

Redstone Rocket

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Oktoberfest in air for weekend

German festival
welcomes all

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

The “Oompah!” of Oktoberfest is coming to Redstone Arsenal once again. But, this year, the traditional event is boosting its German flavor up a notch.

Always a family affair, Oktoberfest will be bigger and better with more German entertainment, more carnival rides and a few new surprises. The fun will begin at the post activity field off Patton Road this Thursday evening and continue through Sunday afternoon.

“We are really excited about Oktoberfest this year,” said Mark Germonprez, chief of business operations for Morale Welfare and Recreation, which hosts the event.

“We have a brand new carnival with bigger and better rides. The carnival vendor is actually bringing in circus performers for



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ON TOP OF CARNIVAL— Festival goers who love fun carnival rides will have plenty of opportunities to rise above the carnival at this year’s Oktoberfest. The festival is expanding to offer 25 midway rides.

us. We have Terry Cavanaugh and the Alpine Express for all four days. And, they are bringing

with them a 12-year-old fiddle playing prodigy who gets standing ovations wherever she goes. And, we will have a sports tent so no one has to miss their favorite football game when they come to Oktoberfest.”

Oktoberfest hours are 5 to 11 p.m. on Thursday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, noon to 1 a.m. Saturday and 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday. Tickets on Thursday and Sunday are \$8 and tickets on Friday and Saturday are \$10. Ticket cost includes free carnival rides, free entertainment and free parking. Entrance for Oktoberfest should be made at Gate 10 on Jordan Lane/Patton Road.

Oktoberfest will begin Thursday with a sponsor reception and customary “Tapping of the Keg” by Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski, and AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles in the H.H. Gregg/Knology Sports Tent.

The festivities will continue



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SIGN OF TIMES— Redstone Arsenal’s annual German party requires lots of planning and coordination by the staff at Morale Welfare and Recreation. Making sure this year’s event offers plenty of fun are, from left, chief of business operations Mark Germonprez, marketing manager Amelia Flanigan, director Derrick Gould and chief of resource management Kenneth McDonald. Oktoberfest begins Thursday night and continues through Sunday afternoon.

in the Papa John’s Festhalle Tent with Terry Cavanaugh and the Alpine Express taking the stage from 6 to 11 p.m. This year, the band will also welcome a fiddle-playing prodigy known as Oohlala. The band will also perform on Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 2-6 p.m.

“Terry Cavanaugh and the Alpine Express are always hilarious and fun,” Germonprez said. “They are very entertaining. A lot of people come out every

See Fest on page 3

An open lane random survey

What's your favorite pastime and why?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil



June Bolen
AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate
"I like to go to antique auctions. It gives me a change of pace from the busy life I have here at the Arsenal and relieves the stress. And I'm able to buy nice antiques at a discounted price. And my other pastime would be reading the Bible."

Sarah Brazzel

Garrison Protocol

"Working on projects at my house – because I like to see the result of my hard work and it takes my mind off my job. And it's relaxing."



Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Cole
Garrison command sergeant major
"I like taking long walks and I like driving through the country, too. That's because both of them are relaxing and you get to see something."

Larry Cable

Garrison Directorate of Logistics

"Watching sports – I guess because I played sports and it just kind of relaxes me. And I like to compare myself to some of the younger kids, especially playing basketball."



Quote of the week

'Life is tough. Life is tougher if you're stupid.'

— John Wayne

Activity usage fee questioned

I recently attended a Parent Advisory Council meeting which is normally held in the Challenger Activity Center on a monthly basis.

This meeting is for the parents of children who are enrolled in CYS programs to have a chance to address their concerns in a public manner to the management of the CYS programs as well as find out what is going on within the programs. After driving to the Challenger club we were told the meeting had been moved to another location.

During the meeting it was brought up that we would need to find a new location for the monthly meetings; and when we asked why, we were told that now that the Challenger club has renovated their rooms you can only use them if you pay for them.

My issue/question is why should we have to pay to use the building? I thought that CYS was managed through MWR. Maybe I am mistaken but we already are paying our \$18 or \$40 annual registration fee in addition to the fees we pay for the services we use. On top of that, MWR is funded from the local community through other

programs. I can't see why an organization that is based around an MWR activity would be required to pay a usage fee. I would appreciate someone looking into this and giving us an answer.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Derrick Gould, director of Morale Welfare and Recreation, provided the following response. "First let me offer an apology for the message that you received and the ensuing confusion. There was never any intention to charge you or any other member of the PAC for the use of the conference room. While indeed the conference room is being renovated, and yes, we will be charging customers to use the room in the future, the PAC meetings that are hosted by the Child & Youth Services staff will be authorized use of the room for PAC meetings free of charge.

"There is nobody to blame but myself for not communicating clearly to the MWR staff, the intent of the rental fee for the room. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me direct."

Healthy shopping at Commissary

Recently, I found that eating healthier does not have to be difficult.

Using our interactive web and looking up commissaries.com I found that DeCA wants to help. With DeCA's "It's Your Choice, Make It Healthy" slogan and "Ask the DeCA Dietitian" forum on commissaries.com, DeCA dietitian Maj. Karen Fauber is making it easier. Fauber may be contacted with the "Ask the DeCA Dietitian" forum on our web site.

Visitors at DeCA's dietitian forum will find weight management is one of the more popular topics. Other

topics include making healthy choices at your commissary, and basic and family nutrition. "Whether it's giving tours or answering questions via the web site, we're striving to give our military service members the best information available so they can make healthy choices appropriate to their lifestyle and dietary needs," Fauber said.

So if you want to make a change in your life and eat healthier, let your fingers do the walking at commissaries.com.

Amber Bray

store director, Commissary

Searching for hidden camera

Where's the camera? Being a software programmer, I spend all my time writing code, setting up computers and configuring systems. Most of these computers are running Windows XP and require routine patches or upgrades to keep up with the ever increasing flood of technology we see almost daily. But this year I think they have gone too far.

All too often, a popup box appears on my PC screen asking me if I want to allow some form of action. I, like most of us, usually click the YES button and the installation continues on its merry way.

I've noticed this with my Internet surfing interacting with my anti-virus program. If the anti-virus program, or firewall program, suspects something might be "suspect," a popup box appears asking if I want to proceed or just allow whatever is happening to happen. OK, so it happens all the time. But now it's happening quite often and usually when my hand leaves the mouse. Hummmm. Sure enough, 9 out of 10 times, I take my hand off the mouse during web surfing or installing something on the PC and a popup box appears!

This is getting to be very distracting. Being an engineer I look for a sensor on my mouse. Not there. Maybe hidden. I try an old PS-2 mouse. No change, popup boxes still appear. I've got to figure this out.

I take a walk through the hallways of the Space and Missile Defense Center where I work. Look! Cameras are on the ceilings and in the entrances. This clicks! There has got to be a camera on my PC that detects when my hand leaves the mouse! Sneaky. So I rush back to my work area and inspect my PC. They must have hidden it well. I can't find it, but it must be there. Paranoia strikes. I've gotta' find it.

It's now 10:30 p.m. My wife calls wondering why I'm not home. I tell her about the hidden PC camera that detects when my hand leaves the mouse. I don't think she believes me.

Every day, now, I'm trying to locate this device so if any of you know where on our PCs this camera is, please tell me! Wait, this might be it.... No, that's not it.... Darn, another popup box. I click OK to proceed. Maybe if I just leave my hand on the mouse....

Bill Boykin

SMDC Battlelab

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to go to the gym; I like to work out. I like to shop. I'm one of those men that enjoy shopping. And I enjoy reading. I'm a big fan of mythology – Norse mythology.

What are your goals?

Ultimately I want to be an education services officer still working under Army Continuing Education System. Additionally I want to return to school and finish up my doctorate of education degree.

What's your favorite type of music?

Rhythm and blues – R&B from the 1965 to 1985 era

Name: Charles Williams

Job: Education services specialist, Education and Career Development Division

Where do you call home?
Tunica, Miss.

What do you like about your job?

I love it. It provides me with the opportunity to continue to provide a good quality service to the highly motivated American fighting Soldier. For 22 years I was a Soldier. I love that. And this allows me to continue to do it.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

June 2: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license after being stopped for speeding. He was issued two violation notices and released.



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

Violation notices issued: 21 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving with a suspended/canceled/revoked driver's license, 3 following too close, 1 failure to yield right of way, 3 expired tags, 3 improper backing.

Florida Tech teaches career development

Florida Institute of Technology site director Timothy White presented a free seminar in career development, "Successful Job-Interviewing Techniques," Aug. 11 at the Heritage Club for the Army educational community at Redstone Arsenal.

Topics included resume preparation, including new technologies in video resumes, pre-interview preparation, professional behavior during the interview process and post-interview activities. Florida Tech provides this seminar as a service to recent and soon-to-be graduates of educational programs sponsored by the Army educational community so job-seekers may take maximal advantage of their newly acquired degrees or certification.

Florida Tech's University College offers more than 35 in-residence and online master's degree and graduate certificate programs at 10 sites located in five east coast states, including Redstone Arsenal. The Redstone site serves government agencies, national and local firms with facilities in the Huntsville area. Major governmental agencies include the Strategic Defense Advanced Technology Center, the Redstone Readiness Group and Marshall Space Flight Center. Florida Tech also has a Virtual Campus for distance learning. The university's main campus is in Melbourne, Fla. Visit <http://uc.fit.edu>. For inquiries about upcoming seminars, please call White at 881-7878. (Florida Tech release)

■ "Oompah!" with this year's expanded Oktoberfest

Fest

continued from page 1

year just to enjoy their music. There is also a dance floor so that everyone can get up and have fun."

About 22,000 people are expected to attend Oktoberfest. The weekend, Germoprez said, is built around family fun for the entire Huntsville and North Alabama community.

"This is a family event for everyone," he said. "Some folks come out for the German food and the German beer. Others are really into the German music. And some families come out for the carnival rides.

"It's been a great community event for a long time, and we're really working to get new, fun things for the family that keeps the festival fresh."

One of the new additions to this year's Oktoberfest is the Sports Tent, sponsored by H.H.Gregg and Knology. The tent will house several big screen TVs broadcasting all the weekend football games.

"A lot of people have asked for this," Germoprez said. "With the Sports Tent, families can come to the Oktoberfest and while the kids are having fun riding the rides and playing games, mom and dad can watch their favorite football team. Or, they can enjoy the day with their kids and stop at the tent to check the football scores. This will bring the Alabama football season to Oktoberfest."

Families will get to enjoy 25 rides – all with new technology — being offered by new carnival vendor Leisure Time Associates. The carnival vendor will also feature a family of circus performers known as the Posso Family.

"They will do two performances a day that will include a high wire act, a trapeze act and juggling," Germoprez said. "The times will be announced in the park."

Festival favorites such as the Home Depot Kids Tent, where children can make a bird house or bench, will be joined by new activities, such as the Outdoor Channel's Motor Moose, a mobile television studio.

When it comes to food, Oktoberfest will once again offer German fare along-

side favorite carnival foods. Authentic German food and beverages will be served by Redstone Arsenal's Soldatenstube, including bratwurst, schnitzel, brotchen and sauerkraut. Papa John's will serve pizza, and there will be such favorite carnival foods as corn dogs and funnel cakes.

There will also be plenty of merchandise for sale. Festival goers can purchase a commemorative Oktoberfest mug that will carry the festival's logo on one side and a picture of family or friends at Oktoberfest on the other side.

"MWR Arts and Crafts will be at Oktoberfest with a digital camera set-up where they will be able to take people's pictures and put them on one side of the mug," Germoprez said.

There will also be an MWR tent where festival goers will be able to purchase MWR merchandise, such as T-shirts, bags, polo shirts and shorts.

"A lot of people who come to Oktoberfest either work on Redstone Arsenal, have retired from Redstone Arsenal or are active duty," said Amelia Flanigan, MWR marketing manager. "These people know what MWR is all about, and what it does for Soldiers and their families and for anyone who works for the Army. A lot of these people want to buy MWR merchandise."

Anyone purchasing MWR merchandise at Oktoberfest will be eligible for a drawing for MWR bucks.

Funds raised from Oktoberfest stay at Redstone Arsenal.

"Every penny, every dollar we make goes back into the Redstone community," Flanigan said. "The money is not just for Soldiers and their families, but for everyone on Redstone Arsenal. MWR is there for active duty military and for DoD civilians and contractors, and NASA employees."

Sponsors for this year's Oktoberfest include Papa John's Pizza, Bill Heard Chevrolet, *The Huntsville Times*, WZYP, Supreme Beverage Company, Coca Cola, Redstone Federal Credit Union, News Channel 19, H.H. Gregg, Knology, The Home Depot and Crestwood Medical Center.

For more information, call 876-4531 or go online at www.redstonemwr.com

Singing the souls of violins with his hands

Craftsman's musical instruments rival those of past artisans

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

When he is talking about his violins, Sgt. Geoffrey Allison caresses the wood like a craftsman who knows that the soul of the instrument's music is found in its details.

The finely chiseled scroll, the smoothly curved back and the delicately carved F holes – Allison's violins sing of the meticulous handwork of their maker. Each carries his personal label inside.

"There are about 1,000 violin makers in the world," the 40-year-old Soldier said. "But, there are only about 200 in the world who are making violins by hand just for the sake of making them. They are like me. They have a fiery passion for violin making. They want to hang on to the old methods."

Allison, who recently set up his craftsman's shop in his new home on Redstone Arsenal, has been making violins and violas in the handcrafting traditions of Stradivari and other 17th and 18th century Italian artisans for about 16 years.

But, recently, his craft has brought him notoriety not so much because of the beauty and precision of his work – which, to the untrained eye, is up to par with the old masters – but because of his determination to not let a deployment in Iraq keep him from his off-duty work as a violin maker.

"When I wasn't on a mission or on patrol or doing sick call in the FOB, I was making violins. Not even combat can keep me from making violins," said Allison, now a training coordinator at Fox Army Health Center.

In a way, Allison's violins became an escape from the stress of combat during his



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HAND FOR TOOLS— Besides making violins, Sgt. Geoffrey Allison collects hand tools of all kinds – such as finger planes, gouges, chisels, knives and rasps – that he puts to use in his craft. Many of the hand tools are finely crafted instruments from places such as Japan, Germany and Great Britain.

13-month deployment as a medic with the 1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade Team, 1-37 Armor. While other Soldiers relaxed by playing video games or working out, Allison made four violins and two violas.

"I made these in combat," he said, pointing to instruments hanging from a wire above his work area. "In Iraq, I took violin making to a different level. It became more serious because of where I was. Every violin I made could have been my last. And, making them kept my mind off the war."

Allison, who has also made violins in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the Russian barracks during Operation Endeavor in Bosnia and everywhere else a deployment has taken him, knew he couldn't leave his violin making behind during his Iraqi deployment in January 2006. While he packed up all his other personal belongings and put them in storage, Allison specially designed and built a carrying case that safely stored his hand tools for the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PASSION FOR VIOLIN MAKING— Sgt. Geoffrey Allison, who was recently assigned to Fox Army Health Center, spends his spare time crafting violins and violas by hand with the help of blueprints left by 17th and 18th century Italian artisans. Allison has recently gained national notoriety for his determination to continue with his craftsmanship despite a tour in Iraq. While deployed, Allison made six instruments by hand.

trip into the war zone. He carried enough wood for two violins in his duffle bag, mixing it amongst his combat gear.

"Sometimes, I will use a band saw and

drill press. But, in Iraq I just had hand tools and a coping saw," Allison said.

See **Violins** on page 19



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Generous gift

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski hugs Gina DeSimone, Boeing vice president and Huntsville site executive, as she presents a \$5,000 check from the Boeing Company to Army Emergency Relief on Sept. 4.

Area family could use help

Redstone's chief of investigations Stanley Walker likes to take long drives throughout the Southeast. On his travels, he met a family in Leighton who could use contributions from the generous members of the Redstone community.

Vadra Ayers of Leighton said her son-in-law Andy Pace has colon cancer and is struggling financially. Pace is manager of a Domino's Pizza, but isn't able to work

very often; and he and his wife have a 13-year-old son.

"Andy has had surgery for the cancer. They didn't get all of it," Ayers said in a letter to Walker. "He is taking treatment and is sick when he takes it. We hope and pray that you can get help for them."

Anyone who would like to contribute can call Ayers at (256) 446-5955 or 810-8449. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Corpus Christi depot earns award for manufacturing

Pavehawk Program paves way for honor

By JAMEY GIDDENS

Corpus Christi Army Depot publicist

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Corpus Christi Army Depot's H-60 JDLM Pavehawk Program has received the Shingo Public Sector Bronze Medallion.

The Shingo Prize for Excel-

lence in Manufacturing is named for Japanese industrial engineer Shigeo Shingo, according to the award's official web site. Business Week magazine has referred to Shingo as the "Nobel Prize of Manufacturing." The award is presented by Utah State University.

Public Sector Prizes are awarded by Shingo to organizations that "promote world-class manufacturing strategies and practices to achieve world-class

results in the public sector/government owned facilities."

Corpus Christi Army Depot received the honor based on the accomplishments made on its H-60 JDLM Pavehawk Program.

"This is truly an indication of dedication, commitment and a first class organization," Corpus Christi commander Col. Joe Dunaway said. "Our Lean Team and the entire CCAD work force did a great job. I am humbled to have

joined such a great group. Now that the sound barrier has been penetrated, the sky is the limit."

Corpus Christi submitted the H-60 JDLM Pavehawk Program because of the success the depot has had in shaving cost and turnaround time on the H-60 JDLM Pavehawk line, while improving quality. These improvements could not have been accomplished without a commitment to Lean Six Sigma, said Lean chief

Frances Rosarius.

The depot will celebrate the H-60 Pavehawk JDLM Program's Shingo Public Sector Bronze Medallion during the Luther G. Jones Jr. Aviation Summit on Oct. 5. Representatives from Corpus Christi will accept the program's Public Sector Bronze Medallion during an awards ceremony Oct. 11 at the Hyatt Regency-Crystal City in Arlington, Va.

Base supply center focuses on customer satisfaction

Five of its 11 workers visually impaired

In the United States, 7 out of 10 working age Americans who are blind are unemployed.

For 70 years, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act has enabled agencies of the National Industries for the Blind to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind through delivery of products and services to the federal government. The program has recently

changed its name to AbilityOne, but the mission remains the same.

In the 1990s, base supply stores were closed due to realignment. NIB saw the opportunity to create retail jobs for people who are blind and approached the federal government. Today, NIB and its associated agencies operate 126 base supply centers and supply federal markets with a selection of more than 3,000 quality products and services under the trade name SKILCRAFT — manufactured and provided by people who are blind.

Alabama Industries for the Blind is one of the country's largest employers of people who are blind. AIB employs 310 people, of whom 75 percent are blind or visually impaired. They operate base supply centers at Redstone Arsenal, Moody Air Force Base, Fort Rucker, and will soon open a store at Maxwell Air Force Base.

AIB has operated the Redstone Base Supply Center since 1997. Five of the 11 employees at the Redstone store are visually impaired; however, with adaptive technology and their strong focus on

customer satisfaction, you might never notice it. They proudly support the needs of the armed services, the federal government and government contractors.

With National Disability Employment Awareness Month approaching in October, AIB encourages you to visit the store and to show support of the program.

They can be reached at 876-4011. The base supply center, building 3775 on Maintenance Row, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Redstone Base Supply Center release)

Huntsville Center to hold Industry Day

The Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville will hold an Industry Day Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Chan Auditorium, located in the Administrative Science Building on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

The purpose of the conference is to present contracting objectives and requirements for Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Program and gather information to assist the center in structuring the overall acquisition strategy for the

next generation of contracts. Companies interested in attending can register at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/IndustryDay/>.

Huntsville Center is evaluating the ability of small businesses to perform

future projects supporting the Military Munitions Response and Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste programs.

The period of performance is expected to be five years with a total program value of approximately \$2 billion. Preliminary analysis indicates that military munitions related work will be approximately 75 percent of the projected effort, and HTRW related work will be approximately 25 percent of the projected effort. The prime contractor of each team must perform 50 percent of the team's work.

Interested vendors should complete the capability statement found at this link: <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/contract/RefInfo/OE%20Capability%20Statement.doc> and return it via e-mail to paul.c.daugherty@hnd01.usace.army.mil. Huntsville Center may plan to make multiple awards pending the outcome of this announcement. Please send all responses by 4 p.m. Sept. 28.

This synopsis is for information and planning purposes only and is not a request for proposal. The government will not reimburse the contractor for any cost associated with preparing or submitting a response to this notice. For more information, read the detailed synopsis at: <http://www.fbo.gov/spg/USA/COE/DAC/A87/W912DY%2D07%2DR%2D0050/SynopsisR.html>. (Huntsville Center release)

Suicide prevention focus of this week

If you have been watching the news lately, you probably know about the importance of suicide prevention. Recent studies have raised awareness of this major, preventable public health issue.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among Americans between the ages of 15-24 and the second leading cause of death among those 25-34. It is often the result of untreated depression and other mental health disorders. Did you know that 90 percent of suicides in the U.S. are associated with depression or another treatable mental illness or substance abuse disorder?

Suicide is preventable and recognizing a problem is the first step to getting help. As part of Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 9-15, as well as throughout the entire year, the Department of

Defense is offering servicemembers and their families the opportunity to take anonymous online and telephone mental health self-assessments for depression and other related disorders. After you complete the self-assessment, you are provided with information on where to turn for a full evaluation, including services provided by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Facts about suicide include the following:

- Seventy percent of people who die by suicide tell someone about it in advance, and most are not in treatment.
- Those who have made serious attempts are at much higher risk for actually taking their lives. Between 20 and 40 percent of people who die by suicide have previously attempted suicide.

- Nearly 50 percent of suicide victims have a positive blood alcohol level.
- Although most depressed people are not suicidal, most suicidal people are depressed.

Failure to recognize depression can have devastating consequences so it is important to identify depression early. The program, available 24/7, includes self-assessments for depression, alcohol problems, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder. To access the anonymous self-assessments, call 877-877-3647 or visit www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org.

For information or assistance, call the Directorate of Human Resources, Army Substance Abuse Program Office, Garrison, at 842-9895 or 842-9897. (Screening for Mental Health Inc. release)

Military surge working, Bush tells troops in Iraq

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The military surge into Iraq is working, President Bush told troops Sept. 3 during a surprise visit here.

The president said he came to Anbar province so he could see the success in the war on terror and thank the men and women who are making sacrifices for that success.

Bush, defense secretary Robert M. Gates, secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace, and U.S. Central Command chief Navy Adm. William Fallon flew in to meet with Army Gen. David Petraeus, Multinational Force Iraq commander, and U.S. ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker.

The president also met with Iraqi prime minister Nouri al Maliki and Iraqi president Jalal Talibani.

The president told the more than 700 servicemembers assembled in the morale, welfare and recreation center at this sprawling base that he is “incredibly proud to be the commander-in-chief of such a great group of men and women.”

The Soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen in the audience gave the president a rousing welcome. Calls of “Hooah” came from the Soldiers and “Oorah” from the Marines, many of whom have had multiple deployments to the region.

“I want to tell you this about ... my decision about troop levels,” the president said. “Those decisions will be based on a calm assessment by our military commanders on the conditions on the ground – not a nervous reaction by Washington politicians to poll



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

GLAD HANDS— President Bush shakes hands with troops during a surprise Labor Day visit to Iraq, Sept. 3. The president thanked about 700 U.S. troops at Al Asad Air Base for their hard work.

results in the media.”

The president said he will order redeployments from Iraq “from a position of strength and success, not from a position of fear and failure.”

Their service in Iraq is making the United States more secure, Bush told the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, some of whom had waited four hours for the president to appear.

Bush highlighted the results of the “Anbar Awakening” and other progress as a result of the surge of five brigades of U.S.

Soldiers into the country.

He told the servicemembers that the Sunni tribesmen, who once fought side-by-side with al Qaeda in Iraq, are now fighting side-by-side with coalition troops against al Qaeda.

“Anbar is a huge province,” Bush said. “It was once written off as lost. It is now one of the safest places in Iraq, because of your hard work.”

The president credited the bravery and sacrifice of U.S. servicemembers for denying al Qaeda a safe haven to plot and plan

and carry out attacks against the United States. The sacrifice in Iraq makes America safer, Bush told the servicemembers.

The work is not done, Bush said.

“The surge of operations that began in June is improving security throughout Iraq,” he said. “The military successes are paving the way for the political reconciliation and economic progress the Iraqis need to transform their country.”

Once secure, Iraqis can concentrate on building a stable, civil society with functioning local, provincial and national governments. “That’s important, because a free Iraq, an Iraq that’s an ally against these extremists and murderers will be a major defeat for the terrorists,” Bush said.

Reconciliation cannot be forced on the Iraqis, they must do it themselves, the president said.

“Earlier today I met with some of the tribal sheiks here in Anbar,” he said. “It was a really interesting meeting. And at the table were the leaders of the central government, as well. They told me that the kind of bottom-up progress that your efforts are bringing to Anbar is vital to the success and stability of a free Iraq.”

Iraq needs stability to build a better future, he said, “and America needs this stability to prevent the chaos that allows the terrorists to set up bases from which they can plot and plan attacks on our homeland.

“If we don’t want to hear their footsteps back home, we have to keep them on their heels over here,” he said.

“That’s exactly what you’re doing,” he told the troops, “and America is safer for it.”

Contractor employee killed in Iraq

An Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville contractor employee killed in Iraq has been identified.

Raymond Moore, 40, from Northern Ireland, was killed Sept. 7 when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device. Moore worked as a security specialist for Armor Group Iraq, which is headquartered in London.

Forty contractor employees have been killed since September 2003 while working for the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program.

“Our condolences go out to the family,” program manager Bill Sargent said. “Our personnel are highly trained and experi-

enced and are doing a superb job, but it remains a very dangerous mission.”

The incident is under investigation.

Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers’ Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. Huntsville Center’s Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq. To date, more than 400,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq. *(Huntsville Center release)*

Four contract workers receive defense award posthumously

The Defense Department has posthumously awarded the Defense of Freedom Medal to four contractors with the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

The four recipients, who were killed in Iraq in separate attacks involving an Improvised Explosive Device, were Gerald Lambert, Brenton Thomas Gray, Richard Todd Rhodes and Carey Robinson.

The Defense of Freedom Medal honors civilian employees and contractors of the Department of Defense injured or killed in the line of duty. It is the civilian equivalent of the military’s Purple Heart.

Lambert, 46, from Brooksville, Fla., was killed Oct. 11, 2006. He worked as a security specialist for Special Operations Consulting – Security Management Inc., which is headquartered in Minden, Nev.

Gray, 34, from Southern Pines, N.C., was killed Aug. 18, 2006. Gray worked for Cochise Consultancy, headquartered in Tampa, Fla.

Rhodes, 40, from Wilmington, N.C., was killed Aug. 17, 2006. He worked for Cochise Consultancy, headquartered in Tampa.

Robinson, 39, from Orlando, Fla., was killed Aug. 28, 2006. Robinson worked as a security specialist for EOD Technology Inc., headquartered in Knoxville.

The contractors provided security for the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville’s Coalition Munitions Clearance Program. They sacrificed their lives to protect countless other lives, through collecting and destroying ammunition in Iraq.

Huntsville’s Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. To date, more than 400,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq. *(Huntsville Center release)*

Veteran wouldn't think of missing Honor Flight

His hospital bedside request was to visit D.C. memorial

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Leo "Sam" Jones is living for Honor Flight.

The 84-year-old World War II Navy veteran has spent a big chunk of his summer in Huntsville Hospital, where, at one point, with his heart, lungs and kidneys failing, doctors thought he was going to die.

But, when they took him off the respirator, Jones woke up and said "I want to go on Honor Flight."

"He was struggling to breathe. He was a miracle," recalled Jones's wife, June. "The doctor asked him what he wanted to do. I thought he would talk about going home or going for a walk. But, he said 'I want to go on Honor Flight.'"

"That was my first thought," Jones said. "And, the doctor said 'We'll get you ready.'"

Even when Jones seemed to be losing his battle, his wife did not give up hope that her husband would survive to make the Honor Flight trip. She told Honor Flight volunteers, "Don't you dare take him off the list. That's what he's living for."

Since that summertime stint in the cardiac care unit at Huntsville Hospital, Jones has



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LIVING FOR TRIP— World War II Navy veteran Leo "Sam" Jones is one of 117 veterans looking forward to Saturday's Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to see the WWII memorial. He has recently survived heart, lung and kidney failure, and is on kidney dialysis three times a week. During his recent health problems, Jones' wife June has been determined to make sure her husband is healthy enough to make the trip. The couple enjoy spending time together and with their dog Teacup.

gone back yet again for a three-day stay as doctors tried new medications to steady his heartbeat. Now home, Jones, a retired

NASA historian, is working to store up his strength for Saturday's Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Jones is one of 117 veterans who will make the flight to see the World War II memorial and other memorials.

But, regaining his strength has been tough because of the kidney dialysis Jones undergoes three times a week. With that in mind, Jones will use a cane on the Honor Flight trip and has made plans to take a wheelchair for when he tires of walking. He is also glad to know that each veteran will have a guardian assigned to them to help along the trip and that a medical team will also be making the flight.

Jones, who served in a malaria control unit attached to the Seabees in the South Pacific during WWII, is a charter member of the WWII Memorial Society.

"I sent some money in for the memorial before it was built," he said. "That was not unusual. So did many others. It was built on donations."

Yet, Jones has not seen the memorial since its dedication in May 2004. Although he and his wife have traveled during their 59 years of marriage, the couple has stayed close to home since 1990 when June Jones was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which causes bouts of temporary paralysis.

"When you get in your 80s, you don't travel much," Jones said.

So, when Jones read about Honor Flight in *The Huntsville Times*, he didn't hesitate to sign up.

"I sent in my application the very next day," he said. "This is just a wonderful opportunity. This is all just unbelievable to me. I am looking forward to the whole piece."

In January, the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Honor Flight formally announced its plans to fly veterans to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial. The inaugural flight in April took 14 WWII veterans to the memorial, paving the way for this Saturday's flight on a chartered U.S. Airways 757.

"The first trip validated what we were doing," said Honor Flight president Joe Fitzgerald. "It helped us work through the logistics of a trip like this. It validated our policies of having one guardian for each veteran and of having plenty of wheelchairs to accommodate our veterans. It also showed us how the medical staff can assist on the trip."

The veterans, guardians, Honor Flight staff and medical team on Saturday's Honor Flight will meet at the Huntsville International Airport at 5 a.m. There will be a brief ceremony, and veterans will receive a T-shirt, an autographed copy of *Torpedo Junction* by Homer Hickam, letters from local school children and a bag made from scraps of internment flags. The Patriot Guard Riders will serve as honor guard.

Once in D.C., the group will be transported by five chartered buses to the WWII memorial, where there will be a brief ceremony honoring deceased veterans. The internment flag of WWII veteran Ray Elliott, who was assigned to make the trip but who has died since being notified, will be part of the ceremony.

Honor Flight past, present and future

Honor Flight was started in 2004 by retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse, whose work as a physician assistant put him in contact with many veterans in Ohio and the surrounding area. The purpose of Honor Flight is to fly veterans to their memorial at no charge. Since 2004, Honor Flight has flown more than 800 WWII veterans to their memorial.

Huntsville was one of the first cities to begin its own Honor Flight campaign in early 2007. The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Honor Flight is a group of volunteers committed to fly more than 550 WWII veterans from the Tennessee Val-

ley to their memorial in a series of flights that began in April 2007 and will continue through 2009. Other war veterans will also be flown to Washington to see their memorial after the WWII program.

Donations are needed to pay for transportation, meals, disposable cameras and other expenses. Please send donations to Honor Flight Tennessee Valley Chapter, c/o *The Huntsville Times*, P.O. Box 1487 WS, Huntsville, AL 35807. For more information on Honor Flight or to obtain an application, visit the Honor Flight web site at www.honorflight.net.

Flight

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Veterans will then spend time visiting the memorial. They will eat lunch under a tent near the memorial and then visit Arlington National Cemetery for a changing of the guard, and then visit the Korean War Memorial and the Marine Corps Memorial. They are scheduled to return to Huntsville at 8:25 p.m.

"This is one of the first chapters in the nation of Honor Flight," Fitzgerald said. "It is one of the largest groups of World War II veterans. It is the largest group of veterans to fly into Reagan International Airport."

Jones will be going on Honor Flight with several other WWII veterans who go to church with him at Latham United Methodist Church. Fellow veterans and church members include Jim Tullos, Bob O'Bannon, Hank Hagler, Alice Bennett and Ralph Bynam.

"The experience is not only about going to Washington and seeing their memorial," Fitzgerald said. "They also get to interact with other veterans who understand and who have been where they've been. They can actually open up to each other and talk about what they went through. It's a catharsis and an experience that is unique to Honor Flight, and it's just as important a feature as seeing the memorial. The veterans thoroughly enjoy each other and seeing their memorial together."

The trip can actually cause veterans to remember and talk about things that happened during WWII that they've never shared with their own families.

"Memories come back, both pleasant and painful," Fitzgerald said. "They will remember comrades who didn't come

back. Many have seen their fellow Soldier, airman, Marine or sailor fall and get hurt or killed. They have to live with that their entire lives and they're left with the question 'Why me?' all their lives. This helps them with that."

Jones and his wife have talked to WWII veterans who made the inaugural flight of Honor Flight in April. They have also gone to an Honor Flight orientation.

"I've been so determined that he get to go," June Jones said. "We've been told by other veterans that it is a special feeling when you are there, almost a spiritual feeling. You get to see the names of the ones who were your buddies. You feel you are going for them."

There is concern among WWII veterans that many of their ranks won't see the memorial in their lifetime. The memorial was dedicated 60 years after the end of WWII.

"We're all in our 80s and 90s, and we're dropping like flies," Jones said.

"It's just a shame they didn't build (the WWII memorial) earlier," Jones added. "World War II veterans were the ones who didn't ask for anything. When they came home from the war, they went back to college or home to their families. They didn't ask for anything. They just went back to their lives. So, they never pushed for anything."

There are more than 550 WWII veterans on the Honor Flight list who want to make the trip to Washington, D.C. The next flight will be April 19, with plans for three flights next year.

"The program is based on monies and dollars and donations," Fitzgerald said. "We have a lot of local companies and individuals who have made donations. We've received a \$20,000 grant from the Daniel Foundation in Birmingham. The plans for the program can't go forward without donations."

Former co-workers walk for Darin Kruse

Redstone family stays connected to battle Lou Gehrig's Disease

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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The bonds of family are unbreakable, regardless of time, location or illness. For some members of Team Redstone, the people here are more than co-workers – they are family. Darin Kruse's Redstone family is still doing all that they can to support him, even if he no longer works here. Once again, they are getting ready to participate in the Walk to D'Feet ALS in Kruse's honor.

Kruse has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. His illness forced him to leave his job as an engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in 2005.

The nature of the disease is a slow and steady weakness that eventually leaves the patient completely paralyzed. Over the years, as Kruse has gotten weaker, his former co-workers' determination to support his cause has gotten stronger.

"This is the third annual Huntsville walk and my third year participating, along with the rest of Darin's friends and colleagues," said Steve Andrews, former co-worker, friend and Carin' for Darin' team captain.

Last year, 10 of Kruse's colleagues donned blue Carin' for Darin T-shirts for the event at Louis Crews Stadium on the Alabama A&M University campus. Others sent donations. The team members, however, were not limited to just AMRDEC.



Courtesy photo

FULL SUPPORT— Darin Kruse, in wheelchair, and the members of the Carin' for Darin team get ready for last year's Walk to D'Feet ALS. The 2007 event is Sept. 22 at 9 a.m. at Louis Crews Stadium on the Alabama A&M University campus.

"The Redstone representation on the Carin' for Darin team is much broader than AMRDEC," Andrews said. "Rachel Kruse's co-workers, first at Missile Defense Agency (THAAD) and now her current position at PEO MS (PM JAMS), have been equally supportive of the walk. Additionally, the group that Darin regularly ran with on Redstone included folks at PEO Aviation. Finally, the Kruse family has received overwhelming support from their church, Latham United Methodist, including a number of walkers."

The 50 walkers and numerous donors raised \$11,000 for the team last year. For this year, they have set their sights even

higher.

"The 2006 Huntsville Walk total was \$106,000," Andrews said. "This year's Carin' for Darin team goal is \$15,000."

Walk to D'Feet ALS, the signature fundraiser of the ALS Association, is Sept. 22 at 9 a.m. at Louis Crews Stadium. There is no cost to attend or participate in the walk. For more information, call 519-9030.

It may seem unusual to some that people would remain so involved with the life of someone they used to work with. Andrews said there are several reasons.

"First, as a good friend and respected colleague, they have tremendous empathy for Darin and his family having been cursed with what is often considered the

worst disease possible, and because they have the great respect for the courage and tenacity he has demonstrated ever since he was diagnosed," he said. "Secondly, many of us are resigned to the fact that perhaps the best we can do to honor Darin's fight is to become advocates for a desperately needed cure, thus sparing others the same fate."

The walk is not the only way Kruse's Redstone family stays connected to him. Andrews has joined one of the three support groups sponsored by the ALS Association. He attends the North Alabama Support Group, which meets in Huntsville the first Wednesday of every month.

"As a concerned friend, I've been going since Darin and his family joined the support group in 2005," he said. "Darin stopped attending in early 2007 due to his deteriorating condition, but he is still there in spirit and his family members often participate then relay what transpired."

Others find their own ways to stay connected to Kruse and help him feel connected to Redstone.

"Darin's Redstone friends make an effort to visit him at home periodically to keep him up-to-date on the latest happenings, plus provide a constant reminder that his presence is missed and that he remains on everyone's minds," Andrews said.

To join the Carin' for Darin walk team or make a donation, visit www.alsalabama.org/walk_to_dfeet_als.shtml. For more information, contact Deb Kohlhase, executive director of the ALS Association Alabama Chapter at 519-9030 or debk@ALSAlabama.org, or Andrews at 876-6648 or stephen.b.andrews@us.army.mil.

Bowlers strike against Spina Bifida



Courtesy photo

GETTING READY— Sarah Switzer practices for the Spina Bifida Association of Alabama bowl-a-thon. She was born with the spinal condition.

Second annual benefit rolls around locally

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

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These days, pregnant women know that making sure to get enough folic acid is one of the best ways to prevent Spina Bifida in their unborn baby. For those not expecting, another great way to help prevent Spina Bifida is bowling.

The Spina Bifida Association of Alabama is holding its second annual bowl-a-thon at Huntsville's Plamor Lanes on Sept. 29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Organizers seek volunteers.

"We are looking for individuals to act as a bowling team captain," Trish Switzer, president and executive director for the Spina Bifida Association of Alabama, said. "As captain, you would need to gather a bowling team of five of your family, friends or co-workers."

The cause is personal for the Switzer family. Trish and her husband, Lt. Col. Mike Switzer of PEO Aviation, have an 8-year-old daughter, Sarah, who is living with Spina Bifida. When a baby is born with Spina Bifida, an opening in the spine, exposing the

spinal cord and nerves, their spinal cord has been damaged by their normal in utero movements and exposure to the womb environment. The degree of disability caused by SB varies but commonly includes paralysis, learning disabilities and lack of bodily function control.

"You can have a hundred people with the same defect in the same spot on their spine and they would all be different," Switzer said.

Sarah was lucky — an experimental surgery before she was born repaired the opening in her spine. Today, her problems are mainly limited to the leg braces she wears. Others are not as fortunate. The funds generated through events such as the bowl-a-thon go toward helping to prevent SB and helping those who are living with it.

"Funds raised go toward our all-volunteer programs to promote prevention of Spina Bifida through folic acid while enhancing the lives of those in Alabama living with this complicated birth defect," Switzer said. "Funds have been dedicated to new programs like the National Conference Financial Grant, New Parent Support, Independence and Self-Care Workshops, Media Awareness, Advanced Education Scholarships, and a Resource

Directory/Web Site & Electronic Networking."

The fund-raising process for the bowl-a-thon is simple. Each team is asked to raise at least \$125 through sponsors and donations. Then they bring that money to the event, turn it in and have a great time bowling, Switzer said. It might not seem like a lot of money, but it adds up at the end of the day.

"Huntsville bowlers raised over \$5,000 in 2006," Switzer said. "All donations collected are fully tax deductible because the SBA of AL is a 501(c)(3) organization."

Turnout looks to be good again this year. Last year saw 75 bowlers take to the lanes for Spina Bifida. Switzer hopes to see even more there this year. The event is the kickoff for Spina Bifida Awareness Month in October. Two other bowl-a-thons are scheduled Oct. 13 in Gadsden and Oct. 27 in Birmingham.

For more information on Spina Bifida, visit the Spina Bifida Association of Alabama web site www.sbaofal.org. To form a bowl-a-thon team or make a donation, contact Switzer at 325-8600 or AL_spina_bifida_support@hotmail.com.

"It's as easy as that and a whole lot of fun," Switzer said.

Recourse when covered by wrong retirement

The following questions and answers originally appeared in the NARFE Magazine and are reprinted with permission from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Question: I plan to retire in the near future and was wondering if there is a viable alternative to the full survivor annuity, which seems very expensive at almost 10 percent of the gross retirement annuity.

Answer: If you are under CSRS, you may elect (with a notarized agreement from your wife) any survivor base. You do not

have to elect the full 55 percent. Your retirement counselor can explain this to you and give you estimates using different amounts.

Question: As a NARFE service officer, I periodically get inquiries regarding what system an employee was originally placed in back in 1984-87. I was told that there were a number of people who may have been placed in the wrong system and still have not yet been corrected. Can you shed

some light on the status of correcting this problem? Are there still employees who need adjustments? I have an employee who claims she was eventually placed in FERS after three years of employment but did not receive matching TSP funds for the three years in question.

Answer: The Federal Erroneous Retirement Coverage Corrections Act of September 2000 was designed to provide relief to

federal civilian employees who were placed in the wrong retirement system for at least three years of service after Dec. 31, 1986. Since Aug. 1, 2004, the federal agency where the affected person is employed is responsible for processing FERCCA requests. The best source of information is www.opm.gov/benefits/correction. There is also a FERCCA hotline at 888-689-3233.

Units add 39 Soldiers in August

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

- 1st Lt. Wayne Rogers, Bravo Company; 1st Sgt. James Lambert, HHC 59th; Col. Mark McConkey, Space and Missile Defense Command; Col. Michael Postma, SMDC; Capt. Derek Neal, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School; Capt. David Wayne Brown, HHC 59th; Capt. Travis Trainer, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Capt. John Gavigan, Bravo Company; Capt. Maurice Miles, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Capt. Joon Suk Yoon, Headquarters & Alpha Company;

- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard

Mathena, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Saam, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Little, Program Executive Officer for Aviation; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lamar Munson, IMMC Utility Helicopters Stratford; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Franklin Thornhill, Huntsville; Lt. Col. Samuel Peterson, PEO AS&MD; Lt. Col. David Dye, HHC 59th; Lt. Col. Randolph Ratcliff, Logistics Support Activity; Lt. Col. Douglas Schuetz, THAAD; Lt. Col. Robin Marie Smith, HHC 59th;

- Lt. Col. Robert Gagnon, Defense Distribution Depot Anniston; Lt. Col. Robert Long, PEO IEW&S; Maj. Reid Vanderschaaf, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center; Maj. Charles Worshim,

THAAD; Maj. Kathleen Smallwood, PEO Missiles and Space; Maj. James Edmonds, PEO Missiles and Space; Maj. Elizabeth Vinson, MEDDAC; Maj. Stephen Murphy, SMDC; Master Sgt. Chenita Henderson, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Murrin, NCO Academy;

- Sgt. 1st Class Cecil Taylor, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Shane Garner, Regional Training Site Main; Spc. Shakara Boswell, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Spc. Draper Hollier, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Spc. Charlotte Otorubio, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Curtis Carson, Garrison; Staff Sgt. Brian Rogers, Bravo Company; Staff Sgt. Marquetta Ludonna Scott, NCO Academy; and Staff Sgt. Benjamin Morse, NCO Academy.

What to do when Soldiers' pets are injured or lost

Damage claims payable in some cases under law

By **ERIKA McPHERSON**
Claims chief

Pets often accompany Soldiers as they move to a new duty station or are acquired by Soldiers while at their duty station. Many Soldiers and family members own pets and take the necessary precautions to safeguard and protect them. However, the Personnel Claims Act, as outlined in AR 27-20 Chapter 11, allows Army Claims offices to compensate eligible persons for damage and loss of personal property incident to service.

Eligible persons include Soldiers on active duty, members of the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard engaged in active service or inactive duty training, and most federal civilian employees. Although the payment of claims for pets lost or missing in shipment is specifically prohibited, claims for theft, intentional wounding, or fire at quarters that cause injury to household pets may be compensable.

The maximum allowable compensation is \$250 per pet and \$750 per claim.

For example, if a Soldier owns a horse which is stabled at a non-appropriated fund instrumentality and it is injured by gunfire from a passing car, this injury may be compensable. The Soldier would be entitled to the cost of the horse's treatment because the incident constitutes a form of vandalism and the treatment fee is analogous to a repair cost. If, however, the horse's owner had executed a waiver agreeing not to hold the United States liable in the event of an injury to the horse while it was stabled there, the claim would not be payable.

Another example is that of a Soldier who purchased a dog from an animal shelter for \$75. The dog is injured by an unknown intruder who breaks into the Soldier's on-post quarters. This injury is compensable to the extent of the purchase price, or \$75. If the cost of treatment exceeds \$75, this excess generally is not payable, unless the Soldier can document that the dog received special training as a watchdog, thereby increasing its value or the owner can provide proof that the fair market value of the dog is higher than the purchase price.

Injuries to pets due to the owner's own negligence are not compensable. For more information about filing a claim, call the Claims Office at 876-9006.

Soldiers enjoy The Beyoncé Experience

Singer gives tribute during performance

By NICOLE HAYES

Operation Tribute to Freedom

As a two-time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Ackley had been trained by the Army to be prepared for any experience his time in Iraq could throw at him. But Aug. 28, with four fellow OIF veterans at his side, little in his Army training had prepared him for his next experience — The Beyoncé Experience.

Five Soldiers representing the California National Guard and the Fresno Recruiting Company were honored before 16,000 people by the pop/R&B sensation Beyoncé Knowles during her performance at the Save Mart Center in Fresno, Calif. This was the second of two concerts during which the singer took time to thank Soldiers for their service at her performances on her world tour, The Beyoncé Experience. The first was Aug. 22 in Denver, where two Fort Carson Soldiers were recognized.

Despite a tightly choreographed performance, the artist added in a special portion of the show to recognize not only the Soldiers in attendance, but all those serving in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Ackley, a twice-deployed OIF veteran

and recruiter with the Fresno Recruiting Battalion, brought his 13-year-old daughter Alicia, to see the singer.

“The concert was great, not only to see Beyoncé, but for the chance to share the experience with my daughter,” he said. “Our favorite part of the show was when Beyoncé asked ‘Where’s my Soldiers at?’ and recognized those who serve as she sang her song Soldier. The audience applauded us and it was such a great experience.”

Ackley successfully led and returned home 60 Soldiers in his role as a platoon sergeant, with the Task Force, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor in Balad, Iraq. He deployed to Iraq in February 2004 for the second time, and returned home in February 2005.

Sgt. Monica Estrada of the Headquarters, Headquarters Joint Force Headquarters of the California National Guard in Sacramento, drove three hours for the experience and thought every mile was worth the drive.

“I felt really appreciated, because I actually had people come up to me during the concert to say thank you so much for what you are doing,” she said. “As a Soldier, I told them that we appreciate the support.”

Sgt. Ernesto Hernandez, a station commander of the Visalia Recruiting Station of the Fresno Recruiting Company, along with Sgt. 1st Class Vanessa Hayes, a food service sergeant and Sgt. Vincent Orosco, a retention NCO of the California National Guard, were also among the Soldiers



Photo by Jennette F. Everett

BACKSTAGE— Sgt. Tiffany Thomas and Pvt. Pavlarr Curnutt of Fort Carson are greeted by pop/R&B singer Beyoncé Knowles before her concert performance Aug. 22 at Denver’s Pepsi Center.

honored in Fresno. Sgt. Tiffany Thomas and Pvt. Pavlarr Curnutt of Fort Carson were honored in Denver at an earlier show.

The recognitions at the shows are part

of the Army’s Operation Tribute to Freedom program which honors Soldiers returning from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Violins

continued from page 4

Deployed as a medic to Sinjar, located near the Iraqi border with Syria, Allison's first few months included enough downtime to use up the wood he had carried with him on two instruments — a violin modeled on Stradivari's G-mold pattern, circa 1715, and a Stradivari-style viola with a slimmed-down neck.

He ordered \$600 worth of spruce and maple wood from a U.S. supplier. But, then he moved to the "lion's den" of Ramadi, where he went on patrols with Soldiers and Marines, and cared for many wounded.

"Ramadi was absolutely crazy, absolutely violent," Allison said. "The insurgency were horrible fighters. They used cowardly IEDs. And, every time we'd take them on, we'd mow them down. It blew me away.

"I knew we were going to lose some people there. But, I thought I wouldn't know them. But, I did. I knew every one. It was very painful to lose those Soldiers. But, even so, we all had a sense of driving on, even when we got extended."

Amidst the violence of Ramadi, Allison was able to nearly complete four more instruments.

"When other Soldiers were in the gym, playing video games or writing home, I would be working at my bench," he said. "The environmental conditions in

Iraq were absolutely horrid. But, you don't want a violin looking new. It needs to look like an antique. In a way, Iraq helped me antique my fiddles. Making fiddles in a combat zone will help do that."

After his deployment, Allison was stationed briefly in Germany. During that time, he contacted Roger Hargrave, a world-renowned violin maker in Germany. Their visit was a life-changing event for an amateur violin maker who had taught himself how to make violins from the blueprints of the great violin makers.

"The blueprints of classical violins are like gold for the violin maker," Allison said. "They got it right centuries ago. I make a lot of classic copies. I can make a 2007 violin look like its 200 years old with rubbing, antiquing and direct damage."

Yet, in all his years of violin making, Allison's work has never been judged competitively.

"I was dying for someone to look at my work," Allison said about contacting Hargrave.

"I told him 'I know you've judged international competitions and I've never been judged. Violin making is my whole life. Besides being a Soldier, this is what I do.' He said 'A Soldier that makes violins? Come spend the day with me.'"

Hargrave studied Allison's violins. He was impressed with Allison's dedication. He encouraged the Soldier to attend a

European violin-making school or to work in a violin shop.

"But, I think, in the end, he saw that I just want to be a maker," Allison said of the visit. "Going to a European school or working in a shop is something I've considered. But, I'll probably just go out there and keep making violins for show. I've been in the Army for 19½ years and I will be retiring soon. I will have a pension, so I can afford to just make violins."

Although Allison's mother played the violin in the 1970s as a member of the Phoenix Symphony, his fascination with the instrument's craftsmanship didn't surface until his college days in Missouri. Needing a music requirement, Allison took Introduction to Violin and was intrigued by a film called "The Great Violin Mystery."

"I had hundreds of hours of work in leather crafting and I was thinking about doing leather work on saddlebags," he recalled. "But, then I became fascinated with the workmanship in a violin. I found an old 1800s book on how to make a violin. I was hoping to go to Germany with the Army where I could learn more about violin making. But, then I was sent to Korea."

During his year in South Korea, Allison studied his violin making book. As soon as he returned to the states, he got a block of wood and made an "awful violin." He also met the now late Sam Compton Jr., a violin maker who became his mentor.

"That gentleman is what made a differ-

ence in my violin making," he said. "He'd tell me to change this or change that or do a little better here. Without Sam I wouldn't have had a violin to show Roger Hargrave."

Even so, many of Allison's early violins no longer exist.

"I've destroyed most of my early instruments," he said. "I've probably made 30 violins. I've sold a few, but the money has all gone back into wood. I've probably made 10 cents. Hopefully, that will change."

Though it can take two months to complete a violin, Allison will always stay true to the handwork of the ancient violin makers. Besides Stradivari, he studies, admires and copies the work of 17th and 18th century artisans G.B. Rogeri, Peter Guameri, Nicoto Amati and G.B. Guadagnini.

"Once I'm done with a violin, I lose interest in it," he said. "It's getting there that's so fascinating and that's why it doesn't get old. Violins are my life. I have a passion for the craft of violin making."

Allison dreams of his violins someday hanging in a violin shop alongside other violins for sale.

"Every violin is different, so you have to be able to compare them," he said. "They may be close in appearance, but they are all original. The wood is a very inconsistent property."

And, his other dream is to have his violins judged in international competitions. He hopes to show his work for the first time at the convention of the Society of American Violins in November.

Win
or lose

Headquarters & Alpha rules volleyball court

Gators beat Marines in tournament final

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

Headquarters & Alpha spiker Miguel Cotto-Baez slammed the ball over the net for the final point against the Marines.

That was it – game, set, match.

Headquarters & Alpha is the 2007 post volleyball champion.

The Gators beat the Marines 25-22, 25-17 in the postseason tournament final Sept. 5 at Pagano Gym. Headquarters & Alpha finished at 11-2, including 3-0 in the tournament.

“It was just a team effort,” Cotto-Baez said. “They gave me the ball where I wanted it and I just hit it.”

The Marines (9-5) had beaten the Gators Aug. 20 in the last week of the season. But in the tournament, the Gators sent the Marines to the losers bracket Aug. 29.

“The Marines were probably our biggest battle the whole season,” Headquarters & Alpha player/coach Felix Knight said. “We knew it was going to be a tough match. We just came together, stayed with our game plan and prevailed in the end.”

To reach the final, the Marines beat defeating champion HHC 59th on Aug. 30. But they couldn’t keep pace with the Gators in the final.

“Just a lot of unforced errors,” Marines player/coach Trong Nguyen said. “We tried to be a little too aggressive.”

On the other side of the net, the Gators attributed their championship to teamwork.

“We played as a team,” Knight said. “No one player was bigger than the other. We just played as a unit. We just focused on getting the job done.”

Said setter Draper Hollier, “We just stayed focused and played hard. Teamwork got it done.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SETTING UP— Felix Knight (12) makes a set assist for Gators teammate Miguel Cotto-Baez, in background, as Draper Hollier (3) looks on.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TEAM EFFORT— Headquarters & Alpha players celebrate beating the Marines 25-22, 25-17 for the championship Sept. 5.

Florida Gators to swamp visiting Volunteers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

My predictions record was 63-19 after the second week of the college football season. Here are Skip's Picks for selected games this week:

Tennessee at Florida — **Florida**
Mississippi State at Auburn — **Auburn**
Arkansas at Alabama — **Alabama**
Mississippi at Vanderbilt — **Vanderbilt**
Louisville at Kentucky — **Louisville**
Mississippi Valley State at Ala. A&M — **A&M**
West Virginia at Maryland — **W.Va.**
Boston College at Georgia Tech — **Ga. Tech**
South Carolina State at South Carolina — **S.C.**
Army at Wake Forest — **Wake Forest**
TCU at Air Force — **TCU**
Ball State at Navy — **Navy**
Oklahoma State at Troy — **OSU**
Akron at Indiana — **Ind**
The Citadel at Wisconsin — **Wis.**
Illinois at Syracuse — **Illinois**
Pittsburgh at Michigan State — **MS**
Virginia at North Carolina — **N.C.**
Furman at Clemson — **Clemson**
Iowa at Iowa State — **Iowa**
Ohio at Virginia Tech — **Va. Tech**
Fla. International at Miami (Fla.) — **Miami**
Fresno State at Oregon — **Oregon**
Notre Dame at Michigan — **Michigan**
Ohio State at Washington — **Ohio State**
Texas at UCF — **Texas**
Utah State at Oklahoma — **Okla.**



UCLA at Utah — **UCLA**
Southern Mississippi at East Carolina — **SM**
Louisiana Tech at California — **Calif.**
Alabama State at Ark-Pine Bluff — **Ala. State**
Houston at Tulane — **Houston**
Southern Methodist at Ark. State — **SMU**
Toledo at Kansas — **Kansas**
Duke at Northwestern — **Northwestern**
Jacksonville State at Memphis — **Memphis**
Middle Tennessee at LSU — **LSU**
Texas-El Paso at New Mexico State — **Texas-EP**
Texas Tech at Rice — **Tech**
Southern California at Nebraska — **USC**
Wyoming at Boise State — **Boise**
Brigham Young at Tulsa — **BYU**
Hawaii at UNLV — **Hawaii**
Florida State at Colorado — **FSU**
Idaho at Washington State — **Wash. State**
San Diego State at Arizona State — **ASU**
San Jose State at Stanford — **San Jose State**
New Mexico at Arizona — **Ariz.**
Temple at Connecticut — **Conn.**
Western Carolina at Georgia — **Ga.**

Soldiers get their career on fast track at Education Center

Some Soldiers may not be aware of the many programs available at the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road.

While out-processing, some remark that they didn't know the facility existed — especially the computer lab. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Soldiers are urged to take advantage of the computers.

Another program is called FAST, which stands for Functional Academic Skills Training (also known as BSEP, or Basic Skills Education Program). This computer-based program is designed to help Soldiers and their families improve their basic skills in math, reading and language.

"But why would I want to spend my time improving basic skills?" a Soldier may ask. Here are some good reasons: to qualify for NCOES courses, to qualify for certain appealing jobs, and to prepare for college placement tests in math and English.

The GT Prep Program also falls under the umbrella of FAST. The purpose of this course is to help the Soldier raise his or her general technical score. A GT score of 110 or higher can help get a promotion, qualify

for a certain program (such as warrant officer or officer candidate school), allow reclassification in a particular specialty, or enable reenlistment. All who have completed this program at Redstone have raised their score, according to the Education Center.

For those family members who have not received a high school diploma, a General Equivalency Diploma course is available within the FAST program.

Preparation for the CLEP general courses is also a feature of the program.

Relatively new to the center is English as a Second Language available through Rosetta Stone. This interactive course taken on the computer and has been well received, especially by foreign-born spouses.

All programs are self-paced. The amount of time required to complete a course depends on how much has to be learned, the talents and abilities of the student, and the blocks of time allowed for study.

For more information on programs at the Education Center, visit building 3222 or call 876-3084. (Education Center release)

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Sports & Recreation

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.

Hunter orientation

Join Outdoor Recreation Sept. 18, Oct. 2, 16, Nov. 6 and 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center for its annual Redstone Arsenal Hunter Safety Orientation. This class is mandatory for all who want to hunt on Redstone Arsenal. For information call 876-4868.

Engineers golf

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, 2007 Golf tournament, in memory of Fred Binner, is Oct. 4 at Sunset Landing Golf Course near the Huntsville International Airport. All proceeds benefit the Post Scholarship Fund. Cost for is \$55 per person, which includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch and awards. Businesses may sponsor a hole for \$350 or elect a Team Sponsor package for \$500 which also pays for a four-person team. Entries are due Sept. 20. Call Phil Loftis 217-1786 or e-mail philip.loftis@parsons.com.

Lions club tournament

Huntsville Pacesetters' Lions Club will hold the "Flight fore Sight" golf tournament Saturday 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.

Bass tournament

The AAAA Fall 2007 Bass Tournament will be held Oct. 13 at Jackson County Park in Scottsboro. For more information and registration, call Bob Vlasics 881-4144, Chuck Ogle 883-7974, Matt Boenker 313-9117 or Tom Geoffroy 876-5359.

Youth soccer

Join CYS Sports and Fitness on Saturdays, Sept. 15 through Oct. 20, from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center for "Start Smart Soccer." "This is an introductory program for children ages 3-5. It consists of six one-hour classes. Parents must participate with their child. Registration is \$30 and includes a participant manual and a "Start Smart" T-shirt. All other equipment is provided. The child's CYS registration and sports physical must be current. For more information, call 313-3699.

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.



Conferences & Meetings

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites you to study God's word each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Free child watch is available. For more 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 opportunities. These 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.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist

Church, Personal Growth Center, on Airport Road. This month's speaker is Michelle McDaniel of the Better Business Bureau. For ticket information, call Marlene Clemons 313-2378 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086. Ticket cost is \$11 for members and \$12 for non-members.

Fleet Reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 22 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, Exit 3. For information call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold a chapter program meeting Sept. 20 at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club in the Loft (old Regimental room). Attendees may use the buffet line for lunch. The discussion topic is "The Glass Ceiling for Federally Employed Women at Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville — How Far Have Women Progressed." For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Visitors are welcome. Brian Hogan will speak on "The Grand Army of the Republic," a fraternal organization founded in 1866 for

Rockets Announcements

the Union veterans of the Civil War. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. Call 858-6191 for more information.

Engineer society

Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Cost of the buffet lunch is \$10. For reservations call Amber Martin 895-1834.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals monthly meeting is Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Officers and Civilians Club. Arthur Henderson will speak on "Robert's Rules of Order." For more information call president Amanda Medley 313-4970 or membership chairman Elise McWilliams 876-4515.

Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will hold its monthly meeting Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Greenbrier Restaurant on I-565 west of Madison. Membership is open to all Airborne and Glider qualified individuals. For more information, call Barry Simpson 533-3000.

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Genealogy group

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, main branch. Howard Blood will speak on "The Illnesses of Our Ancestors." For information call 883-5650.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Huntsville City Council member Sandra Moon is the guest speaker. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast Sept. 22 at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Engineering techniques

The Probabilistic Technology Community of the American Society for Quality announces first Technical Meeting Sept. 18-20 at the Jacobs building, 1500 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 100 (phone 890-6609). This meeting is co-sponsored by the Engineering Directorate, Marshall Space Flight Center. The theme is "Probabilistic Techniques for Engineering and Multi-Disciplinary Decision Making." There is no registration fee. If planning to attend, e-mail asqptc@gmail.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 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 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.

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.



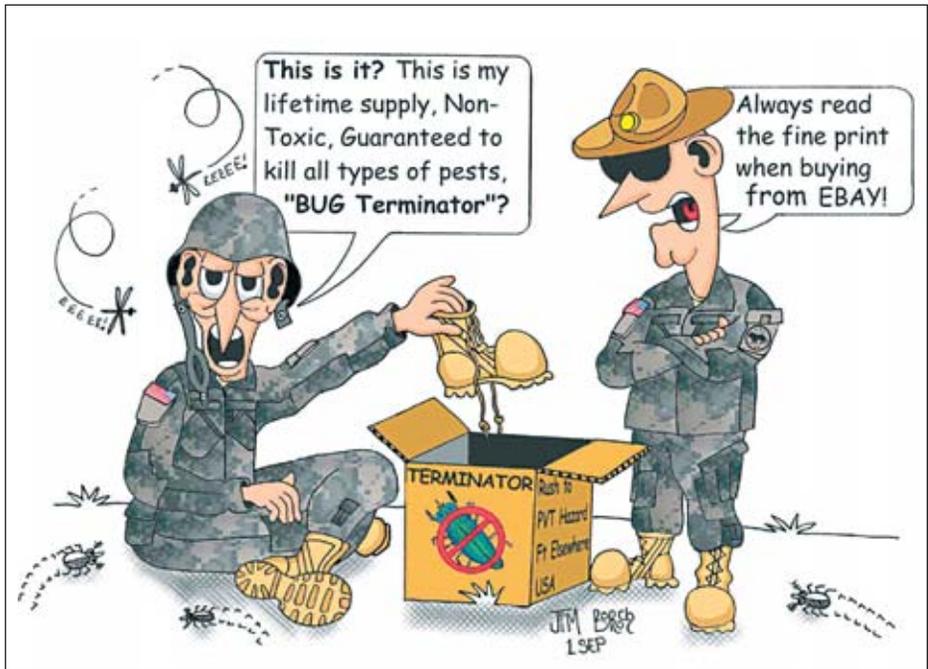
Miscellaneous

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,

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programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Master Sgt. Harold Cook 319-8456 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation

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

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:30. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Computer classes

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

Chapel services

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

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.

SMDC anniversary

The Space and Missile Defense Command 50th anniversary celebration event is Oct. 3 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Social begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Guest speaker is Norman Augustine, retired chairman and chief executive officer for Lockheed Martin Corporation. Cost is \$30 for individual seating or \$750 for a sponsorship table of eight. This event is sponsored by ASMDA, NDIA, ADAA and the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call Sigma Services 533-6986. Register online at <http://conferencesbysigma.com/50years>.

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.

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Corporal Cledus

Cledus K. Bar, mascot for the Marine Corps Detachment, was promoted last week to corporal. The ceremony took place Sept. 5 at the unit formation in which commanding officer Maj. Tim Collins promoted a gunnery sergeant, several privates first class and Cledus. He has served as the mascot since April 2004, according to personnel chief and mascot handler Staff Sgt. C. Nicole Gaines.

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Big Spring Jam tickets

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is selling Big Spring Jam three-day passes for the corporate rate of \$45. Children 10 and under are free with a paid adult. Payment is by check or money order only, payable to BSJ. Absolute last day for CWFC advanced three-day pass sales is Sept. 26. Three-day passes will not be sold at the BSJ gates. The individual ticket price at the gate this year is \$25 per day. You can purchase your three-day passes from any of these CWFC members: building 5303, Charles Urban 955-7662; building 5400, Bob Olson 876-4993; building 5220, Yancy Mitchell 955-5476; DAU, Don Clark 722-1035; building 5302, Jan Pickard 842-6625; building 5301, Jack Padley (Garrison rep) 876-1747; building 7804, Sue Urban 842-1276; building 5301, Bud Allen 876-5285; building 4545, Loretta Brooks 313-7406; building 5435, Dave Landrum 842-8534. For more information on the

Big Spring Jam, go to www.bigspring-jam.org.

Organizational day

All associated with security assistance/foreign military sales are invited to SAMD LCMC Organizational Day on Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rustic Lodge. Activities will include bingo, a cake walk, horseshoes, volleyball, door prizes, sunrise golf and more. To schedule golf, call Steve Dirigo 842-1106. A barbecue beef or pork lunch will be catered by Rolo's. Lunch begins at noon and cost is \$14 a ticket. Please get your tickets by Sept. 28 from a Security Assistance Management Directorate contact or call Stephanie McWhorter 842-1078.

Exceptional family members

EP LiveOnline – a joint venture of Exceptional Parent Magazine and Vemics Inc. – announces a new series of interactive online seminars specifically for military

medical personnel, civilian health care professionals, families and care givers. This free four-part series, titled “Behavioral Disorders Commonly Encountered in Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: ADD/ADHD and Autism,” begins tonight at 7. For more information call Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member Program manager at Army Community Service, 876-5397. The web site for registration is <http://www.epliveonline.org/military-prglist.html>.

Walk fund-raiser

Walk to D’Feet ALS, the signature fundraiser of the ALS Association, is Sept. 22 at 9 a.m. at Louis Crews Stadium on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, often called Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is a fatal neuromuscular disease that attacks nerve cells and eventually results in total paralysis. There is no known cause or cure. Hundreds of people participate in this benefit event as walkers, donors, organizers and spectators. There is no cost to attend nor to participate in the walk. For more information, call 519-9030.

Poker run

A poker run, a benefit ride for Operation Smile, “changing lives one smile at a time,” is scheduled Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. at Weatherly Road and Bailey Cove in southeast Huntsville. Everyone is invited – all bike clubs and non-club riders. This event is sponsored by Chips & Salsa Cantina, 10300 Bailey Cove (phone 880-1202). Entry fee is \$10 rider, \$5 passenger. The grand prize is \$240. Plaques will be awarded for largest club, traveled farthest, oldest rider, best poker hand and worst poker hand.

Butler High reunion

Butler High School class of 1972, 35-year reunion is 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Elks Lodge on Franklin Street. Previous and post classes welcome. Cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Food, fun, beverages and fellowship included. You need to pay in advance so they can order food. For more information, call Greg Welch 508-4644 (cell) or e-mail greg.welch1@conus.army.mil.

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Retiree appreciation day

The Commissary will celebrate Retiree Appreciation Day on Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open to all ID cardholders, this event will include games, giveaways, door prizes and sale items. You must be present to win.

Bridge construction

The Toftoy Thruway bridge over Martin Road is closed in order to replace the bridge deck. Construction is expected to take four to five months. Motorists can detour around the bridge by exiting onto Martin Road via the Toftoy Thruway ramps. Detour routes should be clearly marked. Martin Road will remain open during the project; however, an occasional detour may be necessary during certain construction procedures.

Commissary lot sale

The Commissary will have a case lot

sale today through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Case lot shoppers get "bargains by the case" and savings up to 50 percent off regular prices on popular items, according to a Commissary release. Check out the web page at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Plastic modelers

The Huntsville Plastic Modelers' Society will hold its 31st annual model contest Sept. 22 at 8 a.m. at the Jaycees Community Building, 2180 Airport Road. Hundreds of detailed models of ships, cars, aircraft and armor will be on display, free for viewing by the public. Model builders are invited to bring their work and enter in the competition. For more information, call 880-2288.

Name that lounge

Do you work on Redstone Arsenal? Are

you retired from Redstone Arsenal? Here's your chance to leave a legacy. An icon of the Officers and Civilians Club is getting a facelift and you get to give it a new name to go with its new look. Rename the Big Spring Lounge at the Officers and Civilians Club, and win dinner for four and \$50 in MWR bucks. Submit your suggestion to rename the Big Spring Lounge at www.redstonemwr.com. The drawing for the MWR prize will held at a later date.

Air Force anniversary

The Missile and Space Intelligence Center will celebrate the Air Force's 60th anniversary with a ceremony Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at building 4545 on Fowler Road. A planned flyover has been canceled. The 30-minute program includes recognition

heroes, particularly from Alabama; a cake cutting by the most senior and junior person; and recognition of the center's civilians who served in the Air Force. Current active Air Force or previous Air Force members are welcome. For more information call Air Force Maj. Scott Bellamy, the event organizer, 313-7730.

Challenger bingo

Effective Sept. 11, Challenger center is opening for bingo on Tuesdays. For more information, call 830-9175.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																			
SCBK07108963	Equipment Spec (Aircraft&Electronics)	12-Sep-04	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	56,301 - 83,148				X					X			X
SCBK07205528OC	Procurement Analyst	12-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-1102	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07121517	Computer Engr	13-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07121517D	Computer Engr	13-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07205464OC	Contract Spec	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-1102	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07210932	Electronics Engr	13-Sep-04	USADTC	GS-0855	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X										
SCBK07120240	General Engr	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07120240D	General Engr	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07221429	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	76,056 - 98,876			X				X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK070183214	Financial Sys Spec	13-Sep-04	AMCOM, G8(Resource Mgmt)	GS-0501	11	11	53,362 - 69,373	X											
SCBK07122465	Lead General Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07122465D	Lead General Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07191532	Aerospace Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07191532D	Aerospace Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07197171	Equip Spec	14-Sep-04	AMCOM, TMDE Actvy	GS-1670	11	11	53,362 - 69,373	X	X										
SCBK07212354	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Sep-04	AMCOM, TMDE Actvy	GS-0346	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X	X										
SCBK07181665	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Sep-04	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X								X			X
SCBK07022364	Geophysicist	17-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1313	2	2	44,104 - 98,876							X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07022364D	Geophysicist	17-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1313	2	2	44,104 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07146523	Legal Assistant (Court/OA)	17-Sep-07	USACMEMS	GS-0986	7	7	36,057 - 46,874	X		X						X	X	X	X
SCBK07198881	Operations Research Analyst	17-Sep-07	AMCOM, G3 (Oper)	GS-1515	13	13	76,056 - 98,876							X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07198881D	Operations Research Analyst	17-Sep-07	AMCOM, G3 (Oper)	GS-1515	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07120366	General Engr	18-Sep-07	PEO AVN	NH-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434							X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07120366D	General Engr	18-Sep-07	PEO AVN	NH-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07169054	Budget Analyst	18-Sep-07	AMCOM, G1(Human Resources)	GS-0560	7	7	36,057 - 57,334	X											
SCBK07157659	IT Spec (INFOSEC)	19-Sep-07	SMDC	GS-2210	12	12	63,958 - 83,148				X			X		X	X	X	X
SCBK07157659D	IT Spec (INFOSEC)	19-Sep-07	SMDC	GS-2210	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07184782	Lead IT Spec (INFOSEC/Network)	19-Sep-07	MAT CMD LOG SPT ACTY	GS-2210	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X										
SCBK07169395	Secretary (OA)	19-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YB-0318	1	1	18,891 - 42,180	X											
SCBK070206391R	Chemist	19-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1320	2	2	44,104 - 98,876							X		X	X	X	X
SCBK070206391D	Chemist	19-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1320	2	2	44,104 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07236946	Prgm Analyst	20-Sep-07	IMMC	GS-0343	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X											
SCBK07200042	Sys Mgmt Analyst	20-Sep-07	AMCOM, G8(Resource Mgmt)	GS-0501	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X											
SCBK07201717	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Sep-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X						X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07201717D	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Sep-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07230538	Prgm Analyst	21-Sep-07	AMRDEC	GS-0343	14	14	89,875 - 116,835	X											
SCBK07176146	Supv Civil Engr;Supv Elect Engr;Supv Mech Engr	24-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YF-0810;0850;0830	2	2	89,875 - 122,678	X											
SCBK07196671	Lead General Engr	29-Sep-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 134,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07176486	Computer Engr	1-Oct-07	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07176486D	Computer Engr	1-Oct-07	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

THE FOLLOWING OPN/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV																			
SCBK07121517D	Computer Engr	13-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07120240	General Engr	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07120240D	General Engr	13-Sep-04	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07122465D	Lead General Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07191532D	Aerospace Engr	14-Sep-04	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07022364D	Geophysicist	17-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1313	2	2	44,104 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07198881D	Operations Research Analyst	17-Sep-07	AMCOM, G3 (Oper)	GS-1515	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK070206391D	Chemist	19-Sep-07	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1320	2	2	44,104 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07201717D	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Sep-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK07176486D	Computer Engr	1-Oct-07	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

- WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)**
- A** - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
 - B** - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
 - C** - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
 - D** - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
 - E** - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)
 - F** - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)
 - H** - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
 - I** - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)
 - R** - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)
 - T** - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)
 - V** - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
 - U** - All U.S. citizens

NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.

NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e. Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender, etc. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at www.redstonemwr.com or you may telephone 876-7772.

Resumes are now being accepted for AMC Fellows and Business Enterprise Solutions Trainee.. Visit www.amccareers.com or www.cpol.army.mil, search for **Vacancy Announcement Numbers: NEAEJ04710482 & NEAE04756647**, for more information.