

# Redstone Rocket

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# Madison homecoming for troops

Reserve Soldiers of 108th welcomed back from Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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"Thanks."  
"Thank you."  
"We're grateful for everything you've done for us."

Those were the words – repeated several times – as the City of Madison showed its appreciation at a Welcome Home Ceremony on Aug. 11 for 30 North Alabama Soldiers of the 108th Training Division who recently returned from a training mission in Iraq.

"We want to tell you how much we appreciate the sacrifice you have made on our behalf and on the behalf of all the citizens of the U.S.," said Madison Mayor Sandy Kirkindall, as he proclaimed Aug. 11, 2007 as 108th Training Division Day in Madison.

The accolades kept coming – from Redstone Arsenal officials, American Legion Post 229, Patriot Guard, the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of U.S. Army, Cahaba Shrine and various community leaders.

"Our simple word to you returning Soldiers is 'Thanks,'" said retired Col. Steve Taylor of AUSA. "We believe you've been serving the interests of the U.S. and your fellow country-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**FLAG OF REMEMBRANCE—** John Perry, now retired as the command sergeant major for the Reserve's 4/108th Battalion, holds a combination U.S./Iraqi flag that was presented to him as a gift from the North Alabama Reserve Soldiers who recently returned from their training mission deployment in Iraq. Perry served as the Soldiers' command sergeant major during their deployment.

men in an honorable and respectful way."

"We appreciate that you've been off defending this treasure we call 'America,'" said Steve Mozian of the Patriot Guard, whose members served as color guards for the ceremony.

"Many of those who ride with the Patriot Guard are veterans who have been to war. We care. We're proud of you. You represent the best of America. From



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**THANKING THE CITY—** Reserve Master Sgt. Patsy Norman presents Madison Mayor Sandy Kirkindall with a 108th commander's coin in appreciation for the city's support during the deployment of 30 Soldiers of the 108th. Norman was the family readiness liaison for the Alabama Soldiers who deployed to Iraq with 900 Reserve Soldiers throughout the U.S. to make up the 108th Training Division.

the 107,000 Patriot Guard riders – you are our heroes."

But, about halfway through the ceremony at the City of Madison Municipal Complex, the tables were turned and the Soldiers began thanking those

who they left behind during their one-year deployment.

Soldiers like Lt. Col. Jody Creekmore, who received a reality check once he was home.

"The first day I came home, I was reminded how hard it was," he said. "First, it was 'Honey, we have a light out on the second floor.' After that, it was 'Honey, we have a stopped clog in the kids' shower.'"

After replacing the light and fixing the drain, Creekmore went on to mow the yard. He then spent his evening writing checks for school registration.

"That day reminded me how hard things were for my family," he said.

## 108th Division Soldiers honor roll

Here are the 30 North Alabama Soldiers of the 108th Training Division who recently returned from a training mission in Iraq:

- Sgt. Leotis Allen, Maj. Dustin Awtrey, Capt. Shari Barfield, Staff Sgt. Ron Battles, Maj. Jim Bowie, Staff Sgt. Ashley Campbell, Lt. Col. Michael Claybourne, Sgt. Joseph Cook, Lt. Col. Jody Creekmore, Staff Sgt. Arthor Deason;
- Lt. Col. Thomas Doss, Maj. Michael Goodwin, Maj. Carl Hawkins, Staff Sgt. Danny

"Mitch" Hayes, Capt. Vincent Jackson, Staff Sgt. Kendall Keaty, Maj. Mike Kelley, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Malone, Sgt. 1st Class Marjorie Matthews, Lt. Col. Richard Nichols;

- Sgt. Robert Reeves, Capt. Michael Simpson, Lt. Col. William Stender, Capt. Jonathan Stewart, Staff Sgt. Larry Tharps, Capt. Rosalind Walker, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Webb, Lt. Col. David Weiss, Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Whited and Staff Sgt. Anthony Worley.

See Troops on page 3

## An open lane random survey

What do you think of Barry Bonds becoming the home run king?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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Maj. James Kennedy  
Army Logistics Management College  
"I think it's a great achievement, and a record that probably won't be broken again for a long time."

Gary Ridgell  
Unmanned Air Systems Project Office  
"I feel that he should be recognized as the home run king. He should get all the accolades due to him until they can prove differently. If they can find (steroids) evidence against him at another time, then maybe they should take appropriate action to adjust his status. He's innocent until proven guilty."



Donald Lewis  
Recreation assistant  
"I think it's great. Records are made to be broken and it's great that he had the privilege to break it. Plus, he and (his father) Bobby Bonds and Hank Aaron were good friends."



Marieluise Chappelle  
Wife of retired Soldier  
"I don't keep up with that. I heard on the news. It's good (he broke the record). You don't know for sure if he was truthful or not. I heard on the news about steroids and stuff. I come from Europe; you know the news on the (Tour de France) race. We don't know these days (if he's on steroids) unless we have tests done."



## Tags and licenses on site

Since my driver's license is going to expire soon, I am really glad to hear a license satellite branch is opening here on the Arsenal.

It will certainly save me time going "locally" rather than going off the Arsenal.

Is it operational yet? Where is it located, and what are the operating hours?

Althea J. Critchlow  
Budget analyst

Editor's note: The Redstone Arsenal Tag and License Office is located in the PX/Community license services are provided Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Alabama Department of Public Safety services are provided on Wednesday only between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The office is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

## Land of grits and biscuits

It has been about two years since my husband and I moved to Madison County after more than a decade living outside of the United States. Since my return to the states, these are the few things I have observed.

While driving:

- Turn signals are not mandatory;
- Yellow (or is it orange?) light means, go faster;
- Red light means go hurry, no one is coming;
- Green light means push your pedal to the metal;
- Auto insurance is not required as long as you're not caught driving without it;
- Anything that has wheels, you can drive or ride in/on it;
- So many people are on the cell phone while driving.

You don't have to cook, or know how to, you can buy everything that has been pre-

pared for you, including boiled eggs.

And, as for me, I found myself dragging my husband every weekend to look for great barbecue places. Well, we found some are good, some are not so good and some are very good; and sadly to say, the ones we really like, they are all so far away. Another sad thing, almost everything in the store is made in China, if not, made by other Asian countries. You rarely find things that are made in the USA. Life is fast paced and there are endless selections to meet all of your heart's desire. I am not complaining though, because it is great to be back to the land of grits and biscuits.

K.C. Bertling  
Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office

## Quote of the week

'Do not judge your relevance to this fight by your proximity to the battlefield.'

— Gen. Richard Cody  
Army vice chief of staff

## Message from Soldier in Iraq

Hey Mom and Dad: Sorry for the lack of writing lately. We have been back to back on the missions. We have a new battalion above us now and they are green as green.

I was sitting in the chow hall the other day, just got off mission, had not had a shower yet, still stinking of the road, and then realized all the new faces around us. We are the 'old' dogs here. The guys that have been here for a year and nobody knows when they will leave. They all looked like they were fresh out of the box, brand new M4s, new uniforms not yet faded by the sun or torn by conflict. They were smiling and looked happy to be here and glad to eat the food. I felt bad. Their fiddles had not yet become drums.

We were like that, I told the guys and broke a long silence. They knew what I was talking about instantly. It happened overnight. We became the old guys at the high school party, our hair a little longer, our weapons looking like hell with chipped paint. Our ears had been hearing the drums too long, no longer knowing the sounds of the fiddle. Our faces blank, tired, older. I suddenly felt as if I was looking upon something that was our secret, something that even if we sat them all down they would never really know, no one would. Our fists have been clenched so long, our knuckles white with it.

Perhaps I have been over dramatic, but all those thoughts flooded me so quickly that night. All at once, I just want to come home. I have grown so sick of the bombs, the damn blasts that shake everything and shoot your truck into the air. Just to go out and do it again two days later with sore bones and stiff joints. Then one day we turned a corner we go around all the time, and there she was, a little girl; she could have not been 3 years of age. She wore a little pink outfit filthy with dirt. Her hair was black and matted back into two little ponytails. She ran up to the road close to the trucks and she began to blow us kisses. She jumped as if when she did the kisses would reach us. Over and over she kissed and blew and jumped and smiled. It was then, I finally found purpose to this damn thing, this damn place, those damn bombs. I would take the blast, so she would never have to.

I get it now. At the end, I finally get it now. I love and miss you both very much.

Soldier from the 1041st  
Eng Co, 2nd Plt, 4th Sqd  
"Cowboys from Hell"

# Redstone Rocket

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# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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**Name:** Donna Johnson

**Job:** Coordinator for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign

**Where do you call home?**  
 Chester, Pa.



**What do you like about your job?**

My job involves helping others and I like the opportunity to be a blessing to others. And I absolutely love what I do. CFC is about improving quality of life for others.

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

Spend time with my family and church activities. That's the sum of my life. (Family includes husband, Clarence, daughters Latoya Blackwood and Angel Foy, and grandson Christopher Foy, 4.)

**What are your goals?**

To complete my career with the federal government working with CFC; and after I retire with the federal government to work full time in the ministry with my husband who is the pastor of Poplar Creek M.B. Church in Athens, Ala.

**What's your favorite type of music?**

Gospel music

# American public answers call for phone cards

DALLAS – As personnel and temperatures “surge” in the Middle East, America continues to go above and beyond the call of duty to help Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors stay connected. In fact, contributions to the Department of Defense authorized phone card initiative, dubbed “Help Our Troops Call Home,” are expected to soon surpass the \$5 million mark.

“As of Aug. 4, the American public has generously sent \$4.96 million in Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone cards since ‘Help Our Troops Call Home’ began in April 2004,” said

the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s senior enlisted adviser Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. “At today’s rate of 19 cents a minute for calls from phone centers in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, current contributions represent more than 25 million minutes of free calls for our deployed troops.”

Anyone can help military families stay in touch, and maybe even push total “Help Our Troops Call Home” contributions beyond \$5 million, by calling 800-527-2345 or logging on to <https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx>. (AAFES release)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Distinguished career

Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon receives the Distinguished Service Medal in a ceremony last Friday. In the background is Terry Bradford, who served as his executive officer when he was the program executive officer for missiles and space. Cannon will retire Aug. 31 after 31 years service. “You really honor and humble me with your presence,” he told the attendees.

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Aug. 9:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver’s license after stopping at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Aug. 10:** An individual was found to be operating his motor

vehicle with a suspended driver’s license after stopping at Gate 8. He was issued a violation notice and released.

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

**Violation notices issued:** 16 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 2 driving with a suspended driver’s license, 1 failure to yield, 3 improper backing.



## ■ ‘Thank you’ says it all at welcome home ceremony

# Troops

continued from page 1

“Because of the support of our families, we were allowed to focus on our mission. You kept everything going at home. In many ways, you had the hardest job. You really are our heroes. We appreciate you very much.”

Any Soldier who has been deployed understands the value of family, said Col. Mark Smith, who spoke at the ceremony on behalf of Fox Army Health Center and Redstone Arsenal.

“The most important people in this room today are those who were left behind,” said the Iraq War veteran. “While I was running the combat support hospital in Baghdad, I was able to do my job knowing I’d get to come home one day, and my wife would hug me and my kids would give me a kiss.”

There were others – friends and church families – that also made the deployment easier on the Soldiers.

Maj. Mike Kelley was especially thankful to the staff and members of Asbury United Methodist Church, who made sure Kelley deployed as a married Soldier.

“We weren’t leaving until June (2006), so we planned our wedding for Feb. 18,” Kelley said. “But, on Jan. 23, I got a phone call telling me I was part of the advance team and instead of leaving in June I would be leaving on Feb. 20.”

Kelley and his then-fiancee Anne went into “panic mode.”

“My church was so supportive to me and my wife,” he said. “We were married in the church office on Feb. 3. The cruise line waived penalty fees for changing our reservations so that we could leave on a cruise on Feb. 6 and enjoy our honeymoon. The support was just overwhelming for us.”

The Soldiers also received exceptional support from their command team at the 108th in Huntsville, including now retired Command Sgt. Maj. John Perry, Lt. Col. Neva Rogers, who is commander of the 4/108th, and Master Sgt. Patsy Norman, who coordinated the family readiness group for the Soldiers of the 108th from Alabama.

In appreciation, the 108th’s Capt. Rosalind Walker presented Perry with a custom-designed flag that merges the U.S. and Iraqi flags together. She presented Norman with a U.S. flag that flew over Baghdad and an Eagle statue from Katar, Iraq.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**PROCLAMATION— Madison Mayor Sandy Kirkindall presents Maj. Michael Goodwin of the 108th with a proclamation declaring Aug. 11, 2007 as 108th Training Division Day in Madison. Each Soldier was presented with a copy of the proclamation at the city’s Welcome Home Ceremony for the Soldiers. With Goodwin is his family, from left, 10-year-old Joshua, 6-year-old Sarah Grace and wife Christine.**

But, besides families, the Soldiers also thanked the City of Madison for sending care packages, letters, e-mails and goodies for Iraqi children. The city and American Legion Post 229 sponsored Candy Lift 2006, during which 150 pounds of candy was sent to the 108th Soldiers for distribution to Iraqi children. The city also collected school supplies for Iraqi children.

“Because of the City of Madison, we were able to implement Opera-

tion DumDum,” Creekmore said. “We distributed hundreds of pounds of lollipops and school supplies to children in nearby villages.”

Although they deployed together, the Soldiers of the 108th – 900 in all from throughout the U.S. – were assigned to various training missions throughout Iraq as part of the Foreign Army Training and Assistance Command. So, while Creekmore was part of Operation DumDum, Kelley was involved in Operation Kris Kringle.

“Children in Iraq are no different than our children,” Kelley said. “My heart just went out to them. But, it’s difficult to help them when you are out on a combat mission. You can’t put crayons in the back of a Humvee in July or August. So, instead, we took the 75 boxes of candy and coloring books that I received over the months from the City of Madison and planned Operation Kris Kringle on Christmas Day.”

Kelley and other Soldiers pinpointed the most impoverished school in Mosul, Iraq, and gave out crayons, coloring books and candy to 235 children on Dec. 25, 2006.

The care packages, cards and letters, gifts for Iraqi children and other support activities were a way for the residents of Madison to “show how much we appreciate the sacrifices made by our Soldiers and their families,” Kirkindall said.

Though the year in Iraq went by quickly for the Soldiers of the 108th, it was a year filled with danger, stress, uncertainty and frustrations.

“This past year was hard for all of us,” Creekmore said. “But, from it I learned to trust in a formidable God, that the love of our families is irreplaceable and that the support of our friends is immeasurable. I also learned the bond of love we have for our country is second only to the bond of love we have for our families.”

## Stars come out for space and missile conference

*Generals of all services converge in Huntsville*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
Staff writer  
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Even in a crowd of 6,000, generals stand out.

That was the case at last week's Space and Missile Defense Conference where generals and other high-ranking officers across all services mingled among the 228 exhibits and took the time to talk to Soldiers, DoD civilians and contractors about leading technologies in the nation's space and missile defense.

Once envisioned as an Army missile defense conference, SMDC has reached the 10-year mark with a new image as one

of the largest conferences of its kind to include all the services.

"This conference has a more joint flavor," conference chairman Kelley Zelickson said. "There's a lot more Air Force, a lot more MDA. It's not an Army conference anymore. It is a joint conference with a mission that is all encompassing."

This year's conference also marked a 50th anniversary, reflected in its theme "Celebrating 50 Years of Space and Mis-

sile Defense.

"Because this year's conference marked both the 10-year annual conference and the 50th anniversary, we tried to add an historical theme as well as focus on present day and future challenges," Zelickson said.

This year's conference also focused more on senior decision makers, changing the format to give them more time to make presentations.

"We've had outstanding speakers," Zelickson said. "They've been spectacular. They are very interested in this community and in the importance of the advancement of missile defense."

All speaker events were heavily attended during the conference.

"We are hoping that most people who attend this conference will understand the challenges we have in this domain area of air, space and missile defense," Zelickson said. "And, that they will be energized to take and develop technology to fill in the gaps in missile defense. The speakers are enthusiastic and believe in the mission. It's hard not to leave here totally energized."

Sponsors of this year's conference included the National Defense Industrial Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter; Air Space and Missile Defense Association and the Air Defense Artillery Association, Huntsville Chapter.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CUTTING EDGE OF HOMELAND SECURITY**— Air Force Lt. Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, visits SMDC/ARSTRAT's Homeland Security exhibit to learn from Dr. Sherry Mahafza about SMDC's role in Homeland Security Applications. Mahafza is the program manager for homeland security applications for SMDC. Kehler's tour through the exhibit area at the Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition was coordinated by Mike Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for research, development and acquisition for SMDC.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SHOWCASING AIR DEFENSE SOLUTIONS**— Gunter Livingston, senior staff engineer for the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, PEO-Missiles and Space, shares a light moment with, from left, Sgt. 1st Class Todd Avery of the 1st Space Brigade, Colorado Springs, Master Sgt. Petey Smith of SMDC/ARSTRAT, 1st Lt. Corey Ruckdeschel of 1st Brigade and Maj. Pam Tingle of SMDC/ARSTRAT. Livingston explains to the Soldiers the operation and features of the Surface-Launched Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile during the Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition.



Photo by Tommy Harris

**REAL HERO**— While touring the exhibits, Air Force Lt. Gen. C. Robert Kehler, right, speaks with Sgt. Tommy Rieman, left, a member of the America's Army Real Heroes program. Accompanying Kehler is Command Master Chief William Nissen, center, USSTRATCOM's senior enlisted adviser to the commander. Rieman, who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, presents Kehler with an autographed Sgt. Tommy Rieman action figure.

# Homeland security involves watchful eye over nation

## USNORTHCOM stays on alert for threats

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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There's always a watchful eye for threats in the air space and over the land mass of the U.S. And, it beams out from the nation's command center of the U.S. Northern Command and the North America Aerospace Defense Command.

The two commands work together with hundreds of local police stations, sheriff's departments, highway patrols and state National Guard units to defend and protect the U.S. from both internal and external threats.

"USNORTHCOM anticipates, deters and defends against threats, operating mostly in the homeland," said Lt. Gen. William "Glenn" Webster, deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command and vice commander of the North America Aerospace Defense Command. "We have to be prepared, but we can't execute unless in support of other (local and state) agencies. We also support civil authorities in disasters."

Webster's comments on the two commands he represents were made during a presentation at last week's Space and Missile Defense Conference at the Von Braun Center.

"We work to defend our homeland, to protect our people, national power and freedom to act," he said. "We prepare for threats. We mitigate threats and we handle

suffering if the threat is not eliminated. We must be organized, trained, equipped and immediately accessible."

USNORTHCOM was established in 2002 to provide command and control of homeland defense efforts for the Department of Defense, and to assist local and state authorities during domestic disaster relief operations involving fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, anti-drug operations and other disasters.

## "Threats in the future will exploit our seams and vulnerabilities."

— Lt. Gen. William "Glenn" Webster, deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command and vice commander of the North America Aerospace Defense Command

USNORTHCOM has few permanently assigned forces. The command is assigned forces whenever necessary to execute missions, as ordered by the president and secretary of defense. Its employees — including civil service and military representing all service branches — work at USNORTHCOM's headquarters located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. They respond to emergencies that exceed the capabilities of local, state and federal agencies.

USNORTHCOM's area of responsibility includes the continental U.S., Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the surrounding

water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. It also includes the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida, and includes theater security cooperation with Canada and Mexico. USNORTHCOM is part of a system of commands involved in homeland defense that include U.S. Pacific Command (Hawaii and territories in the Pacific) and U.S. Southern Command (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

The commander of USNORTHCOM also commands the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a bi-national command responsible for aerospace warning and aerospace control for Canada, Alaska and the continental U.S.

Recently, USNORTHCOM has been instrumental in assisting with the Minnesota bridge collapse response, providing assistance at the request of the state. They are also constantly involved in border patrol, air patrol, ballistic missile defense, maritime activities and national capitol region air defense. They also work with U.S. Coast Guard, National Guard, and other federal and state agencies to guard against threats to national security.

"Threats in the future will exploit our seams and vulnerabilities," Webster said. "We have to be prepared to respond to that to eliminate threats and alleviate suffering ... Homeland defense requires seamless geographical and functional integration ... We have to collaborate and coordinate fully so our efforts don't bump into each other."

USNORTHCOM is continually tracking potentially threatening situations across the U.S. from its command center. On any given day, at any time, the agency

could be tracking a suspicious vessel in the Atlantic, missing explosives in the Midwest, special interest aliens in the South, a pipeline attack in the Northwest, an airplane violating the flight restricted area over the U.S. capitol, and several top U.S. and Canadian government officials on travel.

"We are tracking incidents that potentially could turn out to be something NORTHCOM may have to respond to," Webster said. "We have to be prepared to react."

Last summer, when North Korea tested their missile defense capabilities, USNORTHCOM was prepared to defend against the threat, Webster said.

"North Korea, Iran and other countries continue what appears to be well-funded efforts to develop capabilities," he said. "And, they make it harder than ever before for us to know what those capabilities are. We must develop an unblinking eye — persistent surveillance — that is able to detect changes in North Korea and Iran."

Webster said USNORTHCOM and NORAD have the "ability to not only test, evaluate and develop operations, but also conduct operations simultaneously 24/7 throughout the nation."

"That is important because people are depending on us. They believe we have the capability to defend them and we must be able to do that," Webster said.

He said the command needs more robust training, better transition processes throughout the services, better capabilities at its command center, and expanded spy satellites for domestic surveillance.

# Former top official warns about dealings with Iran, N. Korea

## Ambassador addresses defense conference

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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A former top U.S. official, who resigned earlier this year as the undersecretary of state for

arms control and who recently resigned as a special envoy for nuclear non-proliferation, spoke out about the nuclear weapon threats presented by North Korea and Iran during last week's Space and Missile Defense Conference at the Von Braun Center.

"I believe that there is no greater threat to the U.S. than Iran's quest for nuclear

weapons," said ambassador Robert Joseph, whose previous hardliner role in the Bush administration has opposed past diplomatic efforts with the two nations.

"North Korea has demonstrated they have nuclear weapons. But, the threat from Iran is more complex and dangerous, and has more global implications."

The difference between the two nations defines the level of the threats they present and the future growth of those threats, he said.

"North Korea is run by a criminal gang that survives by isolation, blackmail and the brutal repression of its people," Joseph said. "We can contain North Korea and defend against

it. The regime will go the way of all totalitarian regimes."

In contrast, Joseph said, Iran is a "real country" with scientific, technical and financial resources, and has the means and desire to increase its influence in the Middle East. It has been proven that Iran "provides

See Warning on page 19

# Project office launches partnership with depot

## \$16.5M contract awarded for life cycle support

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office has partnered with Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., to provide life cycle contractor support of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the Multiple Launch Rocket System M270A1 system.

Specifically, Lockheed Martin has been awarded a \$16.5 million contract to support the objectives of the Title 10 U.S. Code 2474, the Department of Defense Policy for Public-Private Partnerships for Depot Maintenance. That policy is

based on a July 6, 2005 acquisition decision memorandum.

The objectives of the partnership include providing timely and reliable product support for the war fighter, improving and sustaining core capabilities at Letterkenny, and introducing improved business processes and updated technology to Department of Defense depot maintenance operations and products.

"Letterkenny is the Army's sole maintenance depot for tactical missile and air defense systems, and I'm proud that we can work with Lockheed Martin to support the war fighter and save taxpayer money," Col. Robert Swenson, outgoing commander of Letterkenny, said.

"This is a great example of government/corporate partnership in a depot environment," Lt.



Courtesy photo

**ROUND ON WAY— A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launches a guided multiple launch rocket in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

Col. John Chiccoli, product manager for field artillery launchers, said. "This newly established repair capability will allow Letterkenny to provide

more efficient lifecycle contractor support for this highly effective system."

HIMARS is the newest member of the MLRS launcher fami-

ly. Because of its C-130 transportability, HIMARS can be deployed into areas previously inaccessible to heavier launchers. Its fire control system, electronics and communications units are interchangeable with the existing MLRS M270A1 launcher. More than 250 HIMARS/M270A1 systems are in operation.

"This partnership with our customer demonstrates our commitment to their mission success," Rick Edwards, vice president of tactical missiles at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, said. "The contract facilitates close collaboration between our company, AMCOM and Letterkenny, and promotes our mutual objective: to support the war fighter by providing accurate, reliable weapon systems."

# Non-Line of Sight sees system milestone

## Exercise proves interoperability

By SCOTT McCLELLAN  
Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space

The Non-Line of Sight Launch System has completed an integration and interoperability milestone with the fourth System Integration Exercise at the Lockheed Martin facility in Baltimore, Md.

These exercises demonstrate interoperability between NLOS-LS, command and control systems and sensor systems. Included in the system of systems is the NLOS-LS Container/Launch Unit, the NLOS-LS Precision Attack Missile, the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, the Forward Observer System, the Tactical Air Integration System and the new software programmable Soldier Radio Waveform network radios.

Typically, during the System Development and Demonstration phase of a program, the prime contractor is responsible for planning and executing a system integration test to demonstrate interoperability. The NLOS-LS Project Office, however, took another route by accomplishing this task through a series of government exercises.

Because of challenges associated with the NLOS-LS abbreviated acquisition cycle and the uncertain availability of proposed government furnished equipment, the office adopted this plan to minimize several expected cost, performance and schedule challenges.

NLOS-LS is scheduled to be in hands of Soldiers at the Future Combat Systems test bed at Fort Bliss, Texas, in about 60 days.

## Aviation logistics team earns Bronze award

FORT RUCKER — The Aviation Center Logistics Command has won its first ever Shingo Prize, Bronze level, award for Excellence in Maintenance Repair and Overhaul with its partner Army Fleet Support.

ACLC and Army Fleet Support are teaming to reduce lead times in all of their product lines to include UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, UH-1H Hueys, OH-58 Kiowas, and AH-64 Apaches.



Photo by Merv Brokke/AMRDEC

## Having a ball(ista)

In its third year of supporting "Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science," one of several Army Educational Outreach Programs, the Software Engineering Directorate is the place to be if you want to build bridges out of sticks, play soccer with robots, and launch golf balls hundreds of feet using a ballista, a Medieval siege machine. However, it's too difficult to tell who is having more fun: GEMS students (far left) John Cox, a junior at Catholic High School, and using the drill, (second from right) Branden Gaddis, a junior at Lee High, or the adults (second from left) Curt Haskell, SAIC senior engineering technician, and (far right) Brooks Lombardy, SED computer engineer, who are lending a hand during this ballista's test launches.



Courtesy photo

## Depot commander

Col. Steven Shapiro, center, becomes the commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., Aug. 10 at Letterkenny. He succeeds Col. Robert Swenson, right. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, left, officiates at the change of command ceremony.

# Hail and farewell

## Retiree's life is 'lovely, lovely, lovely'

*John Sands goes out with 59 years service*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

John Sands backs his vehicle into his driveway after a brief trip to the bank. He greets a visitor waiting inside his home.

The neatly-decorated house sits on a cul-de-sac in northwest Huntsville. Gospel music plays on the stereo. The air-conditioner and ceiling fans are working full throttle. Above the entrance door is a painting of the Last Supper, one of several religious references in the front room. On one wall is a framed scripture, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it," from Psalm 118:24.

Sands, 82, is grateful to be alive. A World War II veteran,

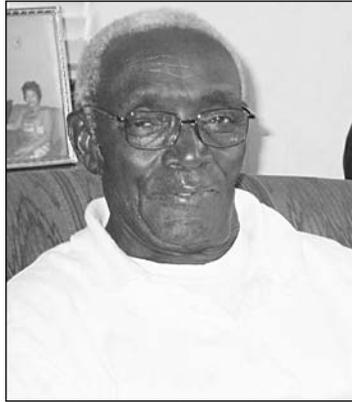


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**CONTENT AT HOME— John Sands, relaxing in his living room, retired Aug. 3 as a materiel handler with the Sparkman Management Office.**

who landed in Normandy on D-Day, he retired Aug. 3 because of heart problems. He had a heart attack about a month ago and didn't protest when his three

doctors suggested that he retire. He left with 59 years of government service, including eight years and 11 months in the Army.

"It's been wonderful," Sands said of his career, which ended as a materiel handler with the Sparkman Management Office. "All families are not perfect. But Redstone is a wonderful family, a caring family."

His favorite phrase for years has been "Lovely, lovely, lovely." That's what he'd tell passers-by in the halls of the Sparkman Center when they'd ask how he was doing. He still feels that way — blessed to be alive.

"I miss the people I've been knowing for long there (at Redstone)," he said. "It's a wonderful family I've been part of."

Asked about his health, he said, "I'm doing quite well. We had an appointment with my heart doctor Monday (Aug. 13). I had one blocked vein. He gave me medicine to take care of it.

He said everything's looking good and to come back and see him in six months."

Frankie Eastland has served as his personal assistant since his heart attack. "He is an awesome person," she said.

A native of Monticello, Ga., Sands was raised in Marietta and Atlanta. He was drafted in 1943 and went overseas. After the war, Sands left the Army in 1947 but reenlisted in April 1953 before leaving the military in December 1957. He arrived at Redstone as a Soldier in 1955 from Korea and wasn't thrilled about coming here.

"Once I got here I wouldn't trade it for anything," Sands said. "There's no other post like Redstone. Redstone is different from all the others. It's been wonderful. They're a caring family here at Redstone."

Other posts he'd been to during his military career included Fort Lewis, Wash., Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Jackson, S.C.,

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Fort Dix, N.J. None compared to Redstone, he said.

Sands still gets up at 2:30 a.m., just like he did throughout his government career. He keeps his mind busy with plans to remodel his home and likes tending to his flower bed. After the house is remodeled, he wants to travel. Among his prized possessions is the honorary diploma he received in May 2004 from Marietta High School.

His wife, Clea, resides in Windsor House nursing home, where she has lived the past six years. He has 11 stepchildren, including six boys and five girls, all of whom are grown.

"It's been a blessing," Sands said of his life. "My younger days I worked for 10 cents an hour. I've come a long way."

He believes God has been with him throughout his 82 years. "I know it's nothing but God's grace and mercy I'm here today."

# Newcomer from D.C. glad she made move

*Protocol worker's parents also coming to town*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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Army Materiel Command's upcoming move to Redstone has been big news for sometime now. While making the move from the Washington, D.C., area is making some people nervous, others are very excited. Some, like Barbie Baugh, can't wait to call Redstone home. So much so that she's already here.

"We knew we were being BRAC'd here, but they were talking 2010," Baugh said. "This job became available and we were anxious to get out of the D.C. area."

Baugh arrived in the area just three weeks ago with her husband, Brett. The couple have bought a home in Madison. She joined the AMCOM Protocol Office last week. She may be new here, but Baugh is not new to protocol.

"I've been doing this for 16 years," she said.

She was born and raised in

Virginia. Leaving the state she had always called home was a decision made much easier by the traffic congestion that has become part and parcel of the Fort Belvoir area. The shorter commute has been wonderful, Baugh said.

"It usually took two hours to get to work every morning because of traffic. On a Friday, the normal commute home would be three hours. We are in heaven here," she said. "I'm



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**SETTLED IN— Barbie Baugh, seated, looks over scheduled events with co-worker Elizabeth Blackmon in the AMCOM Protocol Office.**

home in 20 minutes."

That commute played a large part in the decision to go ahead and leave Virginia now instead of waiting for base realignment and closure.

"We didn't have a good quality of life. We had strangers raising our kids because we were always commuting," she said. "I wish we had made this move a long time ago."

Baugh said being able to spend more time with her 7-year-old twins, Brooke and Brandy, is wonderful. While the girls were nervous about leaving their friends and school, they were happy to pack once their demands were met, Baugh said laughing.

"They said if they could have a pool and a puppy they would move anywhere," she said.

The lack of traffic has also made it possible for them to be more involved in the community.

"In Virginia we couldn't leave the house on weekends because the traffic was so bad," she said.

Her newfound love of the area has turned Baugh into quite the ambassador. Her parents are purchasing a home nearby this

week. She hopes to lure her sister to the area soon.

"I'm trying to get her talked into coming. My niece, Amanda, is here already with us. She's helping us with child care and going to Calhoun Community College to be a nurse," she said.

She encourages those at AMC to come and see Redstone for themselves before deciding whether to make the move. She thinks they will be pleasantly surprised.

"I've been telling all my old co-workers that still aren't sure about coming that they have to visit if they get the chance," she said. "A lot of them think that it's very country, but it's not like that in Huntsville. It actually reminds me a lot of where I used to live in Fredericksburg, but without the traffic."

In addition to the shorter commute, Baugh said the people here are a strong selling point.

"The people here could not be nicer," she said. "Everyone has really bent over backwards to make us feel at home. You just don't find that in the D.C. area."



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

## *Right on target*

**Maj. Barry Hatchett, assistant project manager of targets, receives the Legion of Merit at his retirement ceremony July 31 after 25 years service. Pinning on the award is Col. David Lockhart, project manager of Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators. Hatchett will remain in the Targets Management Office as a civilian.**

# Helping hands

## Runner in race for cancer research

*Taking pledges while training for Marine Corps Marathon*

By DEBRA VALINE  
Engineering and Support Center

When he got married two years ago, he weighed 285 pounds.

Todd Watts, a civil engineer with the Engineering Directorate, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, said he decided to do something about it. He joined a weight-loss program and decided he wanted to run a marathon.

Watts was inspired by his brother-in-law, who had lost 40 pounds. Watts said since his wedding he has lost 56 pounds.

"I need a goal," Watts said. "I wanted to run in the ING Georgia Marathon in Atlanta March 25. My longest run prior to ING was the half-marathon at Calloway Gardens, Ga., Jan. 28."

To meet that goal, Watts got involved with the Team In Training program for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. His participation would help him reach three goals: weight loss, run a marathon and honor the memory of his friend, Brent Ullom, by raising money for LLS.

"One of my other hobbies is playing ice hockey," Watts said. "Brent was one of the guys who taught me a lot and was on my Senior Open League hockey team. He was 24 years old – very young – when he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He fought it and basically went into remis-



Photo by Sarah Watts

**TIRED AND HAPPY— Todd Watts relaxes after finishing the ING Georgia Marathon in March in Atlanta. He's training for the Marine Corps Marathon with Team In Training, a program that raises funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.**

sion for a little while. By Thanksgiving last year, we found out he was in pretty bad shape. The cancer had come back and spread through his entire body. In January he passed away; he was 26 years old.

"Between realizing I needed to get in shape and watching Brent succumb so early in life to cancer, I decided I needed

to do something," Watts said. "I knew there was nothing I could do to change when I was going to die, but there was a lot I could do to eliminate certain risk factors."

It was Ullom's struggle that helped Watts decide to get involved with TNT.

Watts is in training to run the Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 28, in Washington, D.C. He has set a goal of raising \$5,026 for LLS. Money raised will go toward research for blood-related cancers, patient aid and education. To support Watts in this effort, visit his web site located at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntagc/todder>.

"Todd is awesome and we appreciate his hard work! Once he meets his fund-raising goal, we will send him to the event," said Cindy Walton, senior campaign manager for LLS Team In Training. "We will be sending 15 participants to the Marine Corps Marathon. It's because of Todd's generosity and the generosity of other TNT participants that we are moving closer to finding a cure for blood-related cancers. Without funds, we wouldn't be able to do the research."

"I've already raised \$2,165, but I have a long way to go and a short time in which to do it," Watts said. "Every penny helps us come one step closer to finding a cure."

Watts said if you want him to run in honor of someone you know who has fought, is currently battling, or in memory of, just send him an e-mail and he will add them to his web site and wear a ribbon on his singlet with their name at the race. His e-mail address is [todder@knology.net](mailto:todder@knology.net).

For every dollar Team In Training receives, 75 percent goes to research and helping patients. The other 25 percent goes to fund-raising expenses. For instance, TNT pays for Watts' airfare, hotel and race registration fees, if he reaches his fund-raising goal. TNT also helps with training. Watts attends meetings and group runs that teach him about nutrition, proper stretching and technique

as well as how to build up to marathon distances. To learn more about the program, visit the web at [www.teamintraining.org](http://www.teamintraining.org).

"I have seen these guys (TNT) everywhere," Watts said. "They help you train for century (100-mile) bicycle rides, triathlons and marathons."

"My best friend, Jackie Whitaker, will be running with me. Even if I do not make my fund-raising goal, if Jackie can make it and run the whole marathon with me, it will be worth it."



Courtesy photo

### For the children

Members of the American Society of Military Comptrollers collected school supplies for the Kids to Love Foundation as one of their August community projects. From left are Patsy Steakley, Sandy Balog, Dana Wilbanks, Jessica Dunaway, Lisa Hughey and Cynthia Robinson. The foundation is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to meeting the needs of foster children in Alabama.

# Program executive officer sees opportunity for growth

*Space and missile center of excellence envisioned for local community*

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

“As part of the environment for creating the Perfect Opportunity, Mr. Claude Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army acquisition, logistics and technology, has asked me to head up the effort to recreate the Army Space and Missile Center of Excellence here,” Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space, said. “It’s a formal way to recognize what we are doing and posturing our community for the future in a business area we already know so well. I also see similar opportunity for PEO Aviation in this arena.”

Historical catalysts play into this plan, according to Dellarocco.

“This is where it all started and we’ve lost our heritage a little bit,” he said. “From Mr. Bolton’s perspective, the Army is into space in a very large way; there are a lot of aspects that we use every day in our operations and Army ground forces. Furthermore the Army is the largest consumer of space capabilities.”

Team Redstone is the place where programs incubate, become programs of record and result in fielded capabilities, the PEO said. Additionally, the Arsenal is home to both the intelligence and operator sides of the equation. Therefore, the new Center represents an enterprise solution as BRAC-relocated agencies arrive.

“When von Braun got here after World War II, we had a lot of opportunities, but not a lot of people,” Dellarocco said. “In the mid-’90s, we were BRAC recipients, and that was another perfect opportunity for growth and community enrichment. In the next four years, we are, once

again, going to be BRAC recipients, with the same potential for growth and the development of new synergies.”

Three agencies have space in their name and seven agencies have missile in their name so forming the Center of Excellence is a natural, the PEO said.

“Plus, the academic institutions and the local community are well versed and ready to embrace government and industry cooperation,” Dellarocco said. “Employers are looking for people to go to work; this is a perfect opportunity for Northern Alabama.”

There is a formal process to follow in establishing a

center of excellence.

“We’ll work through the necessary steps, realizing that this is an exceptionally positive environment that we need to take advantage of,” Dellarocco said. “I am encouraging the PEO Missiles and Space work force to get their training in order so that they become more competitive when the jobs roll in. I expect turnover and that’s OK.

“This is a new course, a new direction,” he said. “The use of the term ‘The Perfect Storm’ is verboten in my organization; we are embarking on to the Perfect Opportunity.”

## Women’s Equality Day celebrates continuing efforts

*Awards to be presented at Thursday’s luncheon*

Team Redstone will celebrate Women’s Equality Day with a luncheon Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The keynote speaker is Sharon Houy, associate deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. During the program, various government agencies in the Huntsville area will present equal employment opportunity awards to their workers.

Cost for the luncheon is \$12. For more information and to RSVP, call Julia Story of the Garrison at 842-7954, Sonja Rice of the Engineering and Sup-

port Center-Huntsville at 895-1575 or Angela Morton of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center at 313-7271.

In 1971 Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women’s Equality Day. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world’s first women’s rights convention, in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

The observance of Women’s Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women’s continuing efforts toward full equality.



Sharon Houy

# Four-peat win sets new bar for local AUSA

*Chapter cited again as best in the world*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

For the past three years, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army has had the same problem – a seemingly last minute effort to get new chapter coins, pins, shirts, banners and other memorabilia ordered and in hand before the AUSA annual meeting in early October.

They have that problem again this year. But, it's not because of poor planning.

In 2004, and again in 2005 and 2006, the local chapter scurried to order new chapter keepsakes to reflect their win in the competition for the world's best AUSA chapter. That notification comes in the August time frame.

And, it came again this year.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA is a "four 'peat" winner of the highly coveted Best Chapter Overall honors.

It is considered an unprecedented win. "I don't think any chapter of this size

has ever won four in a row," said state AUSA president retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet. "It's exciting to see the chapter recognized again for outstanding support to the military community and the Soldier."

The local chapter – with 2,568 individual members and more than 260 corporate members — beat out such other large chapters as Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Hood, Texas. It is a victory that local leaders are happy about for many reasons — they have bragging rights for another year, their hard work in support of Soldiers and their families is being recognized, the win brings even more favorable praise for the community's support of the military and, most importantly, the win continues to raise the bar of excellence for all AUSA chapters.

"I was so excited," said chapter executive vice president retired Col. Steve Taylor, who found out about the win at about 11:30 at night.

"I was so tempted to pick up the phone on that Friday night to spread the word."

Besides being named Best Chapter Overall, the local chapter won awards in several categories, including Chapter of

See Chapter on page 15



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**READY FOR NEW STREAMERS**— From left, local AUSA officers Steve Taylor and Mike Howell look over the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter's award streamers with state AUSA president Bob Drolet in the chapter's booth at the Space and Missile Defense Conference in Huntsville last week. New streamers will be added to the chapter's collection at the AUSA annual meeting in October when they are recognized as the Best Chapter Overall for the fourth year in a row.

# Chapter

continued from page 14

Excellence, President's Club-Gold, Star Chapter, three Special Awards, Superior Chapter, Merit Chapter, Excellence in Corporate Membership Growth, Greatest Government Civilian Membership, Best Support to Reserve Components, Best Corporate Member Support, Best Chapter Newsletter, Family Programs, Take the Hill, Electronic Chapter, Institute of Land Warfare Streamer, Army Birthday, Army History and Support to Army Recruiting Command.

"This is a real joy for us," said chapter president retired Col. Mike Howell.

"We've got so many great people and they are all working on a piece of the action. There are 19 vice presidents on our board and 27 board members. That's a large board, but everybody understands that part of their obligation is to get out and help recruit, promote and support the military, and assist with activities. The only way we can do all the things we do and win awards is to make sure we have people who are working to keep us relevant."

The success of the Redstone-Huntsville chapter, Drolet said, is really no secret.

"It is a very simple formula where you have a board that cares and keeps focused on the Army Soldier and their family, and everything they do is directed toward that," he said. "This chapter is holding to the principles of AUSA and blowing the other chapters out of the water."

**T**hose board members – who are all volunteers – work together to make things happen for Soldiers and their families.

"Everybody just somehow fits into the scheme of operation," Taylor said. "They take charge. They take part. It's almost magical how people find their roles in this organization. And, it all benefits the Soldier and the Army."

"They are all busy, but they carve a piece of time out of their schedules for AUSA," added Howell. "They understand how important this is. For many of us, it's kind of a way of paying back for all the good things we got from the Army."

Those volunteers must also have the backing of their employers – the corporations and companies that support the military – to do AUSA's work.

"Our corporations are critical to provide the financial backing and the resources of manpower that we need for our programs," Howell said. "Just between the three of us, we have Northrop Grumman, Orbital Sciences and Lockheed Martin, and those three corporations give us the freedom to do the work that we need to do for AUSA, the Army and the Soldier."

Drolet said the Redstone-Huntsville chapter's efforts to partner with the community in recognition and support of the military really helped the chapter hit a winning streak.

"The chapter's working relationship with the community is a critical part of the

equation," he said. "Mayor (Loretta) Spencer supports all our efforts. She is our cheerleader. She is so enthusiastic about everything we do that we can't let her down. The catalyst that has fused AUSA coalitions with community organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, has been the mayor."

In addition, the chapter's partnerships with other local military organizations, such as Still Serving Veterans and the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, has further strengthened its ability to support Soldiers and their families.

"Partnering with other organizations has allowed us to expand in different areas and provide better support," Drolet said. "There is no organization AUSA doesn't work with to make this a better community."

The chapter coordinates and supports activities such as Welcome Home ceremonies, Boss' breakfasts for corporate members and military officers, Armed Forces Week, Veterans Day Dinner and Hall of Heroes Induction, Veterans Day Breakfast and Parade, Tactical Missiles Conference, Redstone Arsenal Retiree Day, Junior and Senior ROTC Leadership Awards, Military Dependent Children Recognition, Army Birthday and Flag Day events, Advanced Planned Briefings for Industry, Soldier Sporting Event Buyout Nights, and Soldier, NCO, OMEMS Instructor, Drill Sergeant and Department of the Army Civilian awards programs.

But, they don't do these activities and programs necessarily to win an award.

"We are going to do what we think is right, regardless of what rewards fall out of that," Howell said. "And, by so doing, we've raised the bar for all other chapters."

Both Howell and Taylor were preparing themselves not to win best chapter again this year, thinking that it might be impossible to continue the winning streak.

"I consciously prepared a congratulatory speech for the winning chapter even though I knew for another chapter to knock us off the mountain, so to speak, would have involved one tremendous effort," Taylor said.

The Redstone-Huntsville chapter has implemented quality programs for many years, Howell said. But, in the last few years, it has also gotten better at documenting its activities for the annual awards competition.

**H**owell believes the local AUSA chapter will continue to grow and evolve with the additional corporate members that will be moving to Huntsville as a result of recommendations by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Now that they've made the four 'peat a reality, one of Howell's top priorities is to make sure to get those new chapter keepsakes celebrating four wins ready to pass out at the State of Alabama "Hooah" Tent at the AUSA annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

After all, it's a great place to remind the world that the Redstone-Huntsville AUSA chapter is still at the top of its game.

# Club takes fear out of public speaking

*Toastmasters builds confidence to talk*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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Being an effective and confident speaker is crucial for many members of Team Redstone. Regardless of whether the job requires large presentations before hundreds of people or just a few words at a staff meeting, those who are able to articulate their ideas clearly have an edge in the workplace. That edge is easily acquired through organizations such as Toastmasters.

Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 is a chapter of Toastmasters International that meets weekly in the Von Braun Complex, building 5225. It is a club designed to help members learn public speaking skills in a hands-on way. Members write and deliver speeches before the group on subjects they choose themselves. They are evaluated and critiqued by fellow club members. The process is designed to help speakers fix the common mistakes most people make while



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**ON THE FLOOR— Nick Skoglund speaks while the Toastmasters 6054 club members evaluate his performance.**

speaking and to bolster their confidence in their skills.

“We don’t criticize people here,” Nick Skoglund, club member, said. “We may make recommendations for improvement. We suggest things you might do differently in your presentation, your gestures, graphics and eye contact. But we don’t find fault.”

In fact, the entire meeting is a learning experience for attendees. Each week members take turns conducting the meeting and fulfilling different tasks so that everyone learns leadership and organizational skills as well. They

are skills that translate beyond the public speaking arena.

“I find the most enjoyable thing is seeing other people bloom. People make huge progress and it translates into their entire life,” Tom Bramhall, club president, said. “If one supposedly impossible thing is successfully challenged it rightfully begs the question of a multitude of things in one’s life one may have accepted.”

Being able to give a prepared presentation is great, but what happens when a question is asked that wasn’t on the speaker’s list?

To help them prepare for the unexpected, club members spend a portion of their meeting giving off-the-cuff answers to questions and topics posed to them by a designated member.

“You are given a topic and then you have the opportunity to answer in an impromptu manner,” Claudinette Purifoy, club member, said.

The skills learned in Toastmasters translate easily to real world situations. Skoglund has found that the things he has learned in Toastmasters have helped him do things in his job that he might not have accomplished otherwise.

“When my boss found out I was a Toastmaster he let me make a presentation for our group,” Skoglund said. “After three of those presentations he pulled me in his office and said ‘I like the way you did those presentations. You’re doing a good job – so good that I’m going to give you a raise.’”

The Strategic Speakers 6054 is just one of several chapters in the Huntsville area. It began off post when many of Redstone’s organizations were located in the Wynn Drive area. As they moved onto the installation, the club was

forced to make a decision about their own location.

“The club was chartered May 10th, 2001, when THAAD, SMDC, and a number of other organizations were located close to the 106 Wynn Drive facility,” Bramhall said. “Obviously

See **Speaking** on page 17



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## *Safekeeping*

**Comparing notes during Garrison Safety Day held Aug. 14 at building 4488 are, from left, environmental specialist Mike Walcutt, Garrison Safety Office chief Mike Moore, Grainger Industrial Supply government account manager Patti Wilson and Garrison safety specialist Bobby Taylor.**



Courtesy photo

## Pet project

Members from the Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers volunteered Aug. 12 at the Ark Telethon which aired on Channel 31, WAAY-TV. The Ark is a no-kill animal shelter located in North Huntsville. ASMC members donated more than \$250 and collected many items to be donated to the shelter like cat litter, paper towels and food. From left are Myria Chastain, Becky Lake, Susan Zimmerly, Freida Waits and "Cowboy," one of the Ark Shelter dogs up for adoption.

### ■ Club teaches how to give presentations

## Speaking

continued from page 16

when the Von Braun complex opened and a number of organizations took their migration out to the Arsenal, we lost a lot of the membership. The club eventually decided to move to the Von Braun Complex a couple years back."

The club has maintained a small membership of about eight people. While Bramhall said that the number of members increases the amount of fun to be had, there are also benefits to smaller clubs. For the beginner and the nervous, having a smaller audience can be less daunting.

Whether there are four people there or 40, Bramhall said the club is a lot of fun.

"Toastmasters is an outlet. Also it is, with precious few member exceptions in the more than a decade I have dealt with it, a positive encouraging entity," he said.

"Depending on how stressful or challenging your job may be at the time, that is a precious commodity."

He is also looking forward to the impact that the completion of Von Braun Phase II and BRAC may have on their membership.

"I believe the new building and subsequent phases will make membership very convenient for those people," he said. "Pretty much everybody on the Arsenal finds themselves in a presentation driven existence and being able to do it without panic ought to be a real selling point."

The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in one of the third floor conference rooms of building 5225 in the Von Braun Complex. Although the meeting is located within SMDC, membership is not limited to those who work for that organization. For more information, call Purifoy at 313-4696 or e-mail cpurifoy@bellsouth.net.

# Youth science education gets off the ground

*Research development center conducts outreach program*

Vivian Nguyen, a sophomore at Grissom High School, piloted a hovercraft that she and her teammates built during the weeklong session of the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science program hosted by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center at the Software Engineering Directorate. GEMS is among several programs in the Army Educational Outreach Program.

Jonathan Lassiter, a GEMS near-peer mentor attending the University of Alabama-Huntsville, developed the aeronautics module for the students.



Photo by Merv Brokke/AMRDEC

**I BELIEVE I CAN FLY— Grissom High sophomore Vivian Nguyen maneuvers a hovercraft that she and her teammates built during the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science program.**

“The hovercraft used a shower curtain for a skirt and two gas-powered leaf blowers,” Lassiter said.

Armed with determination, enthusiasm, and plenty of duct tape to patch holes, Nguyen and her teammates got their craft off the ground.

“The main issue we had with the hovercraft was that the skirt was not durable enough for the concrete and air did not escape from the skirt fast enough,” Lassiter said.

The hovercraft project was one of three major projects completed during the week and demonstrated on the last day. Other projects included the construction of “Rube Goldberg” machines and ballistae, which are Medieval siege machines.

For more information about GEMS and other programs, visit the Army’s Educational Outreach Program web site located at <http://www.usaeop.com/aeop.htm>.

# Allen takes reins of cadet squadron

Cadet Master Sgt. Jonathan Allen has become the cadet commander of the Civil Air Patrol’s Redstone Composite Squadron.

Allen succeeded Cadet 2nd Lt. Garrett Bain in a change of command ceremony Aug. 7.

A prospective cadet must be at least 12, no older than 18 years old and may remain in the program until age 21. CAP cadets are eligible to receive more than

\$300,000 each year in academic and training scholarships, including scholarships to the Air Force Academy Preparatory School and several flight training schools.

The cadets meet every Tuesday night from 6-8 at the Civil Air Patrol building located behind the Flying Activity at Redstone Airfield. For more information about the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, call Lt. Col. John Hall at 656-5925. *(Civil Air Patrol release)*

# Survey under way on electronic messages

*Workers asked to provide their views on e-mails*

If you get an e-mail survey about e-mail usage, don’t delete it. Respond to it.

That’s the word from the students in a Leadership Investment for Tomorrow class. As a team project, the 16 members of LIFT class 4 are evaluating the electronic method for spreading information to the work force.

Their goal is to receive responses from a reasonable percentage of 3,000 workers at the Aviation and Missile Command. They plan in October to brief their findings to Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the commanding general.

“We’re just trying to get more people to participate in the survey so we can complete our project and give our briefing to Dr. Amos,” said Masao Williams, a LIFT student who works as a logistics specialist in the national maintenance branch of the Integrated Materiel Management Center.

The students want to complete their survey on e-mail usage within the next month. It’s to address the amount of e-mails that are unrelated to official duties. The students hope to get workers’ perspective on receiving and handling these e-mails as well as propose alternate methods of distributing these messages.

“Please help us to accurately attain the work force’s views on receiving and handling these e-mails by completing the survey,” Williams said. “This is an opportunity for you to be a part of the solution. LIFT is a learning experience and we welcome any feedback relating to this topic. Please, let us hear from you.”

For more information on the survey, call Williams at 876-2599 or LeChara Meardry at 876-8061.

The survey is located at the following web site: <https://surveytracker.redstone.army.mil/liftnonessentialmail/survey.htm>.

# Warning

continued from page 5

weapons and support to terrorist groups that kill our forces and are undercutting the stability, peace and aspirations of a people (in Iraq)," he said.

## **"Iran armed with long range missiles is not a fantasy. One of our highest priorities must be deployment of missile defense in Europe."**

— Robert Joseph  
*Former undersecretary  
of state for arms control*

In addition, Iran wants to disrupt any movements toward peaceful negotiations between Israel and Palestinians. Iranian leaders not only want to "light the fuse of additional nuclear proliferation," they also want to wipe Israel "off the face of the map," Joseph said.

"Iran now has the largest ballistic force in the region, capable of hitting targets in Turkey and Israel," he said, adding they have missiles that can reach into Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Austria, Czech Republic and parts of

Italy, and the potential to obtain even longer range missiles to hit targets in Europe.

"Iran will deploy missiles to target the U.S. and the rest of Europe within the next seven years," Joseph said. "They will advance their own brand of extremism in the region and beyond."

The U.S. response, he said, should be to deploy missile defense systems that protect U.S. interests and show U.S. resolve, and that deter future development of ballistic missile threats and nuclear weapons.

"We must have new defense capabilities to deal with emerging threats," Joseph said. "We must have an emphasis on diplomacy, on working with friends and allies to counter nuclear proliferation."

Joseph said nations around the world are more interested in missile defense than ever before. There are now more than 80 countries participating in the defense against weapons of mass destruction. More than 50 countries are working to cease nuclear proliferation.

But, in the area of diplomacy, Joseph has little hope when it comes to Iran.

"Iran, I think, has demonstrated the limits of traditional diplomacy," he said. "The Iranian (nuclear) program has moved much faster. The U.N. Security Council has

passed 17 resolutions over the course of 10 years to limit nuclear proliferation.

"But, today, Iran is proceeding forward with its nuclear programs. We simply don't have time to rely on traditional diplomacy. Iran has probably already reached the point of no return. If not, it's months, not years, away."

Joseph said he has seen no indication that either North Korea or Iran will give up its quest for nuclear weapons.

"So, we must take measures necessary to protect ourselves ... We must take steps to deter regimes that, as a matter of policy, care little about the fate of their own people," he said.

**T**he nation's missile defense has indeed gone international with the development of cooperative partnerships in more than 15 countries. Japan and Denmark and other European countries are working with the U.S. in missile defense. In 2006, Poland and the Czech Republic were earmarked as European ground-based receptor sites.

"The deployment of such a site is essential to keep us free from blackmail ... We must deploy defense to protect against ballistic weapons of all sizes," Joseph said. "The deployment of a missile defense system in Europe signifies U.S. and European resolve. Iran understands the impact of this. Iran

is downplaying the threat to the intent of influencing a third site in Europe."

By 2015, Iran will be able to target European capitals with its missiles while North Korea is much further than once thought in its missile development.

"Iran armed with long range missiles is not a fantasy," Joseph said. "One of our highest priorities must be deployment of missile defense in Europe."

Yet, Russia still opposes the deployment of European missile defense systems.

"We have found we can only cooperate with Russia when there is a shared interest and vision," Joseph said.

"Russia shares our sense of the threat ... But, Russia wants to prevent the permanent presence of U.S. troops in eastern Europe. As we press forward with deployments we should continue to try to work with Russia. My experience is Russia will understand our position and will accept it based on U.S. self-interest. We have strong arguments and solid facts. There is a shared assessment of the Iranian missile threat."

The U.S. must move forward with missile defense in Europe "consistent with NATO practices and in consultation with allies. The U.S. must continue to lead in this regard and, if we lead, we will have the support of our allies," Joseph said.

is the U.S. demonstration of its commitment, strength, resolve and capacity, then the job of missile deployment is easier.

"More and more countries are seeking to cooperate with the U.S. on missile defense," Joseph said. "The only countries not cooperating are those who want to use missiles as a threat to other countries. Our friends and allies want the confidence that the U.S. is committed to their security for the long term."

Showing U.S. resolve and strength through missile defense, he said, "doesn't compete with diplomacy. Defense reinforces diplomacy and increases the prospect of success with diplomacy. There is no assurance diplomacy will work, particularly in the hard cases of North Korea and Iran. But, diplomacy will fail if we substitute weakness for resolve."

**I**n the long run, missile defense can take the place of diplomacy in minimizing the threat of future wars with countries that are "determined and capable of obtaining nuclear weapons," he said.

"Sometimes diplomacy just doesn't work," Joseph said. "You look at the buildup of wars and you'll find diplomacy didn't work."

"We need to make it very clear that there is a path forward that means benefits for the Iranian people and, on the other hand, there are consequences. I don't think we've made that very clear."

**Win**  
*or lose*

# Gators make right moves against NCO Academy



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**OPENING SERVE—** NCO Academy player/coach Crystal Knott serves to open the match against Headquarters & Alpha, but the Academy went on to lose 25-11, 25-12.

## Headquarters & Alpha wins with new lineup

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

The Headquarters & Alpha volleyball team was missing many of its players as last week began.

So, the Gators had to go with a new lineup against the NCO Academy in a showdown of the two best teams in the Western Conference.

Their additions did just fine, thank you.

Headquarters & Alpha beat the NCO Academy 25-11, 25-12 on Aug. 13 at Pagano Gym. With their fourth straight win, the Gators improved to 4-1 atop the conference while the Academy fell to 3-2.

“We just worked on what we had,” Gators player/coach Felix Knight said. “We had to move some people around because

we’ve got a lot of the team that’s out in the field right now. So we had a few added people.”

Jaysen Barnhart played well in his debut with the team. Miguel Cotto-Baez made numerous spikes against the Academy. Jimmy Welsh also did a good job for the Gators.

“For the most part it was an all-around good team effort,” Knight said.

“We stayed focused,” setter Draper Hollier said. “We played together. It was good communication. We got it done.”

The NCO Academy had its three-game winning streak snapped.

“We just weren’t concentrating on the game,” said Academy player/coach Crystal Knott. But she also said, “Everybody played well.”

Headquarters & Alpha on Aug 14 beat defending champion HHC 59th 25-19, 16-25, 15-11. The Gators’ fifth

straight win avenged their season-opening loss to the 59th, which fell to 3-3.

In Thursday’s season-ending games, Charlie will play HHC 59th at 6 p.m. and Headquarters & Alpha faces NCO Academy in a rematch at 6:45. The postseason tournament starts Aug. 27.

Here are the results from the third week of the season:

• **Aug. 13** – Headquarters & Alpha def. NCO Academy 25-11, 25-12. HHC 59th def. Charlie 25-19, 25-10. Marines def. Bravo 25-6, 25-17.

• **Aug. 14** – Charlie def. Bravo 28-26, 26-24. NCO Academy def. Marines 25-21, 23-25, 18-16. Headquarters & Alpha def. HHC 59th 25-19, 16-25, 15-11.

• **Aug. 16** – NCO Academy def. HHC 59th 25-15, 25-21. Headquarters & Alpha def. Bravo 25-14, 25-17. Marines def. Charlie 25-6, 25-16.

The Eastern Conference standings entering this week

had Marines (5-3), HHC 59th (3-4) and Charlie (3-4). The Western Conference had Headquarters & Alpha (6-1), NCO Academy (5-2) and Bravo (0-8).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**BACK AT YOU—** Headquarters & Alpha setter Draper Hollier, left, returns the ball against the NCO Academy.

# Insurance program serves severely-injured Soldiers

WASHINGTON — The Army along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has completed their first review of Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance since its start in 2005.

The congressionally-mandated insurance program has provided about \$250 million to traumatically-injured members of the armed services. Of that, about \$136 million was paid to Soldiers in the Army — more than twice the next highest service.

While those figures represent success in working toward the program's mission to provide financial help for traumatically injured Soldiers, TSGLI still faces challenges with educating servicemembers about the program and dispelling some myths that have grown around TSGLI during its short existence.

TSGLI was created to help servicemembers and their families get through tough financial times that often happen when a servicemember is severely injured. Approved TSGLI claimants receive a one-time payment of up to \$100,000, based on the type and severity of the injury. That money might be the difference that allows a Soldier's family to stay with him or her during recovery, help with unforeseen expenses or give them a financial head start on life after recovery.

From the Army's point of view, the program faces some interrelated challenges: ensuring that all Soldiers are aware of TSGLI, understand its purpose, and know how to file a correctly prepared claim; and decreasing the claim processing time.

Col. John Sackett, who leads the TSGLI Division under the Army Physical Disability Agency, said the average time to process a claim from receipt at Army through payment by Office of Service Members Group Life Insurance is 30 days.

Sackett believes both situations can be improved through outreach educating Soldiers, healthcare providers, counselors and advocates.

"Our main focus is on determining which Soldiers are eligible to receive this payment, based on the claim they file, and then making sure eligible Soldiers receive payment as quickly as possible, so this money is available while they recover from their injury," he said. "One of our biggest barriers is the lack of knowledge and general misconceptions that are out there regarding TSGLI. These barriers create situations where Soldiers who are not eligible file claims; or Soldiers who are eligible file claims without supplying the required documentation allowing us to adjudicate their claim quickly." (*TSGLI release*)

# Rocket Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Redstone 5K

The MWR/Crestwood 5K is Wednesday, Aug. 29 at the troop track off Patton Road (in the "Tin City" area). The 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) race starts at 3:30 p.m., followed by a 1-mile fun run/walk at 4:15. This event is sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Crestwood Medical Center. The \$10 registration fee for the 5K includes a T-shirt for the first 50 registrants. The 1-mile fun run/walk, geared toward children, is free. Registration, for the 5K and/or fun run, ends Friday. For information call Gaylene Wilson at 842-2574; or for information on the fun run/walk, call Mike Gates at 313-3699.

### Pineapple open

The 13th annual Pineapple Open charity golf tournament, sponsored by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club, will be held Sept. 7 at the Links at Redstone. This will be a four-person scramble (no handicap) with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Entry fees include lunch, green fees and a cart. Proceeds go to the OCWC Welfare Fund which provides financial support to local organizations. "Last year, the OCWC Welfare Fund gave just over \$30,000 in scholarships and donations back to the community - over \$7,000 of which was from our 2006 golf tournament proceeds," a prepared release said. "Your support of the Pineapple Open is vital to ensuring the OCWC can continue to assist those in need in our local area." For more information, call 497-5662 or e-mail ocwcpineappleopen@yahoo.com.

### School House 5K

The School House Run 5K and 1-mile fun run is Sept. 22 at the old Councill High School, 620 St. Clair (by the Huntsville

Public Library). The 5K begins at 8 a.m. and the fun run at 9. Registration for the 5K is \$15 in advance or \$20 on race day starting at 7 a.m. Proceeds are to go toward renovating the Councill building and to support Christmas Charities Year Round. For more information, call 837-2373.

### Benefit tournament

The Executive Women's Golf Association and Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association are taking part in the "Rally for the Cure" presented by Golf for Women magazine, a breast cancer awareness campaign. The "Rally for the Cure" tournament will be held Sept. 22 at the Links at Redstone with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Check-in will begin at noon. The four-person scramble costs \$60 per player and \$240 per team. For more information and registration forms, call Christina Semmens 603-0225 or Kay Theodoss 684-5161.

### Garrison golf

Join the Links for the All Garrison 4-man Scramble Golf tournament Sept. 29. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information, call 883-7977.

### Lions club tournament

Huntsville Pacesetters' Lions Club will hold the "Flight fore Sight" golf tournament Sept. 15 at Colonial Golf Course, 400 Colonial Drive in Meridianville. Check in is at 7 a.m. and the shotgun start at 7:30. Player entry fee is \$55. For more information, call tournament chairman Mike Crane home 881-7554 or work 881-1346, Regis Percey 883-3132 or Bill Harrell 881-2248.

### Golf fund-raiser

The family readiness group for 1/167th Infantry, Cullman, is holding a four-man scramble golf tournament at 1 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Cullman Golf Course. Cost for this fund-raiser is \$60 for individuals and

\$240 for foursomes. For more information call Ronda Rusk, family readiness group chairman, 737-0836.

### Honor Flight benefit

A four-person Scramble golf tournament at the Links at Redstone is set Aug. 31 and will raise funds for Honor Flight. The inaugural Honor Flight Benefit Golf Tournament will begin with registration at 7 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:30. Door prizes and awards will be announced at 1 p.m. The tournament fee is \$50 for civilians, and \$45 for military and Department of Defense civilians, and includes entry fee, green fees, golf cart, and food and drink. Team sponsorship packages are \$500, \$750 and \$1,000. A hole sponsorship is \$100. Checks should be made out to Honor Flight and sent to Nick Leone Golf, 2623 Hickory Flats Trail, Huntsville, AL 35801. Leone can also be reached at 655-4352. Other organizers are Jason Hales 542-4604 and David Miller 542-4816. Proceeds from the golf tournament will enable World War II veterans in the Tennessee Valley to visit their memorial in Washington, D.C.



## Conferences & Meetings

### Bible studies

Protestant Women of the Chapel will begin Bible studies this Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. In the morning, the following studies are offered: Ephesians and A Marriage Without Regrets; and in the evening, Galatians. Free child care is provided at both times. For information call Erica Hobbs 325-3152 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

### Industry briefing

The 2007 Advance Planning Briefing for Industry will be held Sept. 20 at Bob Jones Auditorium This briefing is a continuing effort to keep industry informed of AMCOM's long-range technology development objectives and contractual oppor-

ties. Briefings will be of interest to representatives from industry, academia and research. The theme of this year's conference is "Concept to Combat - A Partnership for Progress." This event is restricted to U.S. citizens with no foreign nationals or foreign owned company representatives allowed due to security restraints. You may register online at <https://www.apbi.redstone.army.mil>. For additional information, call the APBI help desk 842-9967 or e-mail redstone-apbi@conus.army.mil.

### Parliamentarians

The American Institute of Parliamentarians meets on the second Monday of each month, beginning Sept. 10, from 6-8 p.m. at the Eleanor E. Murphy Branch Library in Huntsville. For information call Arthur Henderson 541-4395.

### University women

American Association of University Women will have a free public lecture Sept. 4 at the Bevill Center, UAH, 550 Sparkman Drive. Mary Hovater, NASA, winner of the Federal Women's Program Outstanding Achievement Award for 2007, is to speak on "One Woman's Adventures in a Non-Traditional Role." Meet-and-greet begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner (\$18) at 6, and the program at 7. Seats are available for non-diners. For reservations call Lois 880-8643 by Aug. 27.

### Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) presents a free public lecture Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Marshall Space Flight Center historian Mike Wright is to speak on "Historical Trends in Technology." A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie 509-3833.

### Quality summit

The 2007 Quality Leadership Council Quality Summit is Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium. The theme of the summit,

sponsored by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is "Quality and Supply Chain Management." It will consist of invited speakers from government and industry. Participation from industry, academia and government is requested. For more information, contact Amanda Clark at amanda.clark@irtc-hq.com.

## Fleet Reserve

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

## Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. The chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Aug. 29 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Madison County tax assessor Fran Hamilton will be the speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

## Security professionals

Can you explain the real security threat to your management? Do you know how to conduct a risk analysis? Can you recognize the characteristics of industrial espionage? Who is trying to obtain your company's information? The NCMS Mid-South Chapter Luncheon on Aug. 30 should help you answer these questions. FBI agent Guy Hardman IV will present the "Threat Awareness" topic. Additionally, the Chapter Technology Committee will present information on the Vista Operating System. The Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 30 at Dynetics Inc., 1001 Explorer Boulevard. Box lunches will be provided by McAllister's Deli for \$8 with a choice of roast beef/turkey/ham and a drink. For registration or more information, contact Jeff Bennett by Aug. 28 at jeff.bennett@westwindcorp.com.

## Geospatial conference

Directions Media, organizer of the inaugural Rocket City Geospatial Conference, Oct. 15-17 at the Huntsville Marriott, has announced the final program for the event. More than 50 presentations will be offered representing a diverse mix of top-

ical topics that address government and private industry applications of geospatial technology. Featured keynote speakers include the director of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, James Walker, and the director of the Earth System Science and Technology Center at the National Space Science and Technology Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, Dr. John Christy. For more information, e-mail Joe Francica at joe.francica@DirectionsMag.com.

## Terrain summit

Terrain Summit '07 is Sept. 24-25 in Huntsville. For information visit [www.terrainsummit.org](http://www.terrainsummit.org).

## Weapon system forum

The fifth AIAA Biennial National Forum on Weapon System Effectiveness is Oct. 16-18 at Samples Auditorium in Huntsville. This event, hosted by Miltec, a Ducommun Company, will address the themes of major weapons, test and evaluation, performance analysis, and future systems. Registration is now open. For more information or to register, visit the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics web site [www.aiaa.org/events/wse](http://www.aiaa.org/events/wse).



## 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.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Signup fever

**Kinesthetic Cue Dance Club representatives Jania Johnson and Harold Renneberg dance Aug. 14 during the activities signup sponsored by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club. The event in the Officers and Civilians Club included vendors from throughout the Huntsville area.**

### 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.

### 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. The shop will be open Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10-2. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

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# Rocket Announcements

## Computer classes

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

## Chapel services

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

## 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. For information call Keith Coates of Garrison Safety Office 876-3383. The instructor is Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

## 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.

## Logistics achievement award

Nominations for the Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award are being accepted for deserving individuals (civilian or military) assigned to Team Redstone who have made significant contributions to the logistics community and whose leadership and expertise have made a major, positive impact on the Army's logistics program. The 2007

"Ernie" format will include two awards — the Management/Executive Award for GS/GM-13s and above (or military equivalents), and the Professional/Technical Award for GS/GM-13s and below (or military equivalents). Eligible population for the award includes all Team Redstone personnel (government or military) who contribute to the logistics mission at AMCOM. Nominations should be submitted by Friday to Kathy White of Integrated Materiel Management Center 876-1757. The award will be presented to the winners during a luncheon/ceremony Nov. 8 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

## Women's equality day

Redstone Arsenal will hold a Women's Equality Day luncheon and awards ceremony Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The keynote speaker is Sharon Houy, associate deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Cost for the luncheon is \$12. For more information and to RSVP, call Julia Story 842-7954.

## Green to gold

The Alabama A&M Army ROTC program, which includes University of Alabama-Huntsville and Athens State University, is seeking proficient enlisted Soldiers interested in completing an undergraduate or graduate degree and commissioning as Army officers upon receiving the appropriate degree. If you are an enlisted Soldier who has served at least two years on active duty, this is an opportunity for you to advance. Enroll in Army ROTC on campus by using opportunities provided through the Green to Gold Program. For more information or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Annette Woods 372-4023 or e-mail annette.woods@aamu.edu. You may also visit online at <http://www.aamu.edu/rotc>.

## Lateral entry

Opportunities to excel under a competitive learning environment are available to qualified prior service individuals who wish to train and commission as second lieutenants in the Army. These opportunities are also available to you if you are an enlisted member of the National Guard or Reserve and wish to become an officer. The Lateral Entry Program will allow you

to enroll — as a junior, senior or graduate student with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation — as a cadet in the ROTC Program at Alabama A&M University. For more information or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Annette Woods 372-4023.

## CFC volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the 2007 CFC Loaned Executive Program. The Combined Federal Campaign office is looking for enthusiastic individuals with leadership and organizational abilities to be a part of the 2007 LE program. CFC is the federal community's single, comprehensive charity drive designed to help others in their time of need. This year's campaign is Oct. 8 through Dec. 7. The Loaned Executive program is critical to the success of CFC. The CFC needs special people to do a special job — bright, energetic people who have the ability to get the job done successfully. It offers an opportunity for the best employees to set an example of caring and concern, not only for their fellow employees, but for the civilian community as well. Loaned executives will be required to attend a four-day orientation Aug. 27-31 and be able to volunteer up to 20 hours per week during the campaign. If you are interested in participating in the Loaned Executive program or would like more information, call the CFC office 876-9143.

## Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to



Courtesy photo

## Hotlanta friend

Jordan Lt. Col. Qasem Bashayreh meets "Deepo," the Georgia Aquarium mascot, during a field studies program trip to Atlanta Aug. 11-12 with the International Military Student Office. Students on the trip were from Jordan, Korea, Egypt, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, and St. Kitts and Nevis. The nine students visited the Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta Cyclorama, CNN, World of Coke, Centennial Olympic Park and Stone Mountain Park. Four family members also participated.

participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up to participate is Sept. 1. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled Dec. 20.

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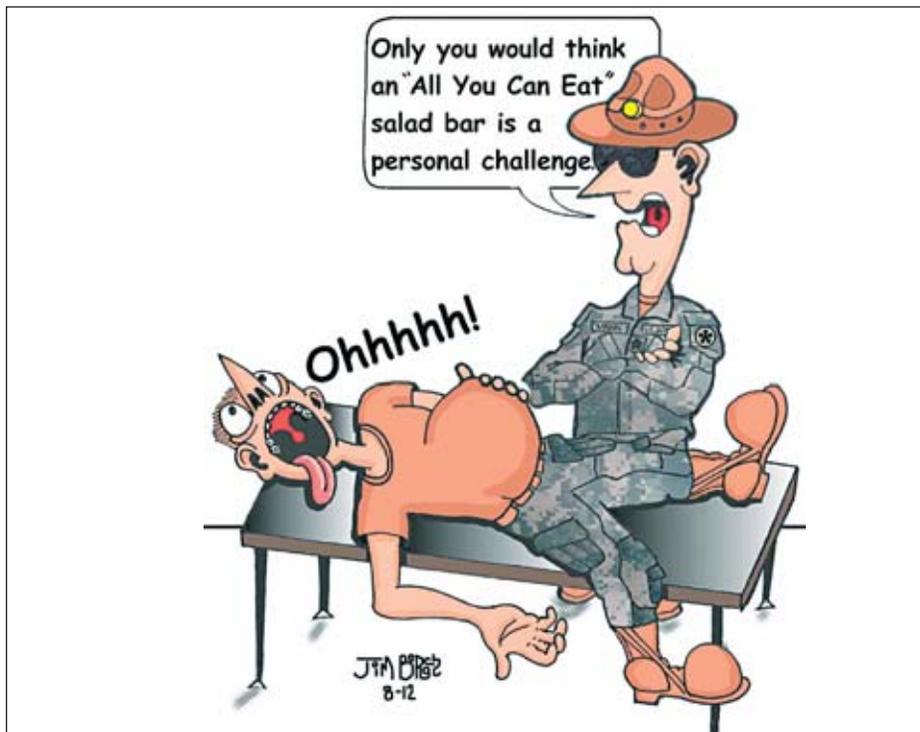




Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Look who's 40

Intelligence assistant Tonya Gordon is honored that her co-workers decorated her desk for her 40th birthday Aug. 15. "I feel very honored because I'm a fairly new employee here," she says. Members of the AMCOM G-2 (Intelligence and Security) who did the redesign include Susan Smith, May Beasley and Tamie Huston.

## Comedy night

Comedy night is Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Performers include headliner Rik Roberts, feature act Pat Duax and opener Kate Brindle. Advance tickets are \$16 with a buffet dinner, or \$8 without the dinner. For more information, call 830-2582.

## Outdoor evening

The Madison Rotary Club will hold "Parrots of the Caribbean," an outdoor evening of live island music, food and libations, Saturday from 6-11 p.m. at 58 Martin St. in downtown Madison. All guests must be 18 or older and are encouraged to bring their IDs, blankets and lawn chairs. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the night of the event. Tickets can be purchased at the Madison branch of First Commercial Bank or the Madison Public Library. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Madison Rotary Club's annual civic and service projects such as worldwide polio eradication, humanitarian support in Honduras, and local community relief efforts. For more information, call Jerry Vickers 665-2202.

## Parent/child workshop

"That's the Ticket," an interactive family workshop will be presented by Kevin McMahon, nationally recognized parenting game inventor, author, speaker and entertainer, today from 5-8 p.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel assembly room. McMahon will provide parents with a game

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