some of the other young wives in the unit. Eighty percent of the unit is under 25 years old. The commander is 28; the oldest person in the unit is 36.

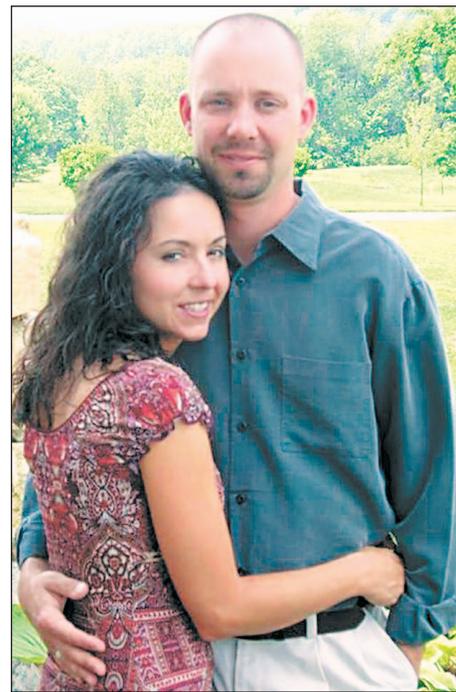
"Some of these wives are such heroes to me." Ayers said. "We have one wife with five children at home. It just boggles my mind; I have three dogs, and I can barely get to work in the morning. I don't even grasp the concept of how difficult it really is."

And that is what Ayers wants people to understand. "People should appreciate the fact that there is a lot of sacrifice going on. Good, bad, whether you believe in the war or not those guys and gals are doing their jobs and their families are back here making it through each day," she said.

"I also wish I could make people understand how grateful they should be for the little things. People grumble because their husband didn't mow the yard or they complain about little things, and I know when he's back I will take all that for granted as well. But when you are apart and you watch the news and you know someone is killed or kidnapped, you just hope someone doesn't drive up in your driveway. Your priorities change so significantly. I wish I could convey to people to be so appreciative of all our Soldiers and to be supportive of what they are up against every day.

"A lot of people say to me 'I see it on the news but it isn't somebody.' And it does become these massive numbers. You really forget — even with the death toll — you just see the number go up, it is just a number with no names or ages attached, but to somebody sitting somewhere cringing, it is something so different. You start to take the news a little more personally," Ayers said.

"There are people we pass every day, and we don't have a clue what they are dealing with. I have a blue star on my truck and every time I see someone else with that star on their car it's that little bit



Courtesy photo

**HOME ON LEAVE—** Contract specialist Anita Ayers, left, embraces her husband, Tyler, while he is home from Iraq for two weeks in June.

of connection of 'I don't know you but we are going through the same thing,'"

Every night before Ayers goes to bed she looks at her clock knowing her husband is waking up. The days and nights are opposite in Iraq. "I know he's getting into the truck, and I know that someone wants to try to kill him. And that is a concept that you can't dwell on but it's the truth."

# Happy to lead a roll-up-your-sleeves outfit

*Byrd becomes director at Redstone test center*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

David Byrd learned right away to wear jeans to work rather than a coat and tie because he'd be getting his hands dirty in this job.

Fresh out of engineering school, Byrd was told he'd be working with hardware rather than sitting behind a desk. He couldn't have been happier at the Redstone Technical Test Center.

Now, 26 years later, he is RTTC's director.

"Eventually the coat and tie comes back," Byrd said laughing. "But this is really a roll-up-your-sleeves and get-the-job-done organization."

It's also like a family and more than just showing up for work eight hours a day, according to Byrd. "You have a sense of accomplishment and knowing what you do has an impact on Soldiers," he said.

Byrd officially became director of the Redstone Technical Test Center in a ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium. He had served as acting director since January when James Johnson left to become executive director of the Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. RTTC is among nine test centers under the Developmental Test Command, which is part of the Army Test and Evaluation Command.

"It's a position of very important responsibility," Byrd said of his job. "This organization plays a major role in the acquisition and fielding of our weapon systems, specifically those managed by Team Redstone. And we have a responsibility to ensure that our Soldiers have the best systems possible to accomplish their missions."

Byrd, 49, served as chief of the electro-mechanical test division from 2000 until becoming the center's acting director. RTTC has about 700 people, including government and contractor.

"It is the high point of my career to be the director of a prestigious organization," said Byrd, a GS-15. "And I hope that I can fulfill all the responsibilities of this job and continue to grow the organization. The men and women of this organization are really the ones that make this organization a success. It's a teamwork effort."

Under base realignment and closure, the Aviation Technical Test Center is to arrive from Fort Rucker by the end of fiscal 2011 to consolidate with RTTC into what will become the Redstone Test Center.

Byrd said his goals are "to continue the organization in providing the highest quality of test support to our customers, to keep the organization on the leading edge of technology, to maintain a work force that is enthusiastic about the work they're doing and has the required skill sets needed to meet the mission, and to posture the organization for the BRAC consolidation with the Aviation Technical Test Center."

Born in Picayune, Miss., he grew up in Huntsville. He graduated from Grissom High in 1976 then went to Auburn University for about a year before finishing at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UAH in 1981 and arrived that July as a test engineer in the dynamics test branch. Byrd has been at the center ever since. Last year, from February until August, he had a developmental assignment as the acting director for test management at the Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen.

He and his family reside in Harvest. His wife, Laura, teaches preschool at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Huntsville. Their daughter, Amy, 21, will be a senior in elementary education at the University of Alabama. Their son, Andrew, 18, has graduated from Sparkman High and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**HANDS ON—** David Byrd learned early in his career as an engineer that he'd work with hardware at the Redstone Technical Test Center, rather than sit behind a desk.

will attend Auburn this fall in pre-engineering.

His hobbies include working around the house and in the yard, woodworking and – although he doesn't often get the opportunity – he enjoys camping and hunting. He still likes wearing jeans when he can.

# 59th Ordnance brigade reaches retention milestone



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

**STAYING IN—** Sgt. 1st Class David Hooks, right, recites the oath of re-enlistment following the lead of Lt. Col. Randle Jackson, left, commander of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, during Hooks' re-enlistment July 3 in front the battalion formation leading into the Fourth of July holiday. Hooks' indefinite re-enlistment completed the brigade's active component retention objective for fiscal 2007.

## *Active duty re-enlistment goal achieved for year*

By Sgt. ELIAMAR TRAPP

Staff writer

[eliamar.trapp@redstone.army.mil](mailto:eliamar.trapp@redstone.army.mil)

"When there's something that you want to do, you just have to take it by the horns," said Sgt. 1st Class David Hooks, drill sergeant at Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, to all the 832nd Soldiers following his indefinite re-enlistment July 3.

Hook's re-up was a milestone for the 59th Ordnance Brigade, not only because of the re-enlistment of an outstanding leader and NCO, but also because his re-enlistment marked the completion of the 59th's active component retention objective for fiscal 2007.

"This is a great achievement for the brigade and the Army," said Staff Sgt. Tamara Price, career counselor for the 59th. "Meeting our objective does not mean that we will stop trying to keep quality Soldiers in the Army. This is merely a step in the right direction."

"The retention mission is and will always be important to the command team," 59th commander Col. Jose Enriquez said. He added that the retention mission is crucial in keeping experience in the Army by retaining Soldiers who are trained, ready and have

developed the necessary leadership skills to accomplish the Army's mission.

To meet the objective, Price and the retention NCOs of the 59th, including the brigade's battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga., and its detachments at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Sill, Okla., worked hard to surpass their mission making 650 percent of initials, 169 percent of mid-careers and 100 percent of career re-enlistment objectives.

"It's not all about the numbers," Price said. "It's about ensuring our Soldiers have a better future in the military and have the assignments that will help their career progression while ensuring the Army's force structure is strengthened."

In fiscal 2006 the 59th won the Training and Doctrine Command Top Brigade Retention Award for Medium Installations, a goal that it is attempting to reach this year. To reach that goal again, the 59th needs to make its Reserve Component mission, Price said.

As for Hooks, he'll be leaving the trail this fall and going to Germany. "I came in (to work today) not knowing what I was going to do until I spoke with Staff Sgt. Price," he said. "I've been in the Army for 11 years and it's been (good) to me. This is something I knew I had to do."

He also thanked his family, currently in North Carolina, for its support throughout his military career.

# America's Army game celebrates fifth anniversary

*Top-10 online pastime launches new web site*

WEST POINT, N.Y. — July 4 marked the fifth anniversary of the launch of America's Army, the Army's computer game and one of the top-10 online games.

It also marked the launch of a new web site, [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com).

America's Army players go through boot camp, ranger and airborne training and even experience the elite special forces. They learn about rules of engagement, life-saving skills and the Army Values — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"The America's Army game places Soldiering front and center within popular culture and showcases the high-tech, team-oriented and values-driven nature of the Army," said Col. Casey Wardynski,

originator of the America's Army game.

Since its debut in 2002, the America's Army program has registered more than 8.5 million users in over 60 countries, and expanded to include console and cell-phone games, the Real Heroes program and the Virtual Army Experience. The game has been downloaded more than 40 million times, and players have spent more than 200 million hours, or 3.5 billion rounds of play, experiencing life as Soldiers.

"The America's Army game reflects the true Army, from its values to its cutting edge technology to its training," said Sgt. Tommy Rieman, whose likeness is portrayed by a character in America's Real Heroes. "It's exciting to think about all of the ways this program can tell our story."

The new web site features the Army Combat Uniform digital-camouflage pattern and new con-



Office of Economic Manpower & Analysis

**REALISTIC ACTION— Like real Soldiers, America's Army players must pass basic training, including the obstacle course, before going on to more advanced training and combat missions.**

tent that provides a sneak peek at America's Army 3.0, scheduled to launch in 2008.

In conjunction with video-game publisher Ubisoft, the Army also developed such

games as "America's Army: Special Operations" for cell phones and "America's Army: Rise of a Soldier" for Xbox. The next game, "America's Army: True Soldiers," will release for Xbox 360(tm) this fall.

The Real Heroes program tells the stories of Soldiers who received awards for courage in the war on terror through the America's Army game and a line of action figures. The program is featured at [www.americasarmy.com/real-heroes](http://www.americasarmy.com/real-heroes).

Participants in the Virtual Army Experience must employ teamwork, leadership and high-tech equipment as they take part in a hands-on virtual mission to capture a terrorist leader in a 10,000 square-foot interactive exhibit. The VAE schedule is located at [vae.americasarmy.com](http://vae.americasarmy.com).

*Editor's note: The Office of Economic Manpower & Analysis prepared this Army News Service article.*

# Civilian contributes to work safety in Iraq



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**CARRIED BANNER**— John Blandamer of the Garrison displays his award with a flag he received from his deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a safety and occupational health manager.

## Worker commended after yearlong tour

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer

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The ultimate goal of Team Redstone workers is to support the war fighter. Sometimes, doing that to the best of your ability means getting a little sand in your boots. John Blandamer is among many civilians who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and he has been recognized for it.

Blandamer received a framed commendation at the 2007 Army Civilian Human Resources Symposium on June 28, in Orlando, Fla. It was in recognition of the year he spent deployed to Iraq serving as the safety and occupational health manager for the Gulf Region North.

"I don't take it as recognizing me necessarily, but recognizing civilian service," Blandamer said. "It's the One Army concept. It's a recognition that in addition to the active duty Soldiers, it takes DoD civilians and contractors to make the whole thing work."

Blandamer serves as the acting Compliance Branch chief for environmental management at the Directorate of Public Works. As a safety man, Blandamer was concerned by the number of accidents he was seeing in Iraq. When he had the opportunity to deploy and work toward reducing those incidents firsthand, he took it.

"If a Soldier dies from an accident, there is a preliminary loss report put out by the Combat Readiness Center. I kept seeing those almost daily. That bothered me, especially since both of my sons have been mobilized with the National Guard," Blandamer said.

He was in Iraq from September 2005 to September 2006. For safety management purposes, the country was divided into three regions. Blandamer was sent to the Gulf Region North, which encompasses seven provinces from Baghdad north to the Syrian and Iranian borders. His job was to develop and implement a safety program for the 1,200 construction projects that were completed or began during his deployment. Ideas such as risk management, and occupational health and safety were just as foreign to the 35,000 Iraqi workers and contractors as the man sent to teach them, Blandamer said.

"Manpower is a bulk commodity there," he said. "When I first got there I was trying to impress upon an Iraqi contractor the importance of preserving his manpower by keeping people safe. I said 'What would happen if a mason fell off the side of the building and was killed?' He looked at me strangely and answered that we would get another one.' He said it like he would say that he'd get another pencil or just anything else."

Since the program was a new concept, there were no local safety professionals to hire in. Iraqis had to be trained in safety issues. Blandamer is proud that those Iraqis are out in the field today doing the job.

He also said that the war going on around the projects required that procedures deviate from what would be standard on a construction project in the United States.

"When you know it makes someone a target to put on a yellow safety harness or a white hard hat, then you really do start to balance where the real risks are," he said. "Safety over there wasn't about following the rule book. It was about trying

# Youngsters add skills in math and science

*Program reaches out to local students*

By MERV BROKKE  
Aviation and Missile RDEC

The Army's "Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science" program is under way at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Part of the Army Educational Outreach Program, GEMS consists of two levels that are open to middle and high school students. Both programs are led by college students, also referred to as "near-peer mentors." Additionally, a local teacher

takes part in the program by reviewing student applications and recommending who will participate in the programs and supervising the near-peer mentors.

Melonie Hanson, a science teacher at Huntsville High, is this year's GEMS teacher and is excited about what the students will be doing during the programs.

"GEMS I is a beginning program that runs daily for one week during the summer," Hanson said. "It explores the fields of physics, engineering and design through experiments, small group activities, problem solving and practical application. This year the GEMS I activities will include light and sound experiments, rocket construction and launch, robotics activities and experiments with electricity and alternative energy sources.

"GEMS II is intended for students who have previously attended GEMS I

and offers the students the opportunity to further their skills in science, mathematics, engineering and design."

Middle and high school students who wish to participate in the programs should work with their parents to apply online. Students are selected based on their interests in science, mathematics and engineering along with their science-related extracurricular activities and career goals.

Fifteen students are selected for each week of the program.

"This year the students represent 12 middle and high schools, public and private, from the region, and we received about 100 applications," Hanson said.

For more information about the GEMS program and other Army Educational Outreach Programs, visit the AEOP homepage <http://www.usaeop.com/aeop.htm>.

# Filipino gets lesson in freedom

A Filipino military student says he learned more than munitions during his stay at Redstone.

Staff Sgt. Salvador Tumangday of the Philippine Air Force learned America is the land of freedom. He attended the Ammunition Specialist Course from April 9 until graduating June 28.

"Freedom: this is the word that I like best," Tumangday said. "Everyone has the freedom to express what they want for themselves, their families, their communities and the world, to enjoy life. When we have the right to live the way we want, without minding or hurting others, when we have the freedom to say what we have in our minds, to live without being afraid that someone will harm us, to practice and worship God the way we believe in, to express in writing, or in words what we think is right, we shall all live in a free world happy and content.

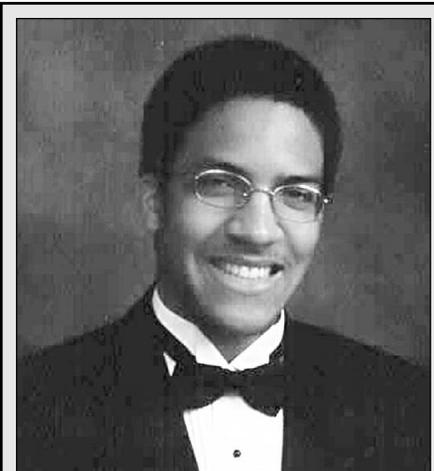
"I think this is what democracy stands for, to be free and live without force or being dictated by others. If only I have a way I want to live in this country, the land of the free.

The greatest country in the world to me. America is rich in technology, too, and the modern way of living are all reflected in how people live in their communities."

The International Military Student Office provides field studies program trips and other activities for military students from throughout the world. "The IMSO was very helpful in meeting my needs while I was here training," Tumangday said.



Staff Sgt. Salvador Tumangday



Courtesy photo

## Select scholar

Homer Reynolds III has been selected for a young scholars program at the University of Notre Dame. The African American Scholars at Notre Dame gives high school students the opportunity to enhance their leadership abilities during one week on the Notre Dame campus from July 8-14. Reynolds, 17, a senior at Catholic High, is the only participant selected from Alabama. He is the son of Lori Reynolds of G-1 Human Resources and Homer Reynolds of G-8 Resource Management.



Photo by Merv Brokke

**BRIDGE WORKS**— Students and instructors look on as a lightweight bridge is put to the test. This year's Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science or GEMS students were challenged to build a bridge out of sticks that would cross a 24-inch span. Here Amearah Elsamacidy, a GEMS near-peer mentor and sophomore at Vanderbilt University, adds weight to one of the bridges as the rest of the near-peer mentors and students count down 10 seconds. The GEMS classes are being held at the Software Engineering Directorate, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. The bridge held. Looking on from the left are Jonathan Lasiter, near-peer mentor, University of Alabama-Huntsville; John Alcorn, sophomore at Gateway Christian Academy; Amearah Elsamacidy; Jessica Haack, senior at Grissom High; Anna Morgan Crumbley, freshman at Bob Jones High; Vivian Nguyen, sophomore at Grissom; Lisa Kodgis, near-peer mentor, UAH; Darryl Gaines, sophomore at Sparkman High; and Branden Gaddis, junior at Lee High.

# Lessons of military benefit city police leader

## Huntsville's new chief a National Guardsman

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer  
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Leadership ranks high with Huntsville Police Chief Henry Reyes.

Recently promoted to police chief, this colonel in the Alabama Army National Guard has spent his career learning and teaching the principles of leadership. Now, as head of the area's largest police department, Reyes is charged with representing those leadership principles not only to his police officers and staff, but also to Huntsville's taxpayers and North Alabama's entire police community.

It is a charge that Reyes is ready and willing to stand up to. He brings to the job his four years of experience as a Vietnam-era Marine, about 25 years as a National Guard Soldier and nearly 30 years on the Huntsville police force.

"The military is very ethically oriented," Reyes said. "The leadership traits that it teaches can help any professional and, especially, a police officer."

Reyes leads a police department with three precincts, about 370

police officers and about 200 civilian staff. He answers to former police chief Rex Reynolds, who is now the city's director of Public Safety, the Huntsville City Council and upwards of 175,000 Huntsville residents.

Even though it's been a few months since his promotion, Reyes is still getting phone calls and being stopped in public by people who want to congratulate him on his promotion. This is one promotion that the entire North Alabama police community and Alabama Army National Guard can be proud of as Reyes' work with the Guard has been instrumental throughout the state.

"I'm very proud to be Huntsville's police chief and to serve in the National Guard," Reyes said. "I think it is an honor to be in a position to do both. I want to represent the best of the police department and the best of the National Guard."

As police chief, Reyes knows he faces a lot of challenges – fast city growth, traffic issues, lack of parental involvement with youth, manpower considerations, the need for additional police force equipment, cultural and language differences, and changing law enforcement needs, among them. But, he has one major asset on his side – the reputation of the local police

force is strong and officers are trusted by the community.

"The image here is great," Reyes said. "In fact, I get compliments all the time. Our officers are known for taking service to the community very seriously. Even in their off time, they are involved in their community. We have a very good professional image. Other departments look to us for training and for information. We stand tall for our community and for the area's other police departments."

Reyes emphasizes that it is important to keep communication open between the police department, and the different constituencies it serves and community service agencies, such as the Volunteer Center, that provide assistance to the police department.

"We can't be a stand alone police force. We have to work with the community. We have to be a community that is together," Reyes said. "We have to talk to each other, meet with each other, get to know each other and what's going on in all the different neighborhoods that make up Huntsville. This is a very safe city, and we want to work to keep it that way."

Reyes' life has been filled with opportunities to learn how to work with people from differing cultures



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**ON FRONT LINE—** Newly appointed Huntsville Police Chief Henry Reyes is an example of the kind of leader who has benefited from the training and experience he has received as a Marine, Alabama Army National Guard Soldier and Huntsville police officer. His training and experience should serve him well as he leads the Huntsville Police Department through challenges presented by a fast growing city that is culturally diverse.

See **Chief** on page 13

# Units add 54 Soldiers in June

The Garrison provided the following in-processing list for June. In some cases, Soldiers were already here but transferred to other units at Redstone:

- 1st Sgt. Kenneth Tincknell, Charlie Company; Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Col. Michael Paul Cavalier, PEO Aviation; Col. Kendal Cunningham, Space and Missile Defense Command; Col. Dennis Owen Young, SMDC; Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja, SMDC; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Erik Ryan Olsen, Aviation Support; Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Chambers, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Bernard Drew, Aviation Support; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Javier Gutierrez, Aviation Support; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Birche Forest Meese, Aviation Support;

- Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anthony Caudle, Aviation and Missile Command; Lt. Col. Aaron Marcus Brown,

PEO STRI Orlando; Lt. Col. Charles Emerson, PEO STRI Orlando; Lt. Col. Emery Fehl, MEDDAC; Lt. Col. Keith Allen Flail, PEO STRI Orlando; Lt. Col. Thomas Fluker, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Lt. Col. Randle Keith Jackson, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Lt. Col. Raymond Pickering, PEO IEW&S Redstone; Lt. Col. Karl Stahlecker, PEO Aviation; Lt. Col. Michael Steves, PEO Missiles and Space; Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, SMDC;

- Maj. James Coe, Headquarters & Alpha; Maj. Craig Cunningham, PEO Missiles and Space; Maj. Gregg Dellert, PM FCS (BCT) Redstone; Maj. Daniel Donahue, PEO Aviation; Maj. Gregory Haywood, PEO Missiles and Space; Maj. Edward Pfeffer, SMDC; Maj. Eddie Pressley, PEO Missiles and Space; Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bielefeld, NCO Academy; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Conner, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Ferris, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Tyson Henry, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st

Class James Lanning, MEDDAC; Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Ray McSwain, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Mildred Morris, Aviation and Missile Command;

- Sgt. 1st Class Erika White, SMDC; Sgt. Maj. David Sampleton, SMDC; Sgt. Clayton Jennings, Charlie Company; Sgt. Andre Powell, SMDC; Spc. Shane Sager, Aviation Support; Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Allison, MEDDAC; Staff Sgt. William Branch, Bravo Company; Staff Sgt. Curtis Carson, SMDC; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Conner, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Leroy Early, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Jesse Evans, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Joi Elizabeth Friend, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Tony Harrison, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Shawn Jones, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. Felix Knight, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Daniel Meeker, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Christopher Payne, HHC 59th; and Staff Sgt. Brian Postage, HHC 59th.

## Reyes wants to represent best of police and Guard

### Chief

continued from page 12

and points of view. He was born in Germany. His parents divorced and his mother later married an Air Force airman, and the family moved to the U.S. Reyes was in the Air Force Junior ROTC program at his Panama City high school. But, during his time there, he also considered the Marines, visiting Parris Island, S.C., in both his junior and senior year. After graduating in 1973, the Marines became his choice.

"The Marine Corps was a calling for me," Reyes said. "I liked the discipline the Marine Corps offered. I had a possible appointment to the Air Force Academy. But, I turned that down because I wanted to be part of the 'few good men' of the Marines. I really felt that was where I wanted to go."

Reyes served as a ground radio repairman in a variety of Marine units, including the 18th Marine Wing Communications Squadron, 1st Marine Infantry Division and the 2nd Tank Battalion. His service took him to Japan, Okinawa and Australia as a radio technician. It also led him to Huntsville.

"I met a Marine at Camp Pendleton (Calif.) who was from Huntsville," Reyes said. "I visited him and liked the area. It was 1977 and Huntsville was still a small city. I really liked the area."

After four years, Reyes opted to leave the Marines and move to Huntsville, where he worked at GTE Automatic Electric and pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, with a major in business management and a minor in criminal justice.

"At that time, the Huntsville Police Department had an internship program where you could ride with officers and learn about the police department," Reyes said. "That's when I started thinking this would be something I would really like to do. I liked the idea of serving the community. I liked the respect the uniform received."

Reyes served as a volunteer reserve officer. He graduated from UAH and enrolled in the police academy.

"My advantage at the police academy was my military background," Reyes said. "I was able to handle the challenges of the academy easier than others because of what I had experienced in the Marines."

At about the same time, he was recruited by the National Guard. He visited the Alabama Military Academy at Fort McClellan to evaluate the Guard program.

"It was a natural fit for me," Reyes said. "I could be in the National Guard without it affecting my plans with the Huntsville police force. In the Guard, I was able to train officer candidates for three years at the academy. I then became a platoon leader with the 279th Signal Battalion."

Through the years, as he climbed the ranks in the Huntsville Police Department, Reyes also climbed the ranks in the National Guard, serving as a company commander, operations officer, executive officer and battalion commander for the 279th, as public affairs officer and operations officer for the 142nd and as public affairs officer for the State Headquarters Command. Currently, he is joint assignments officer for the 142nd and Human Resources manager for the Joint Forces Headquarters. He has also served as past president of the Alabama National Guard Association and as past vice president of National Guard Affairs for the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

"Whether it's part time in the Guard or Reserves or full time on active duty, anybody can learn a lot from military experience," Reyes said. "It teaches you leadership and personal development, work ethics, how to handle real-life situations, and it helps you to learn how to think. I think a lot of times employers – and certainly the police department — get a better quality employee if they have gone through the military."

That was most evident to Reyes in his career when he joined the police department's SWAT Team.

"Even if you have the qualifications, you don't get on the SWAT Team unless the whole team wants you," he said. "It's a very close knit group because of the real life-and-death situations they get into. The team has got to want you, has got to trust in your ability, before you can be a member of the SWAT Team."

Reyes' military experience has worked well for him throughout his police career in a city that has diverse cultures.

"The lessons learned on how to work well with others and how to communicate, especially with people from foreign countries, were valuable when I was working the streets as a police officer," he said. "As a Marine, I learned the difference in cultures, and how people are different, but similar. As a young police officer, that really helped me in working with others."

Reyes is organizing key segments of the police department to make them more effective and responsive to community needs. He is an active part of the department's recruiting plan and is involved on a daily basis with what is happening on the streets of Huntsville.

"If we see a trend in a certain area we are going to address it," he said. "We are very aggressive in the way we do things. We focus not on problems, but on solutions as to how to fix problems. We are very proactive in what we do."

As professional demands on Reyes' time escalate and he gets closer to his combined 35 years of military service, the Guard colonel will consider retirement from the Guard or possibly joining the Reserves.

"I will make the decision one way or the other in about a year," he said. "I have to weigh all considerations. I want to continue my military service, but I also have to think about what's good for Huntsville and the police force. As all leaders know, it's a matter of setting priorities."

# Redstone golf course grows in threes

Grand opening tees off July 17 for three new holes at Links

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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Play will begin next week on the newest addition to the Links at Redstone.

A grand opening for three new holes is scheduled Tuesday, July 17 at 11 a.m. The first tee of the new three is just west of the No. 9 green on Meadowview.

"We eventually would like to have 36 holes of golf," Mark Germonprez, business operations officer for Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "And this is the start to getting to that point. And we're very proud and excited about the three holes because (golf course superintendent) Larry Underwood and his team did an incredible job of building them."

Underwood and his maintenance crew did the work in-house. Construction went from February to August 2006; and since then they have been managing the turf to prepare for play. MWR's Capital Purchases and Minor Construction dollars paid the \$195,000 cost.

The three additions bring the Links to 30 holes; and there are plans to add six more.

"We're finalizing the plans of when construction will be complete (for six more holes), where we'll have two 18-hole golf courses or 36 holes," Germonprez said.

These three will be Nos. 10, 17 and 18 on the south side of Goss Road. No. 10 is a par-4 measuring 385 yards from the blue tees, 360 from the white, 320 from the gold and 270 from the red. No. 17 is a par-3 with 202 yards from the blue tees, 180 from the

white, 145 gold and 125 red. And No. 18 is a par-4 with 425 blue, 390 white, 345 gold and 305 red.

"It'll give us an 18-hole championship golf course," Underwood said. "It's a new Bermuda grass."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ROLLING GREEN**— Mark Germonprez tries a putt as Larry Underwood looks on at the new No. 18 green at the Links at Redstone. Germonprez is MWR's business operations officer; and Underwood is the golf course superintendent.

Tuesday's grand opening is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first playing group includes post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski, Underwood and MWR director Derrick Gould. The second group includes Germonprez, golf course manager/professional Jon Samuelson, golf course president John Smith and Redstone Ladies Golf Association president Jan Berry. Once the first two groups tee off, the three holes will be open for play at no charge for the rest of the day. But this will be walking only — no riding carts allowed.

"After that day, the three holes will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays," Germonprez said. "The grass is still young and that'll give us time to give it a little more maintenance and to rest from any play."

After Tuesday's opening, members will be able to play those three holes for free. Non-members will pay \$3 for three holes and \$7 for nine holes. Junior golfers — ages 17 and under — will be able to play those three holes for free on Thursdays.

"It's so exciting to be part of watching the field go from a pasture ground to a golf course," said Germonprez, a PGA member. "What Larry and his staff did over there in-house while maintaining 27 holes is incredible. I've never seen that much dedication and hard work for that period of time from a group of people. It was absolutely outstanding."

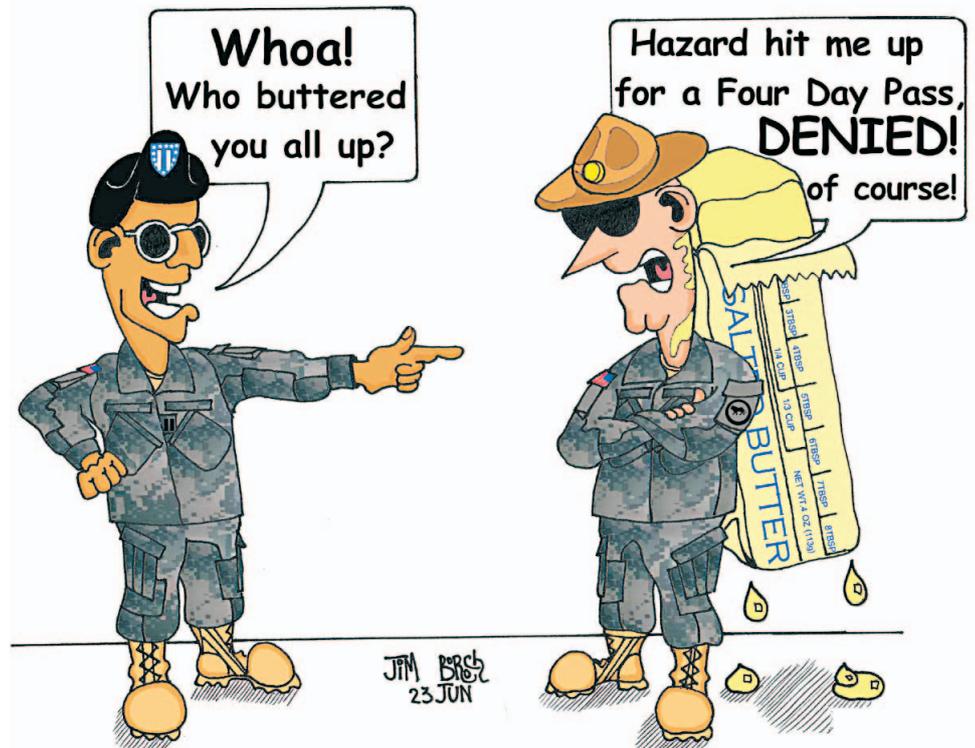
Said Underwood, "It was a great experience; there's not many times you get to build three holes as a superintendent."

## Retiree makes hole-in-one

Retired Sgt. Maj. George Case has been playing golf for probably 20 years. But he'd never done this before.

Case made a hole-in-one on June 29 with a 7-iron from 140 yards at Hillside No. 6 at the Links at Redstone. Witnesses included Roy Ponder, Rick Lindsey and David Scott.

"We had a good party out here three days in a row," he quipped last week at the course.



# Community salutes military with week of events

*Armed Forces Celebration scheduled next week*

By CHRIS GARDNER  
For the Rocket

It is that time of year again, time for the Redstone and the Madison-Huntsville community to come together to pay tribute to servicemembers. It's time for Armed Forces Celebration Week.

The theme for Armed Forces Week, July 16-22, is "America Supports You – Our Military Men and Women." Many of the events are open to the public.

Together with Redstone, the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce will have a proclamation signing to kick off the week. It is set to begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday at the Redstone Airfield and there will be military hardware on display, such as helicopters and missile systems. Those with access to Redstone are welcome to attend.

Redstone Arsenal's NCO/Soldier of the Year Award luncheon will also be held July 16 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The event honors Redstone's outstanding NCO and Soldier. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon at 876-8648.

The 135th Army Band, Springfield,



Mo., will headline the "Concert in the Park" series, sponsored by the city of Huntsville and the Art Council, on Monday at Big Spring Park. The local group Band of Moose, which plays "jam rock," will kick off the night at 6:30 p.m. and the 135th will begin around 7:30. The concert concludes with a fireworks display at approximately 9.

The Concert in the Park is open to the public; and people are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is set for

three performances at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Performances are Tuesday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and July 18 at 7 p.m. For tickets contact the Diane Campbell Recreation Center in building 3711 or the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce. The Army National Guard is the lead sponsor and partner for the Soldier Show and AT&T is the corporate sponsor.

The Armed Forces Salute Dinner, sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army and the Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Von

Braun Center North Hall. There will be a general reception starting at 5:30 p.m. in the East/West Hall with military exhibits and displays. The scheduled speaker is Gen. William Wallace, commander of Training and Doctrine Command.

The change of command ceremony for Aviation and Missile Command will be July 19 at 9 a.m. at the Sparkman Complex Parade Field. The ceremony will see Maj. Gen. James Myles take over as commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury move on to the Army Materiel Command's operations.

To wrap up the week, AUSA will hold the Armed Forces Week golf tournament July 20 at the Links at Redstone. The tournament is a four-person scramble open to the public. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m. Cost is \$45 for military and DoD civilians and \$85 for others. The price includes entry fee, green fees, cart, food and drink. There is a limit of 192 players in the tournament. For more information, call Mike Kelley at 542-5100 or Rod Bissell at 922-6801.

For more information about Armed Forces Celebration Week, log on to the Team Redstone or AMCOM web site for a calendar of events. You can also call the Chamber of Commerce at 535-2000, or the Public Affairs Office at 842-0558.

# University's new laboratory to help verify weapons

## UAH supports command maintenance program

The University of Alabama-Huntsville has unveiled its newest laboratory that will add to the university's capabilities in assisting the Army in determining the durability of the equipment used by Soldiers.

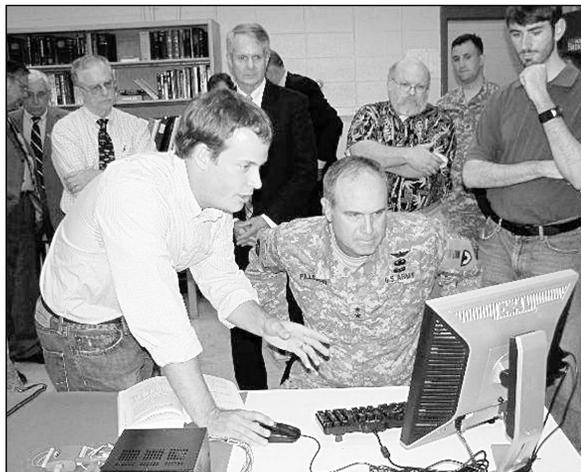
A new laboratory in UAH's Von Braun Research Hall contains the Highly Accelerated Life Testing chamber, which can produce environments that accelerate the life cycle of various parts through extreme environments.

"The goal of the chamber is simply to try and break these components," said Chris Sautter, the interim director for UAH's Center for Material Research.

Sautter said the HALT chamber takes components through temperature swings from minus 100 degrees to more than 200 degrees Celsius. At the same time, it has the capability to change the humidity from zero to 85 percent and vary the vibration from zero to 100gs RMS

(gravity root mean squared), a means of measuring the level of vibration in terms of "g." He said all three parameters can be varied to replicate various test conditions.

UAH created the laboratory to support Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury's Condition-Based Maintenance program, which



Courtesy photo

**LAB DEMO— Chad Reeves, who is studying for a doctorate in systems engineering at UAH, also works at the Army's Engineering Directorate. He puts on a demonstration for Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.**

has a positive impact on current maintenance practices by reducing the burden on the Soldier-mechanics and improving the mission reliability of the weapon systems.

Pillsbury, commander of AMCOM, said improving the reliability of the machines used by Soldiers allows those machines to better be used on the battlefield to kill more "bad guys."

The Aviation and Missile Command's Condition-Based Maintenance office

played a key role in development of the laboratory, according to Sautter.

He added the HALT chamber is an important new addition to the university's capabilities.

"Our hopes for UAH is that we will become the 'go to' guys for the engineers at AMCOM and NASA that are looking to qualify new parts or are examining the failure modes of fielded components that are not living up to expectations." (UAH release)

## Worker took opportunity to reduce accidents in Iraq

### Safety

continued from page 10

to look at the magnitude of risk from a construction safety problem versus the risk that's created by controlling it. Even the balance between project oversight, the amount you can do to make sure it's done right, and too much which draws attention to the site and might make it a target."

Insurgent attacks were a new safety factor for Blandamer. He said that not only would construction areas themselves be targeted, sometimes they went after the workers directly. The insurgents sometimes got more than they bargained for.

"At a clinic project, a half-dozen insurgents showed up and threatened the workers. They (the insurgents) threatened them not to come back to work or they would kill them. They came back a second time and threatened them again," Blandamer said. "The third time this happened, the workers picked up shovels and hammers. They ran the insurgents

down and captured five of them. They held them until U.S. forces came to take them into custody."

When his deployment ended, there had not been a construction related death in his region. Considering there had been 13 in the four months before his arrival, Blandamer calls the mission a success.

"I don't take personal credit for that. A whole bunch of people contributed to that," he said. "We were able to push the envelope and have no construction fatalities."

Blandamer received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his work in Iraq. His most recent award from the Army Civilian Human Resources Symposium honors him as a part of the bigger picture. That is the distinction he prefers. He stresses that he is just one of thousands of civilians doing their part for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We've had, I think, around 7,000 DoD civilians deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "Even the people who are not deployed support that effort over there. Proximity doesn't mean you're not doing your part."

# Protect your rights when you lease a vehicle

## *Servicemembers advised on civil relief guidelines*

By **JULIE UNGER**  
*For the Rocket*

A lease vs. a retail installment sales contract — the slight but distinct difference has been catching many Soldiers in its trap.

Automotive finance companies are structuring contracts to avoid the application of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Because parties are free to negotiate the terms of an agreement, this practice is legal. Servicemembers can preserve their SCRA protection by simply understanding their rights and demanding clarity.

Under the SCRA, a servicemember has the right to terminate an automobile lease agreement if she is deployed for at least 180 days, receives orders for a PCS from a continental U.S. posting to an OCONUS posting, or enters active duty for more than 180 days. However, SCRA lease protection does not protect against a retail install-

ment sales contract.

Retail installment contracts can look and feel like leases and automobile lenders are using this to their advantage. However, there is a key distinction between the two — the title to the vehicle. When a vehicle is leased, it is titled in the name of the leasing company. But when a vehicle is sold under a retail installment sales contract, it is titled in the name of the purchaser with a lien placed on the vehicle by the finance company. The sales contract can resemble a lease by the use of low “lease-like” payments for two to four years and a final balloon payment representing the remaining value of the vehicle. At the end of the contract, the purchaser is faced with two options: pay the balloon payment for the title free of the lien or sell the vehicle back to the leasing company for the exact amount of the remaining balance. The sales contract will have the same restrictions as a lease such as mileage limitations and penalties. And while a sales contract looks and feels like a lease, servicemembers cannot terminate it by invoking the SCRA.

Servicemembers can avoid this issue by clearly demanding a lease. A lease agreement must identify the agreement as a lease. A lease agreement will be identified by the word “lease” at the

top of the first page of the contract. By understanding the finer details of the SCRA provisions and the differences between a lease and a retail sales contract, servicemembers can ensure that

they are informed consumers and not preyed upon by advantageous automobile finance companies.

*Editor's note: Julie Unger is a Redstone Arsenal Legal Assistance volunteer.*



Courtesy photo

## *Admin professionals*

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter International Association of Administrative Professionals installed its 2007-08 officers June 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The installing officer was Ellen Mahathey, assisted by June Pockrus, both charter members and past presidents of the chapter. From left are president-elect Hillary Clay, vice president Dorothy May, recording secretary Jean Ferrante, treasurer Susan Douglas and member-at-large Jackie Kenner. Not pictured is president Amanda Medley.

# Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Fall soccer

Register for Child and Youth Services fall soccer from now through July 30 at building 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](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

### Vipers football

The Tennessee Valley Vipers will hold "Military Appreciation Night" on Saturday at the Von Braun Center. That night's game at 7:30 is against the Fort Wayne Fusion in arenafootball2. Free tickets are available to all military, retired military and their family members. All others can get tickets for \$10 for general admission seats, \$18 for reserved box seats at the VBC box office. For military tickets, visit building 3206 off Little John Drive or call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969. For group information, call the Vipers office 518-6160.

### Golf tournament

The eighth annual John Riche Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by 100 Black Men of America, is July 27 at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. Registration starts at noon and tee time at 1 p.m. The four-man scramble costs \$100 per player and \$400 per team. For more information call Vann Pettaway 372-4009, Marshall England 539-2014 and Mirie Westbrook 694-0646.



## Conferences & Meetings

### Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is holding its summer Bible study program this Thursday and July 19 and 26 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Nursery care is provided. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 489-3018 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

### Town hall

The LCMC Town Hall, with AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, is today at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. It will be broadcast on Team Redstone Television Channel 42 and via Internet Portal TV to computer desktops equipped with the IPTV application. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium. Badges must be worn by all attending. All AMCOM,

PEO Aviation and PEO Missiles and Space employees are encouraged to attend.

### Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. The scheduled speaker is Terry Gerton, AMC G8, who will talk to members about resource management issues. For ticket information, call Marlene Clemons 313-2378 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

### Civil War discussion

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday 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 Saturday 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.

### 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.

### Engineer society

The Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers will have a lunch meeting 11:30 a.m. July 19 at SAIC's conference room, 4901 D Corporate Drive, Huntsville. Cost is \$10. For reservations call Amber Martin 895-1834.

### 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).

See Announcements on page 22

# Announcements

## 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](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

## 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 Inter-

national 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](mailto:grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil).

## 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.

## 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](http://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. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays through Thursdays. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

## 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.

## 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 today and July 14, 17, 25 and 28. For course information, contact Ralph Harris at [93hdstc@bellsouth.net](mailto:93hdstc@bellsouth.net).

## 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 and retired 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. The garden is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Thursday evenings until 8 and Sundays from noon till 6. For more information, call 830-4447.

## Charity codes

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

## Fall semester signup

Florida Tech Graduate Center, Redstone courses for fall semester begin Aug. 27 at building 5304, room 4326. Class is weekly from 5-8 p.m. at 5304. All master's degree programs are offered online at FLtech@hiwaay.net. If interested call the administrative office 881-7878 or visit room 4326.

## Health center update

Fox Army Health Center's commitment

to maximize primary care services prompted leadership's decision to consolidate all available resources in an effort to enhance services and increase access to primary care appointments Monday through Friday. Resources expended in providing a four-hour Saturday morning clinic will be realigned into the weekday schedule. Four years of data reveals that the operation of a Saturday clinic decreases the availability of providers and support staff to provide care on weekdays. The realignment of those resources will provide a more robust weekday clinic, according to a Fox release. Effective July 16 the health center will be closed on Saturdays. Health center leadership continues to seek out innovative methods to powerfully deliver primary care to the Soldiers, retirees and their families of the Redstone Arsenal community, the release said.

## Aeronautical university

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the fall term, Aug. 6 to Oct. 7. The center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in Aviation/Aerospace and Management fields; as well as certificate programs in Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Industrial Management, Occupational Safety and Health, Aviation Safety, and Space Studies. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is Aug. 3. For more information call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education

Center, building 3222, the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>, or e-mail [huntsville.center@erau.edu](mailto:huntsville.center@erau.edu).

## Master's in management

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is offering a Master of Science in Management program on Redstone Arsenal. Students applying for admission in this program may choose from specializations in Management of Integrated Logistics, Aviation/Aerospace Industrial Management, and a General Management Option among others. Courses are offered in nine-week terms and are available online as well. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. For more information call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222.

## School readiness day

Tricare Prime beneficiaries enrolled at Fox Army Health Center are invited to participate in School Readiness Day. Sports physicals and school age immunizations will be given at the health center Saturday from 8-11:30 a.m. by appointment only. Parent/guardian must provide school physical paperwork and shot record or old Alabama blue card at the time of the appointment. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 955-8888.

# Rocket Announcements

## Soldier Show 2007

Morale Welfare and Recreation presents the 2007 Soldier Show on July 17 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and July 18 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Concert Hall. Tickets are free and are first come, first serve. Tickets should be available to the Redstone community at the MWR Ticket Office. The general public can get tickets from the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. There is a limit of four tickets per person. For more information, call 876-4531 or 955-7399. The Soldier Show is sponsored by the Army National Guard, AT&T and Bill Heard Chevrolet.

## Women's equality day

Government agencies in Huntsville will observe Women's Equality Day Aug. 23 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The keynote speaker is to be announced. During this program, each agency will recognize and present Equal Employment Opportunity awards to employees for outstanding career achievements and employee of the year in the professional and administrative categories. These awards will be presented to women who have demonstrated outstanding achievement during their careers. The EEO Supervisor of the Year Award will be presented to a supervisor or manager for significant contributions to the

See Announcements on page 25

completion of EEO program goals, i.e., one who through his or her efforts extended EEO to minorities, women and disabled applicants and employees.

### **Soldier of year luncheon**

Redstone Arsenal's NCO/Soldier of the Year luncheon is July 16 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This year's theme is "America Supports You - Our Military Men and Women." Ticket price is \$10. For ticket information call Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon, AMCOM EO Office, 876-8648; Sgt. 1st Class Richard James, 59th Ordnance Brigade, 842-9771; Bruce Cline, AMCOM Protocol Office, 955-6925; Julia Story, Garrison Protocol Office, 842-7954; and Priscilla Sanders, 59th Ordnance Brigade Protocol Office, 955-0127.

### **Road detour**

Martin Road intersection at Patton Road will be closed with detours on the week-ends of July 14 and 21, due to continuing construction of the overpass bridge. Martin Road will be reopened by Monday morning each week.

### **Sidewalk arts stroll**

The third of five Sidewalk Arts Strolls will be held July 19 in Huntsville's historic downtown courthouse square. The Sidewalk Arts Stroll is free to the public and takes place on the third Thursday of the month. The stroll showcases the works of North Alabama visual and performing artists. The July 19 event features the music of Shelly Williams and Friends - Ivey Joe Milan, George West and Shawn Smith. This jazzy, bluesy, reggae-inspired group will perform at 6 p.m. on the courthouse steps on the west side of the Square. For more information, call Donna Castel-



Courtesy photo

## **Ammunition graduate**

**Latvia Army Pfc. Janis Manguss attended the Ammunition Specialist Course from April 16 through July 3.**

lano 534-8376.

### **Scholarship offer**

Hire A Hero announced in June that it is offering 122 academic scholarships to active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, National Guard Members, Reservists and their spouses. That scholarship offering has been expanded and is now also available to family members of military personnel and veterans. For more information, visit [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com).

### **Luau party**

United Christian Singles will have its Hawaiian Luau Dance/Party on July 21 from 7-11 p.m. at the Jaycees Building on Airport Road. Tickets are \$10 at the door

only. For more information, call Paul Ambuehl 837-7414.

### **Shoreline discount**

Alabama Shoreline has announced a 5 percent discount to military personnel. For information about the properties available through Alabama Shoreline, visit the following: [www.theoaksgpi.com/docs/MilitaryDiscount.pdf](http://www.theoaksgpi.com/docs/MilitaryDiscount.pdf).

### **Financial matters**

A "Financial Matters Seminar," by Army Community Service and Redstone Federal Credit Union, is July 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heiser Hall. For information on "The Golden Years: Planning for Retirement," log onto [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com) and click on Financial Matters or call Kathleen Reister of ACS 876-5397.

### **Babysitting class**

Join Child and Youth Services for its Babysitting Class on July 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at building 1500. This program, for ages 11 and up, teaches the basic skills needed to baby sit. The cost is \$15, which includes the class book, materials and a certification card. For more information, call 876-3704.

### **Army family team building**

The Army Family Team Building, Level I, Class is July 24-26 from 6-9 p.m. at Army Community Service. AFTB "Introduction to Army Life" or "Army 101" is designed for those who are new to the military or interested in updating personal skills and basic knowledge. To register or for more information, call Army Community Service 876-5397.

# **Rocket Announcements**

### **Weight-loss incentive**

Sign up by Thursday for the Movin' & Losin' weight-loss competition sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation's Sports and Fitness. Five-member teams will compete for prizes at the end of the eight weeks, from July 17 through Sept. 11. MWR Sports and Fitness tries to offer the program three times each year. Teams get points for exercise, weight loss and for turning in their exercise sheets on time. Those interested can call assistant sports director Phylissa Shannon 313-1202 or e-mail [phylissa.shannon@us.army.mil](mailto:phylissa.shannon@us.army.mil).

### **Women's retreat**

A Women's Retreat, "Time of Refreshing," will be held July 27-28 at Embassy Suites, sponsored by Restoration Church. There is no cost, unless participants want to stay in a room at the hotel. "Guest speaker will be teaching on training younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, and to be kind," a prepared release said. For more information, call Nicole Thompson or Ruth Hudson 464-3499.

### **Pancake breakfast**

The Huntsville Madison County Seniors Crime Prevention Academy will hold the annual Aunt Eunice Pancake Breakfast from 7-9:30 a.m. Saturday at Applebee's at 3150 North Parkway. Local elected leaders and public safety officials, along with news celebrities will serve breakfast. Tickets are \$5 each. For more information and tickets, call the Huntsville Department of Public Safety 427-7138.

