

# Redstone Rocket

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# Annual salute to top Army civilians

Deputy project manager wins award from group

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

Describing his organization's employees as people who do a "kick tail job," the recipient of the local 2008 Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award said he represents the work of an excellent group of Army civilians.

Timothy Owings, deputy project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Program Executive Office for Aviation, accepted the honor as this year's DA Civilian of the Year from members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army at a dinner ceremony April 2 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. He will go on to represent Redstone Arsenal at AUSA's Third Region competition for DA Civilian of the Year.

Owings told the dinner audience of about 290 Army civilians, corporate and community leaders, and Soldiers that he is "truly blessed" and "absolutely honored to lead an organization that is second to none," and which includes civilians from PEO Aviation, AMRDEC and IMMC as well as contractors.

"In a lot of cases I simply represent what a lot of other people do ... I'm simply honored to receive this award on behalf of an organization of employees who do just a kick tail job," he said.

The mission of Unmanned Aircraft Systems is to manage the Army's unmanned aircraft system program, including development, acquisition, testing, systems integration, product improvements, production, fielding and logistical support. The organization provides tactical commanders near-real time, highly accurate reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition with the use of unmanned aircraft, and is expanding its



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CONGRATULATIONS—** Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles congratulates Timothy Owings for winning the 2008 Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award presented by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. Ten nominees competed for the award, which was presented at an awards dinner April 2 at the Von Braun Center. Owings will go on to represent the local AUSA chapter at the regional competition.

mission into the areas of weaponization, communications relay, specialty payloads, small unmanned aircraft systems, and the linkage to manned aircraft.

"The Soldiers are the reason we do what we do, and we absolutely believe what we do saves lives," Owings said.

Recognizing an Army top civilian every year is important because of the essential role civilians play in today's Army.

"Many of us who have served (as Soldiers), who are serving and who have children who are serving understand the importance of the DA civilian to the

Army's mission," said Jerry Hamilton, chairman of the DA Civilian of the Year Award Committee and emcee for the dinner's program.

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles described DA civilians along with contractors as being a "special group of people" who are essential to the Army's mission.

"Our Army is a small army," he said. "There are a half million Soldiers on active duty. So, we're not a large army.

"The heavy lifting in the Army is done by the Department of the Army civilian. We're in a

global war at an uptempo pace that we've never done before. And we've been in it for over six years. And we are succeeding as flawlessly as we can because of the DA civilian."

Mentioning the civilians at AMRDEC, SMDC, MDA, AMCOM and other Army organizations, Myles said "these are great Americans doing unbelievable things here to shape our future. There's phenomenal work going on in the command ... Team Redstone is not just developing systems. It's also

See Civilians on page 7

# An open lane random survey

What was your first car like?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



*Air Force Tech. Sgt. Barbara Owens Program Executive Office for Aviation (Ground Maneuver)*

**"Actually it was a little gray Chevy my parents bought me. It was freedom, it was incredible. It was the best car in the world – even though it really wasn't (laugh). It was a sign I was finally an adult."**

*Mike Gates  
Child and Youth Services (Sports and Fitness)*

**"A 1970 Ford pickup truck. The engine was already half-shot and it was bright blue. Once the engine was replaced it was real reliable."**



*Derrick Gould  
Director of Family, Morale Welfare and Recreation*

**"It was just a junk heap – a 12-year-old Chevy Chevette. It didn't have any brakes, so I learned how to down shift gears."**

*Sandy Boyd  
Redstone Fire Department*

**"It was a Dodge Dart, '64. It had push-button gears, black. It was a sharp car. It was dependable."**



## Mobilize to keep children safe

We are an Army at war, and we recognize that both our Soldiers and our families are making sacrifices every day. With deployment being a significant reality of Army life, it is imperative that our Soldiers go on their mission with the certainty that their spouse and children have our support.

The reality is that deployments to certain locations are long, unpredictable and dangerous. This puts significant stresses on Soldiers, spouses and children. The Army has built powerful responses to these challenges, but it is not enough to just say "we have the services you need."

Research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association indicates that some Army children touched by parental deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan are at greater risk for child neglect. This research confirms that the tremendous stresses (parenting alone, anxiety for the parent in harm's way) experienced by families contribute to the problems associated with higher increases of injury and abuse.

Now, more than ever, we have to demonstrate our

commitment to provide our children and their parents and caregivers with a strong supportive environment where children can be safe and thrive. The quality of life for our families must match the quality of their Soldier's service.

As commander of this installation, I ask that you rededicate yourselves to protecting our children here on the home front. We have to mobilize everyone in the Redstone Arsenal community to play a role in supporting child abuse prevention.

Therefore, our Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign for 2008 must reinforce the promises of the Army Family Covenant. Just as we give full support to the force, we have to give full support to the families.

We are Army Strong. Now, in Child Abuse Prevention Month 2008, we need to show that we are Army and Community Strong in Keeping Children and Families Safe.

**Maj. Gen. Jim Myles**

AMCOM and Redstone commander

## Officer's lessons learned part two

Recall last week we left our contracting officer scenario with an introduction. This week we delve into some recommendations. The rules of engagement for my diatribe are simple. First, there are no metrics. So for all the recovering "A" types do proceed with caution and remember you have been warned! The information is anecdotal – no metrics, PowerPoint charts, regression analysis, web pages to refer to for interactive analysis and if memory serves me correctly not the first "quote" from anyone that is famous, infamous or other.

And just to push us over the edge, the focus areas are not presented in any order; they are not higher to lower, lower to higher or other. Right now you are saying yourself, "My God man – have you gone bloody insane!"

The following scenarios provide an illustration of the focus areas; and some sarcasm abounds but it was from those surrounding me as much as myself in trying to create an atmosphere in which we can

laugh at ourselves. Trust me, I couldn't make this stuff up if I tried. After discussing each point, as always, I'll culminate with the preverbal "path ahead" that I'd implement if king for a day. Challenges, challenges, everywhere but not a drop to drink.

Generalist vs. Specialist — Contracting officers (KO) must be both.

KO 1: "Look, I'm a contracting officer. I don't do transportation. Besides I contracted for the material, shipping terms are F.O.B. so it is the vendor's problem to get the items delivered. Besides, I have 20 contracts actions working on my desk."

KO 2: "I know. I had a similar situation last week and I'm still waiting for delivery."

I submit that the KO must be a generalist in many fields and a key field is transportation, but a specialist in the field of contracting. Back home we'd say, "You need to be an inch deep and a mile wide."

The KOs can quote the Federal Acquisition Regulation, Department of Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations, Acquisition Instruc-

tions, oversee a competitive selection process and all associated tasks related to contracting. However, when we drift from this specialty the KO exits their comfort zone. We all do for it is easy to become myopic. All military branches or career specialists are like this so this evolution of becoming "focused" is not unique to the world of the KO.

In an effort to combat this very situation, the Acquisition Corps has begun advocating that personnel become broader in scope and I think it is goodness. Knowledge of an alternate acquisition field will prove beneficial. One will build a bigger rolodex of resources for future assignments, missions and challenges. Live, laugh and learn.

Given the majority of KOs are from the U.S. Air Force, I can say they do a great job training and growing KOs – officer, enlisted and civilian personnel are all very knowledgeable as they "single" track when it comes to this career

See Lessons on page 7

## Quote of the week

**'Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem.'**

– President Ronald Reagan. 1985

## Redstone Rocket

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# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

**Name:** Leia Knapp

**Job:** Library technician at Post Library

**Where do you call home?**  
Henry, Ill.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I love the people. I love the customers. I really do.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I like to read. I like to play the violin – I play the violin because my great-grandfather played for the circus band, for Barnum and Bailey. I do scrapbooking. I like shopping.

**What are your goals?**  
To get my master's in education.

**What's your favorite type of music?**  
Country. I just came from Nashville. My husband (Capt. Jason Knapp) is in the Army, so we lived at Fort Campbell.



## Units add 23 Soldiers during March

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

- Sgt. Franklin Ferretti, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Maj. Thomas Barthel, Aviation and Missile Command; Sgt. 1st Class Jason Rayburn, AMCOM; Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper, Garrison; Sgt. Stephanie Maxwell, Garrison; Staff Sgt. Armando Lopez, NCO Academy; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cummings, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Jason Ferguson, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Justin Sager, HHC 59th; Sgt. Stephen Ross, HHC 59th; Pfc. Melony Soto, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Thomas, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School;
- Pfc. Hope Kimball, MEDDAC; Lt. Col. Phala Lea Patton, Logistics Support Activity; Maj. Felicia Carter, LOGSA; Maj. Daniel Jensen, LOGSA; Sgt. 1st Class Leslie McKennie, LOGSA; Lt. Col. Lee Whalen, Huntsville; Master Sgt. Amelia Alderson, PMO UA Redstone; Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Garciaaponte, PEO STRI Orlando; Lt. Col. Gregory Glover, Space and Missile Defense Command; Lt. Col. Leonard Schmanski, SMDC; and Maj. Kengi Hutchins, SMDC.

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

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

**Violation notices issued:** 25 speeding, 11 failure to obey traffic control device, 3 expired tag.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Novel event

Post Library volunteer Elizabeth Drozd talks with customer Jim Keebler, an engineer in AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate, during the library's open house Big Read event April 1. Visitors received a free copy of "The Maltese Falcon" and their pick of any book from the library's gift book selection.

## Federal retirement questions answered

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

**Question:** I am under the Federal Employment Retirement System. Will I lose my sick leave when I retire?

**Answer:** Generally, unused sick leave is not creditable for annuity computation purposes under FERS. However, employees who elect FERS coverage and will have a CSRS annuity component may receive credit for unused sick leave in the computation of the retirement benefit. The amount credited will be the lesser of either the unused sick leave balance as of the effective date of the FERS election or the unused sick leave balance as of the date of retirement.

**Question:** Will my civil service retirement be reduced when I begin receiving Social Security? I have already received the paperwork from Social Security indicating that I will get my full Social Security benefits.

**Answer:** If you receive a federal pension and are also eligible for Social Security

benefits based on your own employment record, a different formula may be used to compute your Social Security benefit. This formula will result in a lower benefit. The WEP affects workers who reach age 62 or become disabled after 1985 and are first eligible after 1985 for a federal pension.

The WEP does not apply if: You were eligible to retire before Jan. 1, 1986; or, you were first employed by the government after Dec. 31, 1983; or, you have 30 more years of substantial earnings under Social Security.

At your request, you can estimate the amount of the reduction by using the SSA-7004, and the Social Security Administration will send you a Personal Earnings and Benefits Statement that will list your earnings from employment covered by Social Security and provide a Social Security benefit estimate assuming retirement at alternative ages, 62, 65 and 70.

You should contact your local Social Security office to determine the effect of the Government Pension Offset and the WEP on your Social Security benefits.

# Aviators take on insurgents in Iraq

## Apache helicopters have busy March

By Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE  
Army News Service

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — AH-64 Apache attack helicopter crews engaged more insurgents in Iraq during the final days of March than in the previous three months combined, according to Task Force XII officials.

There were at least 25 enemy engagements by TF XII aviators in the last two weeks of March, task force officials say, which resulted in more than 40 enemy combatants killed and numerous insurgents wounded.

TF XII supports Multi-National Division-Baghdad and is led by the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade from Ansbach, Germany.

“Enemy engagements used to happen about once every two weeks, but right now it’s (several a day),” said Apache pilot Lt. Col. Todd Royar, commander of the 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “These insurgent forces have decided to become more visible and more deliberate in their attacks.”

Nearly all these Apache

engagements have occurred as a result of either observing enemy activities while patrolling the Baghdad region or by responding to aerial support requests from ground forces.

“This is what we all expected, but the initial calmness when we got here took us by surprise,” said Lt. Col. Charles Bowery Jr., TF XII executive officer and an Apache pilot.

The dramatic increase in vio-

lence was a little unexpected, added Bowery, but the number of attacks hasn’t caught the pilots off guard.

“We have crews who are skilled (in handling these situations) and this is what they came here to do,” he said. “Our individual (operations) tempo, or the number of hours each crew flies, has stayed relatively constant, so it has only been a little increase in frequency in which you fly.”

Every qualified Apache pilot — including the task force commander and deputy commander — is flying more hours to shoulder some of the burden.

“Everyone’s coping with the (increase in flying hours) well, but the most difficult thing to keep up with is maintenance,” Bowery said.

Task force maintenance teams work day and night to keep the Apaches mission ready. It’s a

real challenge, but it’s a job that must be done, said Spc. Tom Belew, an AH-64D Apache Longbow maintainer.

While the task force’s aviators have been routinely successful in taking the fight to the enemy, it’s a dangerous mission, and crews take special precautions when pursuing combatants.

“We’re more aware of the threat (against us), and we’re ensuring that we take actions to protect ourselves,” Bowery said.

In addition, pilots must have positive identification of hostile actions and carefully apply rules of engagement before taking action.

“I am extremely proud of the fact that our pilots have exercised and applied ROE appropriately. We have not had a case where we have engaged where we should not have,” Royar said. “Our role here is important because we help provide (ground units) with a third dimension. They can only see to the next corner; we cannot only see to the next corner, but around the next corner and on top of it.”

*Editor’s note: Sgt. Brandon Little serves with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office.*



Photo by 1st Sgt. Derek Likes

**PREPARE FOR TAKEOFF—** AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters from Task Force XII prepare to take off from Camp Taji, Iraq on a mission in the Baghdad region.

# Stealthy glide weapon strikes like viper

## Viper Strike submunition augments Army's arsenal

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

Viper Strike is designed to live up to its name.

This submunition, under the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, relies on pinpoint accuracy to destroy enemy targets with minimal collateral damage. Like a viper, it does not have its hunting ability impaired at night and ambushes its prey with lethal fangs.

"In response to requirements from the user communities we identified an opportunity to take advantage of the Cold War ATACMS, downloading and converting Bat submunitions for special-use customers and Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems," product manager Marine Lt. Col. Mike Sheerin said. "Viper Strike is particularly well suited for UAS applications."

Putting a legacy system to good use, while avoiding demilitarization costs are two value-added Viper Strike benefits.

"We actually started this in late 2002," deputy product manager Steve Borden said. "We added a semi-active laser seeker to a Bat and demonstrated it within nine weeks. Viper is fielded on

three platforms in the theater of operations."

The direct attack version is fielded on the Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle with an upgraded GPS available for special operations — the latter having a standoff capability, with the 44-pound weapon flying to waypoints before attacking the designated target.

"You dial in your azimuth and elevation approach, literally flying over the shoulder of a forward-observing Soldier," Borden said. "Viper does not have a plume; it is a stealthy glide weapon. You don't hear it coming."

With the two different systems, a war fighter has greater standoff, launch and attack agility advantages.

"Keeping an aircraft out of harm's way is a key feature," Sheerin said.

Viper Strike is a collaborative effort between the PEO's Joint Attack Munitions Systems and Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems projects.

"Plus we had close coordination and cooperation with the Army Test and Evaluation Command during the development and testing phase of this weapon," Sheerin said.

A Northrop Grumman 40-member work force produces both Viper Strike versions at a production facility on the Arsenal based on the management actions from a 15-member staff in building 5250.

The AMCOM Acquisition Center is credited with streamlining the contracting process, enabling the Viper Strike weapon system to be used in current operations, from a variety of platforms including helicopters, UAVs and the AC-130 gunship.

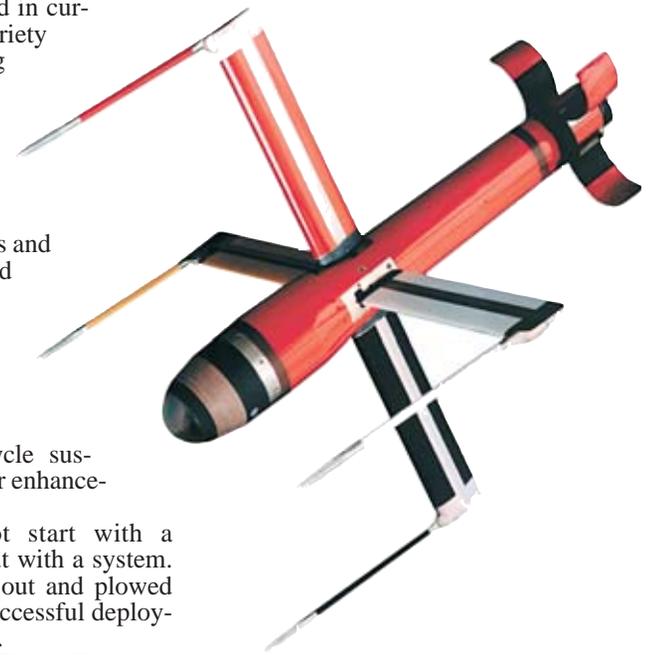
"Because of that great team effort, we have been able to convert those munitions and get them out the door and into the hands of our war fighters," Sheerin said. "Also we can preserve some options for the future, such as engineering support services, life cycle sustainment as well as further enhancements and upgrades."

Viper Strike did not start with a requirement and come out with a system. Rather the system came out and plowed new ground, following successful deployment from an Army UAV.

The possibility of a Phase II, new build production effort is on the Sheerin-Borden agenda, perhaps in mid-fiscal 2009.

"This has been an innovative effort to address critical user needs," Sheerin

said.



Courtesy photo

**LETHAL WEAPON—** The Viper Strike submunition contributes to ongoing operations in the Global War on Terrorism.



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

## Training excellence

Karen Clanton of the University of Alabama-Huntsville presents the 2007 Excellence in Employee Development plaque to Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space, and Cindy Parmer, the PEO's training and career manager. "Training is the cornerstone of the PEO's Perfect Opportunity," Dellarocco said.

# Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- For a list of events held by IMMC, visit <http://immcweb.redstone.army.mil/aer/index.htm>.

- Coupon books are for sale from the ILS/Manprint Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center. The \$20 books have coupons from more than 60 businesses and restaurants in the Huntsville area. For more information and a complete list of coupons offered, call Cheryl Baker 842-3157, Ranny Vinson 842-8793 or Kim Sharp 876-8696.

- Come out and play Elementary Trivia today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Sparkman Cafeteria. This is sponsored by AWCF Hardware and Acquisitions Branch, IMMC. For information call Jaimie Nemeth 842-6939.

- A barbecue cookout, held by Lower Tier Project Office, is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5309. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068.

- A "Flower Power" summer blooming bulb and perennial sale, sponsored by AS&T Directorate, ends Friday. For information call Linda Taylor 876-2883.

- "Jailopoly" is sponsored by the Engineering Directorate. Anonymously send someone to jail for five minutes for \$5. Bail is \$10 or you can purchase a Get Out of Jail Free Card for \$20. Tickets are on sale from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Friday in the SELA lobby, south entrance of building 5400. For information call Charlotte Jones 313-6541, Lorene Matkins 876-6112 or Mary Burnett 876-1501.

- Command Analysis Directorate, G-3 annual Book Sale is Saturday through May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sparkman Center building 5300, first floor corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. If you have items to donate (books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape), call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange for delivery and pickup.

- The "Spring into Action for AER" walk, held by the Business Management Directorate, Acquisition Center, is April 15 at 9:30 a.m. in front of building 5303. Requested donation is \$5. For information call Deana Boyer 842-7224 or Larry Crandall 842-7576.

- The third annual No-Limit Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament, sponsored by System Simulation and Development Directorate, AMRDEC, is April 16 at 10 a.m. at the Rustic Lodge. Participation is limited to the first 100 people to pay the \$20 entry fee. Call Pat Hopper 876-4273.

- National Maintenance Program Office, IMMC will hold a Brat/Hot Dog



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**DONATION IN STORE—** Commissary store administrator Linda Ruffin gives a \$125 donation to AER campaign co-chairman Master Sgt. Odri Hastings on April 1.

Cookout on April 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of building 5302. Cost is \$4 for a brat or hot dog, chips and drink. Extra brat or hot dogs will be available for \$1 each. For more information, call Jesse Price 313-2083 or Kathy Seibert 876-1743.

- Program Executive Office for Aviation will hold the PEO Aviation AER Golf Tournament on April 17 at the Links at Redstone. This is a four-person scramble with shotgun start at 8 a.m. For more information, call Maj. Mark Stiner 876-1271.

- A popcorn/peanut/soda sale, sponsored by AMCOM G-2, is April 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 5300, corridor between 5301 and 5302. For more information, call Trish Atkinson 876-8143.

- IMMC will hold its annual AER Golf Tournament on April 17 at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. This is a four-person scramble with shotgun start at 8 a.m. Registration deadline is Friday. For more information call David Newton 876-2585, Robert Bray 876-0186, Cletis Severs 876-7125 or Ken Lomax 313-1585. Registration is limited to the first 36 teams.

- The sixth annual Cars and Camouflage Car Show, hosted by Vets with Vettes, is April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Museum, Airport Road. For more information, call Tom Perkins 464-0346.

- A turkey sandwich and pizza lunch,

sponsored by SMDC, is April 23 at 11 a.m. Call Sarah Trial 955-3352.

- AMRDEC Engineering Directorate will hold its annual Golf Scramble on April 24 at the Links at Redstone. This four-person scramble has an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Registration fee is \$200 per team; and the deadline is April 10. Call Chris Farmer 313-6553 or Carolyn Farmer 876-3810.

- IMMC, Fleet Management Branch will hold a Hot Dog Sale on April 24 from

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Sparkman Center building 5302 parking lot. For information call Kay O'Brien 842-8614.

- A picnic, sponsored by Aviation Engineering Directorate, AMRDEC, is April 24 at the NASA Picnic Area. Cost is \$13. Call Vonnie Shelton 313-9089.

- Lunch on the Grounds, sponsored by Redstone Technical Test Center, is April 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 8716. Rain date is May 1. Lunch tickets must be purchased by April 23. For more information, call Sherry Hilley 842-6715, Brittany Consuegra 876-9141 or MariaLuz Garretson 876-2546.

- The annual AER Garrison Fun Day is April 30 at the NASA Picnic Area. For information call Gaylene Wilson 842-2574.

- A rummage sale, held by members of Depot Maintenance Division, IMMC, is May 8 at building 5300, room 5140. They're looking for items you have that are in good condition that you would like to donate for the sale. For information e-mail Lynn Moore [lynn.moore@conus.army.mil](mailto:lynn.moore@conus.army.mil) or Nina Cox [tank.cox@conus.army.mil](mailto:tank.cox@conus.army.mil).

- A barbecue cookout, held by Lower Tier Project Office, is May 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 106 Wynn Drive. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068.

- A barbecue cookout, sponsored by the Depot Maintenance Division and Transportation Division, is May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside building 5302. For more information call Deborah Asberry 842-6026, Rickey Dorsett 876-1157 or Aubrey Fencher 876-4009.

## Test your security awareness

AMCOM G-2 (Intelligence and Security) provided the following word-find puzzle:

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V U M X Z A L G O L J E X F Y
I N V E S T I G A T I O N D D
S H P R C L S T H S B C R E U
T T U A Z A I S G Z O B E N I
R U A G R N C M E N N S N D S
O S K N I W I C F C S W I O I
C G T O D K E I A E C E A F T
S U H A R A D L C R M A T D O
E I Y A M E R E B B A D R N A R
D D M Z M P E D I U V X O Y W
K E V T B T I L F S O G C C B
W P I B A D G E D O V D M H I
M A S H O W E R S E R V C E S
L D E I F I S S A L C M G C Z
R C V O L P H L I X U T S K C
    
```

ACCESS	BADGE
CACCARD	CLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL	CONTAINER
DOUBLEWRAP	EMAIL
ENDOFDAYCHECK	ESCORT
GUIDE	INITAL
INVESTIGATION	MARKINGS
SECRET	SECURE
SHOWERS	STAMP
STANDARD FORMS	VISITOR

# Civilians

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conducting combat operations for Soldiers who need our help.”

The 10 nominees for the DA Civilian award “happen to represent a lot of great work going on at Team Redstone,” Myles said.

Myles thanked the families of Army civilians, saying they make sacrifices just like military families.

“These civilians didn’t get nominated because they go to work at 8 and go home at 4,” he said. “We can’t pay them enough money for the hours they put in. They just want to do their job to support the Soldiers.”

“And, as family members, you are the ones who have had separations and had to endure long hours of separation. Thank you for your service.”

At the awards dinner, AUSA traditionally recognizes the best nominees in three categories — management/executive, professional/technical and supportive categories — with one civilian chosen as the overall winner. This year, Hamilton said, the 10 nominees crossed all of the categories.

“We had excellent nominees,” he said. “The evaluation committee had a really, really tough job of going through these nomination packets.”

“From each of these organizations, these are the best, and we are recognizing the complete dedication and professionalism of each of these individuals.”

Owings was nominated in the management/executive award category. He began his career as an Army civilian about 20

years ago, working with the development of AMCOM’s aerial systems, TOW missiles and Arrow simulation efforts, according to an AUSA press release. Those assignments led to his work with Unmanned Aircraft Systems, including the development of the Outrider Unmanned Aerial System under a joint Army/Navy/Marine Corps program in the 1990s and the development of the Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle from testing to full-rate production.

**I**n 2004, Owings was promoted to Unmanned Aircraft System deputy project manager, taking the UAS program from start to full-rate production in a record 12 months, a process that normally takes years to complete. In 2007, he helped save the Army \$29 million per Shadow system by significantly reducing turnaround time for restoring used unmanned aerial systems. In the past year, Owings was instrumental in doubling the fielding of unmanned aerial systems to the point where every platoon, company, battalion, brigade, division and corps in theater has its own system.

“He helped to give us systems in record time,” Myles said. “Unmanned aerial systems are flying over Baghdad, over convoys and next to manned systems in the Global War on Terrorism. It’s another frontier that Tim Owings has taken to the next level.”

Other nominees for DA Civilian of the Year were:

- Robert Branin, logistics management specialist, Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, AMCOM (professional/technical award);
- Linda Cosgray, executive assistant to the PEO, Program Executive Office for

Aviation (supporting staff award);

● Theresa Falcetano, organizational resources management specialist, Directorate of Human Resources-Garrison (professional/technical award);

● James Kelton, program integrator for Air Traffic Control Product, Aviation Systems Project Office (professional/technical award);

● Michael Krause, chief, Subsystems Test and Analysis Branch, Redstone Technical Test Center (management/executive award);

● Richard Lewis, manager, Test Facility, Business Management, Redstone Technical Test Center (professional/technical award);

● Ronnie McDaniel, adjutant general, Military Personnel Office, Directorate of Human Resources-Garrison (professional/technical award);

● Michael Ragoza, director for Logistics and Operations Support, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, Missile Defense Agency; and

● Barry Pike, chief of staff, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, (management/executive award).

**A**lthough Owings received an award that has been presented by the local chapter of AUSA for several years, this year’s DA Civilian award was extra special because it was the first time for it to be known as the George G. Williams DA Civilian of the Year Award.

“I’m honored to receive the first trophy bearing your name,” Owings said, speaking directly to Williams at the awards dinner. “You have been a tremendous mentor and adviser to me.”

Williams served in various Army civilian positions during his career, including deputy executive program officer and program officer for Fire Support at the Missile

Command (now AMCOM) and program executive officer for Tactical Missiles. He retired from civil service in 1996 and became president of COLSA Corp. He has earned numerous awards, including the Department of Defense Value Engineering PEO of the Year Award, and was the namesake and recipient of the Department of the Army George Williams Excellence in Acquisition Management Civil Service Meritorious Service Medal.

AUSA chapter president Mike Howell said the organization decided to name the DA Civilian of the Year Award after a local professional who has strong ties with AUSA and the Department of the Army.

“We wanted to make the connection between AUSA and the DA civilian stronger,” he said. “So, we named our award after a special person. George Williams is a paradigm of technical, problematic and management experience.”

**C**orporate sponsors for this year’s DA Civilian of the Year Awards Dinner included ManTech SRS Technologies, AAR Brown International, Teledyne Brown Engineering, Westar Aerospace & Defense, Analytical Services Inc., The Whiteford Group, First American Bank, Raytheon, Aviation Technical Test Center, Northrop Grumman, *The Huntsville Times*, USATA, Aerojet, SAIC, MEI Technologies, Lockheed Martin, DESE Research Inc., UAS PMO, Intergraph Corp., Avion, Inc., BAE Systems, ITT-CAS, COLSA Inc., Enfinger Steele Development, System Studies & Simulations, Redstone Recognitions Inc., CohesionForce Inc., ServisFirst Bank, ICF International, Westwind Technologies, Woody Anderson Ford, Sigmatech Inc., Quanti Tech, Qualis Corp., Infro-Pro Corp., Lioce Group and Kratos Defense and Security Solutions.

## ■ Contingency contracting differs from peacetime version

# Lessons

continued from page 2

field and it builds excellence. But in the contingency contracting environment we have to learn the second order effects of our actions and learn the probing questions to present when working with local nationals. We’re no longer in Kansas anymore ordering commodities. For example, Freight on Board or FedEx deliveries in the U.S. or other non-combat environments work as advertised, are generally accepted terms and are used in contracts with little concern of confusion by the KO or more importantly the vendor. Not so in the contingency environment and we have to remember this. Now, you may be saying that I am

stating the obvious but how many of us go to turn on a light switch when we know the electricity is out? This analogy holds the true in contingency contracting. We grow so accustomed to a certain level of service based on our experiences in a peacetime environment that we forget what a challenge everything can be in a contingency environment.

Contingency contracting does not stand alone with becoming comfortable with “home station” contracting. In some ways, I feel we’ve done the same with Performance Based Logistics as we became accustomed to “just in time” delivery of parts overnight to Fort Hood, Texas; but the same part delivered to a combat environment is another story. What works well in peace does not function as well in a conflict. Knowing the right question to ask is paramount to get-

ting to the ground truth and a working solution in a contingency environment. Allow me to focus on transportation and provide an illustration that I have observed.

Once upon a time a field command had just sent that flaming e-mail up to “Higher” and it has rolled downhill and landed in the KO’s lap. Everyone’s favorite question was in the subject line, “When am I getting my stuff?”

So, quickly the KO gets on the phone and after multiple attempts, they finally are able to get in contact with the local vendor who speaks broken English and the KO’s Arabic is even worse. The summary of the conversation is “Seven days.”

The KO inquires again, “Are you sure?”

Vendor: “Yes, seven days.”

This message of seven days is then pollinated, propagated, regurgitated,

incubated and e-mailed across the theater of operations through horizontal, vertical and every chart and chain of command imaginable and all is good with the world. Often it has a happy ending. Sometimes it does not. Trust me, the contingency contracting environment is the elixir that Murphy lives, breathes and dreams of. Plan for the worst and hope for the best. Stay tuned till next week to assess how the seven day delivery progressed.

### Lt. Col. Russ Dunford

*Editor’s note: This is the second part of a letter from Lt. Col. Russ Dunford, who is deployed. It will continue in next week’s Redstone Rocket. Dunford said he welcomes feedback and can be reached at russell.dunford@us.army.mil.*

# Special Olympic bowlers have triumphant return

## Local youngsters back at Redstone

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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It was a day two years in the making. While the old bowling center location had played annual host to Special Olympians for years, the new Redstone Lanes threw open its doors for the first time to some very special guests March 31.

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski rolled the first ball with the help of athlete Art Errmeu, from Grissom High School, who was happy to share his own military experience.

"I'm in ROTC," Errmeu said.

Army Community Service and Morale Welfare and Recreation have been eager to get the local area kids and teens into the new facility since it opened. Although the Redstone event does not count toward the Special Olympics tournament, it has traditionally been a highly anticipated day for everyone involved. However, budgeting constraints for the school system had prevented it from happening.

"They had transportation problems," Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member Program manager, said. "But they got their funding for it this year and were able

to make it happen."

Forty-six teens from three local schools made a triumphant return to Redstone for a morning of old-fashioned fun. Since it was not an official Special Olympics event, the rules of scoring and participation were relaxed a little. Bowlers were offered the use of lane bumpers, which prevent the scourge of bowlers everywhere – the gutter ball. Teachers who traveled with their students could bowl with them as well if they wanted. Some were simply happy to sit back and enjoy the game as a spectator.

"The facility is incredibly nice and the students are having a ball," Gloria Magness, a teacher at Huntsville High School, said. "I need the bumpers up when I bowl, too."

Now that special athletes have returned to Redstone, Taylor hopes to see next year's event expand to include more schools from both the city and county systems.

"We'll see how it goes," she said. "We hope to have elementary, middle and high school. We're building from here."

Twenty Soldiers from the 832nd Ordnance Battalion attended to show their support and lend a hand. Some of the Soldiers and athletes were old friends. In fact, several Soldiers swapped lanes before the bowling began so that they could spend their morning with the kids they had so

much fun with just a few weeks ago.

"The first time we did this, we were with these guys," Pvt. Chris Furry said. "It was fun to get back together with them."

Many of the Soldiers have participated in special athlete events before. All were

eager for the next one.

"I've done this three times before. I love it," Pvt. Elizabeth Mitchell said. "I love working with these kids. It makes them feel good. It makes us feel good. I can't wait to come back."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**BOWLING BUDDIES—** Bret Lindsey, a student at Butler High School, pals around with his new friends Pvt. Chris Furry, left, and Pfc. Graham McGowan.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## *Children's parade*

Infant-1 lead teacher Paula Sanders pushes a buggy during the Month of the Military Child kickoff parade April 1 at the Child Development Center.

# Comedy night returns to Officers and Civilians Club

Columbus, Ohio-based comedian can 'make you laugh with a look'

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

Are you ready to get your laugh on? If so, the Officers and Civilians Club is the place to be Friday night when "Comedy Night" returns to Redstone Arsenal.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the show at 7:30. "We've had a lot of success with our comedy clubs and we're looking forward to more of the same from this one," Mark Germonprez, chief of the business operations division for Morale Welfare and Recreation, said.

The headliner is Dan Swartwout, a lawyer-turned-comedian from Columbus, Ohio. He's described as an energetic performer who can be heard regularly on XM satellite radio and "The Bill and Dan Show." He has one of the most hilarious

closing bits in comedy, according to publicity material.

The feature act is Johnny Beehner, a tall comedian from Minnesota who can be seen on the "Last Comic Standing." He also performed at "Summerfest."

The opener is Mike Malone, from Columbus. He's described as one of the country's fastest rising stars, who tours the country as a founding member of the Outspoken Comedy Tour.

"There's not a lot of events that go on in Huntsville like this," Germonprez said. "There's not a lot of comedy clubs in Huntsville. It's a great time to escape, to sit down and laugh. The world could always use more laughter. It's just a time to sit down and have fun."

Redstone books its comedians through Steve Sabo, president of Inside Joke Productions out of Toledo, Ohio. He's promoted about six shows here in the past. The last one was Aug. 24, 2007, which drew several hundred attendees.

"They very easily could be the funniest show they've ever had at Redstone," Sabo said of this Friday's performers. "Dan (Swartwout) is the funniest guy. He could make you laugh from just a look. He's that good."

Advance tickets are \$10 without dinner or \$18 with dinner. At the door, they're \$12 and \$20. Buy tickets at the Officers



Courtesy photo

**HEADLINER— Dan Swartwout, a lawyer-turned-comedian from Columbus, Ohio, will perform Friday night at the Officers and Civilians Club.**

and Civilians Club (phone 830-2582) or at Information, Tickets and Registration (876-4531) in the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

The show's sponsors are Bill Heard Chevrolet and Miller Lite.

## Redstone Arsenal Environmental Program Public Comment Period –April 2-May 1 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan MSFC-002/087 Inactive Abandoned Drum Disposal Site/Inactive Cyanide Lagoon

A statement of basis/proposed plan recommends no further action as the Preferred Alternative for the soil, sediment, surface water, spring water, and soil vapor at MSFC-002/087 Inactive Abandoned Drum Disposal Site/Inactive Cyanide Lagoon. A non-time-critical removal action addressed hazardous substances in the soil (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and pesticides) from past disposal of construction and general debris in piles and mounds at the site. No unacceptable risks are now present for human health or the environment at the site.

This document and supporting documents are available for electronic viewing at the local libraries and on the Army's public website, [www.environmental.redstone.army.mil](http://www.environmental.redstone.army.mil). Comments on the statement of basis/proposed plan are requested by May 1, 2008.

- Triana Public Library (Triana Youth Center), 280 Zierdt Road, Triana, Alabama, 256-772-3677
- Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Heritage Room, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, Alabama, 256-532-5969

The final cleanup decision will be made only after the public comment period has ended and all the comments have been received and considered. The U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will select the remedy in consultation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. It is important to note that the final action may be different from the Preferred Alternative depending on new information or public comments.

**For more information, to receive a copy in the mail, to send comments about the MSFC-002/087 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan, or to request a public meeting, contact:**

U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone  
Attention: AMSAM (Ms. Lira Frye)  
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5020  
Telephone: (256) 955-9173; Fax : (256) 955-0133  
E-mail : [lira.frye@us.army.mil](mailto:lira.frye@us.army.mil)



Courtesy photo

## Children's theater

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater will present "The Gingerbread House in the Forest" April 18-20 and 25-27 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Rehearsing from left are assistant director John Seigh, "Quincy the Owl" Caleb Grissett, director Jeannie Sharpe and "Scatter a wood-elf" Hannah Shelton. Sharpe works for the AMCOM Acquisition Center; and Seigh is a contractor on the Arsenal. Both have been involved extensively with local community theater both on and off stage. Performance times are 7 p.m. on Fridays and 1:30 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. All tickets are \$10. To reserve seats, call 539-6829.

# Training ranges upgraded at Fort Campbell

*Huntsville engineering center helps remove scrap metal*

By DEBRA VALINE  
 Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

With much of the 101st Airborne Division deployed to Iraq, Fort Campbell, Ky., Range Division took advantage of the relative lull to repair and replace target systems on the firing ranges.

Last September, Mike Mazuk of Fort Campbell's Range Division called Plyler McManus of Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Design Center with the challenge of removing ordnance and old armored vehicles from eight selected training ranges.

Work started in late December. By the end of March, more than 2 million pounds of scrap metal had been removed from the ranges.

"We cleaned up old targets and munitions residue out of the impact areas and cleaned ranges so that 1) we could get the metal out of the impact area and 2) put in new targets so that the Soldiers have something better to shoot at," Mazuk said.

The ranges varied in size from a few dozen acres to several thousand acres. The primary ranges are oriented in such a way that they share a common downrange central impact area into which larger weapons such as artillery are fired. The larger ranges are configured where air and ground units can practice coordinated operations.



Photo by William Noel

**DIRTY WORK**— EODT's scrapping subcontractor, Tyne Earth and Demo, finishes cutting apart the turret of an M-60 tank.

Having been shot at for years, or in some cases decades, some of the targets were unrecognizable. Concentrations of munitions debris and unexploded ordnance that had built up around the targets had to be removed before the targets could be scrapped.

"Seeing the variety of target vehicles during an October site visit was like tour-

ing a museum of Army vehicles," Huntsville's project manager William Noel said. "Many were recognizable, such as the M-60 tank, the M-113A armored personnel carrier and the 'Gamma Goat' supply hauler. Some were not so recognizable."

One vehicle was so shot-up that only the corners where armor panels were

welded together still stood above the frame, so there was no way to score a 'hit' on it, Noel said.

"Then there was the armored vehicle on Range 51 that looked like a massively overgrown armored personnel carrier with what appeared to be a recoilless rifle barrel atop the front. No one could identify it. Two OE safety specialists suggested it might be an old Marine Corps vehicle. So I e-mailed a photo of it to the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Va., asking if they could identify it. A couple hours later we got the answer. It was an LVTP-5, an amphibious landing craft that had a crew of three and could carry up to 34 Marines. That's how big it was."

Ordnance technicians cleared munitions off the surface of the ground to clear a lane to and around each target vehicle so it could be cut apart and removed. The ground under where it stood was then surface cleared so Range Control had a clear location at which to place a new target.

Once the area was cleared, the scrapping subcontractor, Tyne Earth and Demo out of New York, used a cutting torch fueled by a mixture of propane and pure oxygen to cut the targets into pieces. It took only two or three hours to turn the 45-ton remains of an M-60 tank into large pieces of scrap metal, Noel said. Track-hoes fitted with clamps on their booms then lifted the pieces and dropped them into the bed of an oversized dump truck for the trip to the scrap yard.

"When we move the scrap, we work with scrap yards," said John Bobich, the project manager with EOD Technology Inc. out of Lenoir City, Tenn. EODT is Huntsville's contract partner on the project. "We try to get the best price. It can go from \$100 to \$200 per gross ton. The money goes back into our munitions response program. We buy equipment for future projects. One piece of equipment we are looking at will identify exactly what compounds we have found. It's a good way for us to check ourselves."

Adapting to the training requirements of various military units has required that EODT work for limited periods on certain ranges before moving to another range for a few days, then returning to finish their work on the first range. This flexibility and the quality of the work being performed have made the managers at Range Control happy.

"We were able to synchronize the efforts of the contractor with training so that I did not have any training impacted by the work of the contractor, and I did not have the contractor impacted by the training," Mazuk said. "The work was done with no impact to the training schedule. It was a win-win situation all the way around."

"The places they went into look really excellent. It projects a better presentation of the land in which to train on so that it doesn't look like piles of junk out there. There is a lot more to do yet, so this won't be the end of it."

## Aerostat visible over Redstone Arsenal



Alison Miller/SkySentry LLC

**TACTICAL BLIMP**— A large tethered balloon, called an aerostat, could be seen over western Redstone Arsenal this week as part of a military and civilian experiment titled *Flagship*.

*Experiment this week tests disaster response*

By JOHN CUMMINGS  
 SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

A large tethered balloon, called an aerostat, could be seen over western Redstone Arsenal this week as part of a military and civilian experiment titled *Flagship*.

The aerostat, called a High Altitude Long Endurance Testbed, is part of a disaster response communication experiment titled *Flagship* at Redstone's Test Area 3 on west Martin Road through Friday.

The aerostat is among many existing and emerging civil and military capabilities and technologies taking part in the experiment; which will involve resources from the Army, state of Alabama, NASA, Alabama Air National Guard, first responders from the city of Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal, and the Civil Air Patrol.

The aerostat is a helium filled balloon 75 feet long and 25 feet in

diameter that will float up to 3,000 feet above the test area. It is capable of lifting a payload of approximately 200 pounds of cameras and communications equipment, with power being supplied to the payload through the balloon's tether.

The purpose of the experiment is to show the utility of using a tethered aerostat, along with other civil and military resources to ensure continued communication during a disaster scenario where existing communications equipment is unusable.

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is hosting this event to demonstrate SMDC/ARSTRAT related technology in a military support to civil authorities experiment.

The aerostat is being provided by SkySentry LLC, from Colorado Springs, Colo., and was brought to Redstone specifically for this experiment.

Test Area 3 is on the west side of Redstone Arsenal; and the tethered aerostat may be visible from communities outside Redstone.

# Army aviation leaders agree on mission

*Support of Soldier the key motivator*

By JENNIFER L. KING

*405th Army Field Support Brigade public affairs officer*

SECKENHEIM, Germany – Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles wrapped up a week-long whirlwind tour of U.S. Army Europe by chairing an Army Aviation General Officers Symposium, which was hosted in Seckenheim by the 405th Army Field Support Brigade on March 28.

The symposium, attended by Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Brig. Gen. Jon Miller, deputy commander of the 21st TSC, and Brig. Gen. Mark Bellini, U.S. Army Europe G-4, as well as others involved in Army aviation, focused on the reset of aviation units throughout the European theater of operations, particularly the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Myles, who spent the week visiting different units and organizations in Europe, was



**AIRING PLANS—** Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles participates in the Army Aviation General Officers Symposium held March 28 in Seckenheim.

impressed by the scope of work being done in theater and the service provided to the Soldiers by both AMCOM and the 405th AFSB.

“You are in a unique position in this theater,” he said. “The challenges you face are different than the ones faced in other theaters of operations, but you’re

providing excellent support to the Soldier.”

Fontaine agreed that aviation maintenance in the European theater is a tremendous asset to have available.

“Our ability to repair equipment here in theater instead of sending it to the States is a function that we want to preserve,” he added.

All the attendees acknowledged the challenges of resetting equipment for aviation units and agreed that a cohesive approach involving multiple organizations, including USAREUR, the 21st TSC, AMCOM and the 405th AFSB, is the best way to approach the mission.

“We will track (reset) maintenance as the theater sustainers,” said Fontaine, “and we’ll work to provide a thorough support system to the execution of reset in the European theater.”

By working together and maintaining open channels of communication across the various organizations involved in aviation reset, Myles said the Army could execute a “flawless and seamless operation” of aviation maintenance in Europe.

Col. Richard Evans, who oversees AMCOM’s Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance-Europe, agreed.

“Communication is the key,” Evans said. “We all have to be talking to one another in order to provide maximum support to the Soldier.”

The symposium also addressed leadership’s key issues regarding Army aviation.

“Quality assurance is a big priority for me,” Fontaine said. “A lot of people’s lives are on the line, and we need to be confident in the quality of the maintenance and repair that we are conducting on their behalf.”

Myles echoed the same concern.

“At the end of the day, maintenance has to be done right, and it has to be checked right,” he concurred.

Each person acknowledged that while challenges in Army aviation maintenance might exist, the key motivator to success is the Soldier.

“We are all here in support of the Soldier,” Myles said, “and we all are working to execute the same mission – keeping the Soldier safe and helping the Soldier succeed on the battlefield.”

Courtesy photo

# Caring for wounded Soldiers opens opportunities

## Warrior Transition Unit a center of excellence

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Sgt. Curtis Carson knows what it takes to respond to the care needs of the Army's wounded Soldiers.

It's not unusual for Carson to get a phone call at any time of day notifying him of the arrival of a new Soldier for his unit. Those phone calls launch a 24-hour process that eases the Soldier into a medical care system at Fox Army Health Center focused entirely on healing and rehabilitating the wounded Soldier.

Carson is the squad leader for the center's newly established Warrior Transition Unit, one of 35 units stood up in the past eight months at military medical facilities across the U.S. in response to the need for better wounded Soldier care. He spends his days working with a team of medical and military professionals consisting of Maj. Steve Hankins, commander of the Warrior Transition Unit and chief of Business Operations at Fox; Sgt. 1st Class (promotable) Marshall Brown, the unit's first sergeant; Dr. (Maj.) Mike Madkins, the unit's primary care physician; nurse case manager Deb Holden and Karen Scott, licensed professional counselor at the health center's Behavioral Medicine Division. The group of professionals works together to provide the best care possible for Soldiers recovering from war wounds, or illnesses or injuries they sustained while in service to their nation.

"For the first time in the history of this country, we really have our arms wrapped around what it means to take care of Soldiers in the Army," said Col. Mark Smith, commander of Fox Army Health Center.

"For years and years, wounded Soldiers have been stuck in a system that has been lethargic when it comes to their treatment. We have learned that the signature wound of war is PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) or TBI (traumatic brain injury). From Vietnam, we have possibly a half million veterans still suffering



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SERVING SOLDIERS—** Sgt. Curtis Carson, left, and Maj. Steve Hankins are part of a team of medical and military professionals at Fox Army Health Center who are focused on treating the wounded Soldier at the new Warrior Transition Unit.

from PTSD because they didn't get the treatment they needed. After the Gulf War, we still didn't have things figured out and ended up referring to PTSDs and TBIs as the Gulf War Syndrome. Now we are learning how to help Iraqi war veterans who suffer from this signature wound of war. Now we know what we once didn't know and we are morally committed to act."

Across the Army, Warrior Transition Units have been established in response to the inadequate care management that recovering Soldiers were receiving at Walter Reed Medical Center. In late 2006, the issues of Soldier care at Walter Reed became public.

"The public outcry really bubbled up," Hankins said. "The Department of the Army recognized some flaws in the system. From an administrative standpoint, we were losing Soldiers. A lot were slipping through the cracks, especially those with neuro-cognitive deficiencies."

For example, a Soldier suffering from short-term memory loss could easily forget a doctor's appointment.

"The Soldier would be sitting in his barracks not realizing he was missing the appointment," Hankins said. "On the surface, it may have looked like the Soldier

didn't care about getting better. But, in actuality, he accidentally forgot an appointment because of his memory problems and because there wasn't anyone there to remind him of where he was supposed to be. There was a failure in leadership. We had to do something different."

WTUs are modeled after the medical hold units used by the Army Reserves and National Guard as special units in which to place Soldiers for accountability purposes while they healed. But as those units grew in the number of Soldiers being cared for, issues pertaining to the housing and employment of those Soldiers arose. To address those issues, the National Guard established the Community Based Health Care Organization, which allows Soldiers to heal at home, work at local units and remain connected to their platoon sergeant remotely.

"In 2007, because of Walter Reed, the Army said we need to have better accountability of Soldiers undergoing medical procedures at installations," Hankins said. "Thirty-five WTUs were started from scratch. The order was put into effect on June 15 (2007). Within six months, all 35 WTUs were stood up."

Smith calls the creation of WTUs a "definitive, extraordi-

nary and bold effort for the U.S. military." While most Warrior Transition Units have been co-located at active duty posts where large numbers of Soldiers are assigned, the Redstone Arsenal WTU has been designated as a center of excellence treating both active Army and Reserve component Soldiers, who are either located at Redstone Arsenal or, in some cases, located remotely.

"The only criteria that we have is if we have the medical facilities to treat the Soldier," Smith said. "We are a regional center that can draw Soldiers and active National Guard and Reserve Soldiers from several states."

The WTU at Redstone Arsenal is a one-stop medical care unit for wounded, ill or injured Soldiers. Right now, it is home to nine Soldiers recovering from various medical conditions. Four more Soldiers will arrive this week, bringing the unit to just over 100 percent capacity.

"Since December, we've been getting Soldiers coming into the WTU," Hankins said. "Since that time, there has been a steady stream coming in. The standard is one squad leader for every 12 Soldiers. But the complexity and scope of need drives how many Soldiers we get."

"As we mature as an organization in the WTU concept, issues will be brought up and overcome. We are not driven by numbers, but by the needs of the patients and how we can take care of them that is hands-on and provides them with the best care possible."

The Redstone WTU is the second smallest in the Army, with no company headquarters or barracks yet established. But that will change in fiscal 2010 when a new headquarters and barracks will be built next to Fox Army Health Center. Plans for the new facility will start coming together at the end of April.

"Since the main mission of every warrior in transition is to heal, you cannot heal in a drab, dreary, 'I don't want to be here' standard kind of barracks," Hankins said. "We want to provide them with a place they can be proud to be in from a mental and visual standpoint while they heal. I want the facility to have more of a caring and nurturing

environment, a sort of home away from home. We are thinking outside the box and trying to plan for a place that encourages healing."

Until that facility is built, the WTU is relying on the generosity of AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates and Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski to provide living quarters for the WTU Soldiers and to help with employment opportunities for the unit Soldiers who can work while they heal.

"This has been a Team Redstone event," Hankins said. "Everyone has bent over backwards and reacted on a moment's notice to establish this WTU and support the wounded Soldier."

Currently, four of the unit's Soldiers live at home locally while five others are using post lodging.

"We have five Soldiers from Arkansas who were part of a National Guard unit stationed at Camp Shelby in preparation for deployment to Iraq," Hankins said.

"They were not candidates for the Community Based Health Care Organization because that organization requires that its Soldiers must need medical treatment for a minimum of 60 days. We don't have that requirement. Soldiers can participate in this comprehensive care program for an undetermined amount of time, whether that be two weeks, two months or however long it takes for them to heal."

The WTU can receive new Soldiers three different ways – directly from medical facilities at Landstuhl, Germany (in which case there is very little notice of the Soldier's arrival); from a mobilization site – such as Camp Shelby – where a Soldier is found unfit for mobilization and is referred to the medical command for placement in a WTU; and from their unit if they suffer from an on-the-job injury while on duty.

"We can get requests for Redstone Arsenal from anywhere in the Army," Hankins said. "When we get requests, we go through our criteria to see if the Soldier is suitable for the care we can provide. There are some medical conditions we can't treat, such as

# Transition unit Soldiers share stories of recovery

## Praise Army's commitment to treating the injured

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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The Warrior Transition Unit at Fox Army Health Center opened its doors to wounded, ill and injured Soldiers in late 2007.

Currently, nine Soldiers are assigned to the WTU, where the focus is put on healing and rehabilitating the Soldier while also providing the Soldier with lighter work duties during their recovery. The number of Soldiers in the unit is expected to increase to 13 this week.

Here are the stories of three Soldiers assigned to the WTU.

## Taking a life-threatening risk

Maj. W.D. Foster always knew he was taking a risk when he put on the uniform – whether it be that of a Birmingham police officer or that of an Alabama Army National Guard Soldier deployed to Iraq.

But what he didn't bet on was that he would suffer a life-changing injury during an Army physical fitness test that would leave him paralyzed from the waist down.

"I was taking the APT (Army physical training) test (alongside other Soldiers in the Alabama Army National Guard's 122nd Corps Support Group in Selma). I was doing sit-ups when I felt a pain in my lower back," Foster said. "It was so bad that they took me to the local hospital in Selma."

His fellow Soldiers were skeptical about his injury. "They thought I just had muscle spasms. They thought I had a cramp or that maybe I didn't want to run," Foster recalled.

It was Nov. 3, 2007, and 10 hours later, Foster was paralyzed.

After five hours in the Selma hospital, the 45-year-old Iraqi war veteran (November 2004-November 2005) was taken to the University of Alabama-Birmingham Medical Center.

"They quickly realized what was happening to me," Foster said. "Doctors told me I had had a spinal cord stroke. It left me paralyzed from the waist down with no control of bladder or bowel. Before this happened, I was in excellent shape."

It was an injury that made Foster unable to continue his 19-year career with the Birmingham police force and his 21-year career with the Guard.

"I always thought I could get shot on the streets of Birmingham. I could have had a serious injury in Iraq. But I never thought something like this would happen to me," Foster said.

After 30 days in the UAB hospital, two weeks in rehabilitation and a trip to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to confirm his diagnosis, Foster was sent home to cope with doctor and rehabilitation appointments, and numerous medications on his own.

"I had Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but there are hospital charges and medicine costs that they don't cover, and what they do cover they only cover at 80 percent," Foster said.

With a wife, a teenage son and a college-age daughter to support, Foster became concerned about their future. But then he received process orders to report for duty at the Warrior Transition Unit at Fox Army Health Center.

"Once I got here, everything was explained to me," he said. "I was told the unit was here to support Soldiers and to heal Soldiers. I was honored to be a part of this unit. It was truly a blessing."

Foster has been counseled at the WTU on the benefits he can receive for his injury. The WTU has also helped him coordinate doctor appointments and to get the care he needs. Although Foster lives in Birmingham with his fam-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**HEALING PLACE—** The Warrior Transition Unit at Fox Army Health Center brings together Soldiers from different careers throughout the Army and gives them a place to heal from their injuries. From left, Pfc. Chris Cooley of the Arkansas Army National Guard, Maj. W.D. Foster of the Alabama Army National Guard and Army Sgt. 1st Class Greta Wiley, formerly of the 832nd Ordnance Brigade, are examples of Soldiers who are recovering from injuries at the local WTU.

ily, his care is coordinated remotely by the WTU and he makes periodic visits to Fox to review his progress.

"When I am up here, I can get my prescriptions filled. They've also taken care of things like filling a cavity and getting new glasses," he said.

"They've explained everything to me about the Veterans Administration and the programs it has to assist me. They've made me aware of so many things. People at the WTU know how I can get the help I need."

Though he has a nice home, Foster is getting some assistance through the WTU in regards to programs that will help him make his home handicap accessible.

"And I've been able to do vocational rehabilitation at the Lakeshore Foundation (in Birmingham), where they are helping me learn how to do things from a wheelchair," Foster said.

"My goal is to fully recover. But, if not, I will have the training I need to make the most of it. The Army has been really supportive, and I've been very pleased."

## Finding relief from a broken system

Sgt. 1st Class Greta Wiley has been hobbling through the Army's medical system since she first broke her ankle in October 2005.

But since being assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit in February, care for the 42-year-old Iraqi war veteran has taken a turn for the better.

"My ankle broke during combatants on Redstone Arsenal while I was undergoing warrior training with Headquarters & Alpha of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion," Wiley said.

"I was in hand-to-hand combat with my drill sergeant. I was told it looked like when I was in a hold I planted my foot so that I wouldn't get taken down. But the pressure of the hold caused my ankle to break."

At first, the seriousness of her injury wasn't realized. But once her Soldier boot was removed, the broken left ankle was obvious. So, was the pain.

The injury began more than two years of health problems for Wiley.

"I've been in the military for my entire career. I served in Iraq for 16 months in 2003 and 2004 with the 1st Armored Division and I've served in Saudi Arabia," she said.

"When I came here with TRADOC to be an instructor at the 832nd, I was hoping to get two years and then retire.

These have ended up being the worst two years for me in the military."

After two surgeries by a local specialist in 2005 and 2006 to repair her ankle, Wiley still wasn't able to move her foot adequately. There was swelling and no feeling in her foot, and she limped when she walked. Although her doctor suggested that she work out on an elliptical machine, her efforts at one of the post gyms didn't seem to help her condition.

After several months of waiting for the ankle to heal, Dr. (Maj.) Mike Madkins at Fox Army Health Center took an MRI of Wiley's foot. The MRI showed disrupted ligaments and bone problems.

"I went back to the specialist, but he said 'They've got to realize your left leg isn't going to work like your right leg.' So, I requested a second opinion," Wiley said.

Wiley was sent to a Birmingham specialist, who did a third surgery in an attempt to repair the ankle and to remove a pressure ulcer. But, when feeling still didn't come back, Wiley was referred to a neurosurgeon at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Medical Center.

"He knew how to relieve the pressure and help the feeling come back," Wiley said. "Right now, there is some tingling."

Wiley was assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit in February.

"The Warrior Transition Unit is helping me with my care and working to help me heal," she said. "I hope to heal this ankle and then I'm going to retire."

## Back pain worsens during career

Pfc Chris Cooley has been suffering from back pain throughout his career with the Arkansas Army National Guard.

But it wasn't until he was preparing for this third deployment that the pain became so unmanageable that he had to seek medical help.

"I've had back pain since basic training, but I didn't remember a specific event that caused it," he said.

The 26-year-old was training with his unit – the 2nd of the 153rd, 39th Brigade Combat Team of Arkansas – at Camp Shelby, Miss., when he finally had to admit that his back pain was too much to bear.

"I went to sick call," Cooley said. "The pain was so bad that six days later they sent me here to Fox and the Warrior Transition Unit. I got here on Feb. 13. They did an MRI and discovered that I suffered from degenerative disc disease."

Yet, the pain Cooley was enduring was more than normally expected from the diagnosis. So, he was sent to a specialist who did X-rays from different angles.

"He saw changes in just the month between the MRI and the X-rays," Cooley said. "He found that I also had arthritis in my back."

Cooley is now taking medications that make him nearly pain-free. He is also undergoing physical therapy at Fox for his back.

"If I need anything, it's all right here at Fox and the WTU," Cooley said. "It makes it a lot easier for me to get the physical therapy I need."

Because of his age and health condition, Cooley is a WTU Soldier who can also take on military duties. He is working with records and scheduling in the center's physical therapy department, helping with transportation coordination within the WTU, and taking college classes at Columbia College and online.

"At the WTU, they told me 'We want to get you fixed. But, while you are here, let's also get you enrolled in college and put you to work. Let's keep you learning and involved on a daily basis.' That was good for me because I don't want to just sit around and wait for doctor's appointments and physical therapy," Cooley said.

Cooley plans to major in chemistry and minor in history education. He is married, and the couple see each other

# Looking back

## ‘Don’t be shy to ask for something that’s needed’

*Huntsville’s first woman mayor makes suggestions for everyone*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer gave advice that anyone can use – regardless of gender – during Team Redstone’s Women’s History Month program.

“You have to get in there and prove yourself, that you want to do the job, that you want to do the best job possible,” she said.

Spencer addressed an estimated 400 people at the program March 31 in Bob Jones Auditorium with this year’s theme, “Women’s Art: Women’s Vision.” She was elected to her third term as Huntsville mayor on Sept. 14, 2004. She is the first woman to be elected, and twice re-elected, to the position.

Other advice Spencer offered included the following:

- “You can’t do it alone. ... You can’t do it if other people don’t buy into what your vision is.”
- “Timing is everything.”
- “Don’t be shy to ask for something that’s needed.”
- “People like to be patted on the back for the job

they help you do.”

- “Anybody can do anything if they put their mind to it. It’s most important that you have confidence.”
- “It’s so important that your parents are there for you.”
- “Whether it’s male or female, you need to be encouraged.”
- “It’s really important to make relationships in whatever you do.”

She received a standing ovation after her presentation. She then answered a number of questions from the audience about roads, construction and other topics.

“Everybody notice the trend here?” Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles asked as her portion of the program concluded. “There wasn’t a single question that you asked that she didn’t know.”

Awards were presented to winners of the month’s essay writing and static display contests. The winners included:

- Essay – 1. Horace Wilson of Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; 2. Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Perrin of Logistics Support Activity; and 3. Vicki Brewer, project manager from Redstone’s 911 Center.
- Display – 1. NCO Academy; 2. Logistics Support Activity; and 3. Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**CITY LEADER—** Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer speaks at Team Redstone’s Women’s History Month program March 31 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

# Marines fielding veteran softball team



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**WINDING UP—** Sean Newsom and the Marines finished second to the National Guard last year after winning the 2006 championship.

*Last year's runner-up looks toward season*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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The Marines are ready to land on the softball field.

They finished runner-up last year to the National Guard and won the 2006 title. They're back for the 2008 season which opens April 15 at Linton Field.

"We're going to have a good team," first baseman Chris McCarthy said. "We're bringing back a lot of veterans."

The returnees include McCarthy, coach/shortstop/pitcher Sean Newsom, left fielder Chris McNally, left center Dustin Kershaw and outfielder Robert Bufkin. Lee Burket expects to play until May 24 before leaving for Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1, followed by six weeks of training and subsequent deployment to Iraq.

"I'll play what I can until I leave just to be out there (on the field)," said Burket, a pitcher. "You know how much I love it."

The National Guard won last year's championship by beating the Marines 11-1 in the final June 25, 2007. The Guard went 14-1 in its first year. The Marines finished 14-3.

Games will be Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6, 7 and 8 at Linton Field, the corner of Gray and Patton roads. The season, which should finish by mid-June, is followed by a postseason tournament.

Expected teams include the National Guard, Marines, NCO Academy, Bravo, Charlie, 326th Chemical, and Headquarters & Alpha.

## Golfers contribute to veterans Honor Flight

Four World War II veterans joined 180 other golfers for the second annual Tennessee Valley Honor Flight Charity Golf Tournament at the Links at Redstone on March 28.

The event raised funds needed to fly WW II veterans to their war memorial in Washington, D.C. in September and October. Honor Flight has pledged to take 500 veterans to their memorial in 2008, and has four flights scheduled for the year – April 19, May 31, Sept. 13 and Oct. 18. Although funds for the April and May flights have been raised, Honor Flight volunteers are still working to raise funds for the September and October flights.

The golfers braved windy and misty weather to participate in the 18-hole tournament. At the completion of play, the golfers were treated to a buffet lunch which was followed by an awards ceremony and door prize drawings.

The team of Mike Krause, Austin King, A.J. Pathmanthan and Josh Lindley took medal honors with a low score of 57. In appreciation, the winners gave their gift certificate prize to the WW II veterans who participated in the tournament. Other awards were given for longest drive and closest to the pin. Jay Austin scored a hole-in-one on the Hillside sixth hole.

Honor Flight president Joe Fitzgerald thanked all the golfers for their participation and support. Honor Flight, which has also committed to flying Vietnam and Korean War veterans to their memorials once the WW II veteran program is complete, plans to continue the golf tournament as an annual event.

Primary sponsors for the tournament included BFA Systems, CAS, SAIC, Torch Technologies, ERC, TOC, Avion, Redstone Federal Credit Union, and ASI. Supporter sponsors were LMCO, SRS Technologies, DCS Corp., DESE, Sierra Lobo, and T&W Operations.

For more information on Honor Flight, or to make a donation or sign up a veteran, visit its web site at [www.honorflight.net](http://www.honorflight.net).



# Hatch open to global professional development

## AMCOM worker graduates from master's program

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY  
Staff writer  
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The world today is a global economy and no one knows that better than the Army work force. In order to better understand the workings of international business and diplomacy, Angie Hatch submerged herself in a grueling Global Master's of Arts Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University. She graduated March 15.

Hatch came to the Army as a technical writer fresh from college. She spent nine years in publications before making the transition to the AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate, where she has spent the last 10 years. She truly enjoys her job.

"I'm a case manager for the Australian Foreign Military Sales Program," she said. "I love it."

As part of her duties, she spends a significant amount of time interacting with foreign nationals, both electronically and in person. She also travels to their locations occasionally.

The GMAP II program was a logical choice for Hatch. It focuses on business



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**CASE MANAGER— Angie Hatch says she's glad to have completed an intense master's program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University.**

across multinational borders. Included with classes about finance and international law are courses dealing with diplomacy and social issues.

"It's very intense and challenging, but very interesting," she said. "I would rec-

ommend it. It's not for everybody, but it is a great program."

The coursework was primarily Internet based. While some might think that would make it easier, Hatch disagreed.

"Really, it's not. Whenever you post to the web site, if you want to sound somewhat intelligent, you do backup research. For the few minutes you spend posting you've probably spent three or four hours trying to develop a thought. You'll have a couple hundred pages of reading for each class each week. I studied all day every day."

In addition to the calendar of classes, program students also get lots of exposure to their counterparts around the world.

"Each semester we are broken out in groups and need to work out group projects with other students from around the world," Hatch said. "I've had team members from Tunisia, Finland, Cambodia, South Korea and Kenya."

Some of her classmates hold governmental or diplomatic positions in their homelands, while others work in private industry on an international level.

"They all have interesting jobs. Some work with non-government organizations working with people to better their lives, some work with presidents of other countries, others attend world summits on various issues and participate in negotiations," Hatch said. "One of my classmates was just selected to become (foreign) ambassador of Jamaica to be stationed in Japan."

The classes were taught by professors of the highest caliber, including some big names.

"Two of my professors just won Nobel Peace Prizes," Hatch said. "One, Adil Najam, was for international negotiations, which was my favorite class. My adviser, William Moomaw, won as part of a team for climate control."

Balancing such a course load with her full-time job and family was the hardest part of the last year, Hatch said. Hatch is married with three children. She said that without her husband Jerry's support she could not have made it through the program.

"My husband supported me like crazy. He had the mom and dad duties. I still did the cooking, but he had everything else," Hatch said. "Our children are 12, 11 and 6, so he had a lot of running around to do."

Even with a wonderful support system, the hours the program demanded weren't easy. Her youngest child, in particular, felt the strain of her mother's schedule. She had to be creative with her time.

"My youngest, Kristen, was missing her mommy time. So we set up a little bed in the office so she could go to sleep with me at night. I still got to study and she got her mommy time," Hatch said. "It was kind of sad, but kind of good, too."

Now that she has graduated, Hatch looks forward to having more time on her hands. She plans on spending as much of that time as possible just being with her family and maybe starting some home improvement projects. She also plans to use what she has learned to look at her job in a new way.

"It gave me a global perspective," she said. "You just don't look at the world the same way anymore."

## Warrior Transition Unit established at Fox health center

### Wounded

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severe psychiatric cases. We also make sure we have space for the Soldier."

Carson is on call at all times to respond to the needs of Soldiers being assigned to Redstone's WTU.

"The most crucial time is when the Soldier first arrives in the unit," Hankins said.

"During that time, two things must happen. They must see their primary care physician for a full assessment of their individual treatment issues and a comprehensive checkup head to toe. Then, they must have a comprehensive mental evaluation."

As the squad leader, Carson is the first person to meet and talk with the unit's Soldiers, to develop a close working relationship with the Soldiers as they heal and to serve as a liaison between the Army and the Soldiers and their families. He is the one charged with the day-to-day management of Soldier care in the Warrior Transition Unit.

"At larger installations, there is a Soldier and Family Assistance Center that

will help the wounded Soldier and their family with all the issues that come up because of a medical issue," Carson said. "We don't have that at Redstone Arsenal, so all those functions and the functions of the WTU - including in-processing the Soldier, providing them with transportation, ensuring they get to their doctor's appointments and helping them with all aspects of their treatment - are things I am responsible for."

Once they are in-processed at Redstone's WTU, the Soldiers are in regular contact with their command, with Carson checking on them daily, coordinating transportation to doctor's appointments, reviewing cases with the WTU staff, discussing aspects of care with Soldier families and support networks, and assisting Soldiers with medical, personal, educational or employment issues that may arise.

"We work closely with spouses and support networks because they have a better insight into what is happening on a day-to-day basis," Hankins said. "We are using a holistic approach to medicine. It is an awesome thing and somewhat of a new thing for the Army."

And the WTU can respond to the Soldier in other ways.

"One of the things I firmly believe is Soldiers want to Soldier," Hankins said. "In a lot of cases, we can't give them the same kind of job they had. But we can put them to work. We can give them a day-to-day job that lets them still serve their country. Every agency on post is open to providing a meaningful job for our Soldiers. That's critical to the healing process. They have to be engaged doing something if they are capable."

Taking college courses is another way the WTU engages their healing Soldiers.

"Our primary mission, though, is to heal. Doctors appointments, rehabilitation and other medical appointments take precedent over the workplace or education," Hankins said.

That healing directly relates to the goal of Fox Army Health Center, which is to execute the Army medical action plan flawlessly, Smith said. In all ways, wounded, ill or injured Soldiers are the top priority at the center.

"This is not an area in which we can get things wrong," he said. "We have to get it right the first time. We can't afford to do anything less."

"The WTU brings clarity to the domain of healing for Soldiers. The mission is to heal so the Soldier can go back to a productive career in the military, or so they are prepared for release from the military

and to a productive life outside the military."

In the long run, WTUs will affect the Army's bottom line and retention.

"We have to give them the opportunity to heal, and that could take a couple weeks or a couple years until they are either fit to return to Army readiness or they don't meet the standards and have to separate," Hankins said.

"We've come a long way from just pushing a wounded Soldier out of service. The Army has come to realize we spend a lot of time and money training these guys. If they can provide a service to the Army, so what if they are in a wheelchair. There's no need to separate someone because they've lost a leg or are in a wheelchair. Instead, let's find them a job they can do."

The Army's new attitude about retaining Soldiers with life-changing injuries will have a positive effect on both the military and society, and, hopefully, reduce the number of veterans who eventually end up homeless or in prison, or suffering from substance abuse or mental illness.

"This is great for the Army and great for the nation because we are keeping people around who want to serve their military, who want to contribute to their nation and who want to be utilized in some capacity," Hankins said.

# Worldwide logistics workshop arrives at Redstone

Register through Friday  
for annual training event

If you're part of the Army logistics community, you don't want to miss the Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop.

The annual workshop, sponsored by Logistics Support Activity, is April 21-25 at the Sparkman Center. "Logistics Support on the Move" is the theme, and this workshop will offer more exhibits, speakers, and training than ever before, according to a prepared release.

"We expect to have approximately 800 Soldiers, contractors and DA civilians attend this event, although the numbers may vary due to deployments," WLTW program manager Marcia Byrnes said. "We have something for everyone."

Attendees will have access to presentations, hands-on training, workshops and exhibits on LOGSA products and services. The Defense Logistics Agency, General Services Administration, Army G-4, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Combined Arms Support Com-

mand, Army Force Management Support Agency, and other Army Materiel Command organizations will also present information. There is flexible scheduling, and a variety of classes designed to accommodate both basic and advanced users.

**"We are always excited to host the WLTW because we know that we are providing Soldiers with tools that make their job easier."**

— Col. James Rentz  
commander, Logistics Support Activity

Confirmed speakers include Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody, headquarters Army G-4; Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, AMC G-3; Col. James Rentz, LOGSA commander; and AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger.

LOGSA's mission involves creating, managing and teaching supply, maintenance and transportation applications

used by the war fighter. Logistics Soldiers, contractors and Army civilians attend WLTW every year to receive training and updates in the ever-changing logistics community. The workshop provides training that is helpful for both operational and tactical users. The tactical focus, a key piece, trains the Soldier on applications that would enhance their unit's performance on the battlefield.

"We are always excited to host the WLTW because we know that we are providing Soldiers with tools that make their job easier," Rentz said. "It provides a platform of communication between the muddy boots Soldier and Army Materiel Command."

WLTW was formerly known as the Major Item Training Workshop.

Said Byrnes, "We have been hosting this workshop for more than 10 years, providing over 20,000 Soldiers, DA civilians, and contractors with the tools necessary for continued success in the logistics field."

Besides offering this annual workshop, LOGSA provides worldwide training

throughout the year. LOGSA has traveled the globe, to include stops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Alaska, Hawaii, Italy and Korea.

"We are always ready and willing to provide training (for) any Soldier or civilian who requests our services," Rentz said. This is why WLTW has attendees from all over the world and grows every year.

"We try to improve on the WLTW each year," WLTW executive officer Michelle Durig said. "We have great exhibits this year, and we invite the Redstone community to stop by the Sparkman Complex to visit them on Tuesday, April 22 from 1-4 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to noon."

DoD acquisition, technology and logistics personnel who attend WLTW can earn up to 20 continuous learning points. For more information about the WLTW agenda and online registration, call 955-9103 or visit <https://www.logsa.army.mil/index.cfm>. Registration will be open through Friday.

## Launch system earns airborne certification

Platform approved  
to drop from aircraft

By Maj. JEFF WHITE  
Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System

The Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System Project Office has been awarded the Aircraft Exit Certification.

This certification allows the NLOS-LS weapon system to air drop from a C-130 or C-17 aircraft into any training exercise worldwide. The fundamental purpose of the NLOS-LS is to provide the Brigade Combat Team a networked, extended-range targeting and precision attack capability against armored, lightly armored, and other stationary and moving targets during day, night and degraded weather conditions.

The NLOS-LS is a platform independent vertical launcher that holds up to 15 ready-for-launch missiles. The operational flexibility and lethality of the NLOS-LS system is unmatched among any weapon in the Future Combat System arsenal. This certification results from newly developed parachute rigging procedures as well as three successful air drops at Fort Bragg, N.C. The NLOS-LS retained full functionality after each landing, which was verified through a comprehensive systems check.

All air drops were conducted under the supervision of the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate located at Fort Bragg. The approval authority for this certification is the Senior Aerospace Engineer Airdrop and Lead Aerial Delivery Engineering Sup-

port Team, U.S. Army RDECOM, with an effective date of March 1, 2008.

"I am proud of the hard work and determination of the entire NLOS-LS Team and pleased we have earned this certification during the systems development and demonstration phase," project manager Col. Doug Dever said.

"The Aircraft Exit Certification compliments the success we have achieved while participating in the Army Evaluation Task Force Training Exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. The war fighter and the FCS community continue to be impressed with our lethality, operational flexibility, and maintenance reliability. We are providing one of the few weapon systems that have successfully bridged the gap between being relevant to both the current and future force."



Courtesy photo  
**TRAINING FIRST— The Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System descends to its landing zone after being dropped from a C-130 Hercules.**

## Injured Soldiers recovering in Warrior Transition Unit

### Stories

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nearly every weekend, with Cooley sometimes traveling the five hours home to Arkansas and his wife sometimes visiting him at Redstone Arsenal.

Eventually, Cooley, who has served in Egypt with the Multi-National Force and Observers from October 2001 to July 2002, and then in Iraq from April 2004 to April 2005, may find himself deployed once again to Iraq.

"The rest of my unit left out of Kuwait a few days ago for Iraq," he said. "I have a couple more months of physical therapy to

look forward to. If that doesn't work, then the doctor will inject my back with steroids. If I get well enough, I will rejoin my unit."

Cooley said the WTU shows that the Army's commitment to Soldiers goes beyond what the Soldier can do on the battlefield.

"I have a lot more respect for the military now," he said. "Before this program, if a National Guard Soldier got hurt, they would be sent back to their civilian life where they wouldn't be able to do their civil job and they wouldn't get the medical treatment they needed.

"Now, the Army is committed to fixing Soldiers so they can still have a military career or a good life outside the military."



**Sports & Recreation**

**Bass tournament**

AAAA Spring 2008 Bass Tournament is April 26 on Wheeler Lake, River Walk Marina, Decatur. For information call Bob Vlasics 881-4144, Chuck Ogle 883-7974, Matt Boenker 313-9117, Gaylen Bush 313-3373, Terry Hortter 313-5362 or Tom Geoffroy 876-5359.

**Baseball bus trip**

Your Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring the annual Baseball Bus Trip to Atlanta for the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Atlanta Braves games. This year, the game series is scheduled during the week. The stadium reservations are for the July 30-31 games. The CWFC bus will depart Redstone Arsenal promptly at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 30 and will return to Redstone Arsenal on Friday afternoon, Aug. 1. The group will stay at the Embassy Suites-Galleria in Atlanta. The stadium seats will be in Section 124R for Wednesday night's game. For Thursday night's game, the seats will be in Section 324, the All-You-Can-Eat-And-Drink section. Cost for this event is \$290 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes bus transportation, hotel room, tickets to both games, plus lunch and beverages on the bus. To make reservations for this adult fun and relaxation

event, e-mail Charles Urban at charles.urban@conus.army.mil. A non-refundable deposit of \$125 per person must be received by May 1. For more information, call Urban 955-7662.

**Adult baseball league**

The Men's Southern Senior Baseball League will conduct its "Open" Spring Training practices at John Hunt Park, Field 1, during March and April. The open practice schedule is as follows: April 13 (6-8 p.m.), April 20 (2-4 p.m.) and April 27 (2-4 p.m.). The SSBL is an amateur men's baseball league in Huntsville, currently with two age divisions (over-48, over-35). Provisions are being made to allow some over-25 players to play in the over-35 division. Teams come from Decatur, Huntsville and Madison. Games are played in Huntsville and Decatur. The league is affiliated with the Mens Adult Baseball League/Mens Senior Baseball League. The season begins the first week of May and ends the last week of August. Contact John Means (jmeans57@aim.com) or Kirby Gaudin (KirbyG@aol.com) for more information about the league. The over-48 division commissioner is Bill McArdle (b-rmcard@ix.netcom.com) and the over-35 division commissioner is Jim Crum (jimcrum10@yahoo.com). Commissioners should be contacted by new players interested in joining teams in their respective divisions.

**Nordic walking**

Rick Stock, health promotion educator at Fox Army Health Center, will conduct a training class in Nordic walking today from noon to 1 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads. Nordic walking exercises the entire body; burns from 20-46 percent more calories and increases your heartbeat 10-15 beats more per minute than ordinary walking, and takes damaging stress off your joints. Call Stock at 955-8888, ext. 1443 for more information or to register to attend the class.

**Interval walk**

An interval walk, open to the entire Redstone community, is April 21 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Sparkman Fitness Center, building 5302. "Come join the Sports & Fitness Team for an interval walk around the Sparkman Complex for a new spin on walking," a prepared release said. "You will be led on a walk with stops along the way to do strength training with an exercise band. Come put a twist on your current walking program. The walk is free and we will even bring the exercise band!" Meet Angie outside the fitness center on the sidewalk of building 5302 at 11 that morning. For more information, call Angie 313-1201.

**Memorial golf benefit**

The 2008 Carmen Gum Memorial Tournament, to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama, is April 21 at Huntsville Country Club. Entry fee per player is \$200 for this four-man scramble. For more information, call Kevin Kennoy 603-1079.

**Military anglers**

The Military Team Bass Fishing Tournament is May 5-9 on Dale Hollow Lake in Byrdstown, Tenn. The tournament, which began in 1991, became affiliated with American Bass Anglers in November 2007. The event is open to all active duty Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, their family members ages 16 and over (those under 18 must fish with a parent or guardian), National Guard, Reservists, DoD civilians, DoD contractors and retired military. To register call ABA headquarters 888-203-6222 or visit www.militarybass.com.

**Motorcycle run**

Elks Lodge 1648, at 725 Franklin St., invites everyone to the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle Run on May 10 (rain date is May 24). Cost is \$15 per rider, \$10 per passenger. Registration starts at 9 a.m., with the first bike out at 10 and last bike in at 3 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the Huntsville Police Foundation to help build the Fallen Officers Memorial. For information call Doug Smith 503-3454 and James Henley 882-3406.

**Spring kickoff golf**

Join the Links at Redstone on Saturday at 8 a.m. for the Maj. Gen. Jim Myles Spring Kickoff Golf Scramble. The price is \$40 per person and includes food, beverages, cart fees and door prizes. Price does not include greens fees. Call 883-7977.

**Football camp**

The fourth annual Walter Jones Football Camp is May 24 at the Jones estate, 2699

Jeff Road in Harvest, home for the Seattle Seahawks offensive lineman. This free camp is for ages 8-13 and ages 14-18; and attendees must not yet have finished high school. There are 200 spaces apiece for ages 8-13 and 14-18. Registration is April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dicks Sporting Goods, 6275 University Drive northwest. Parents must accompany their child for registration. Walter Jones will be available for autographs.

**Boating safety**

Redstone Flotilla 2406 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a boating safety class on Thursday nights from April 10 through May 22 at Stillwell Hall, building 3305, room 215 on Zeus Drive. Classes are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A \$25 fee covers the cost of materials. Successful completion exempts students from taking the state boat operator's examination and may save you up to 15 percent on boat insurance. For more information, call Tom Kunhart 830-6621 or cell phone 527-4475.

**Firefighters classic**

The sixth annual Huntsville Firefighters Golf Classic is June 14 at Colonial Golf Course. Cost for this four-man scramble is \$60 per player. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. For more information, call Glenn Benson 828-7842 or Larry Ayers 651-6312.

**Walk at work**

April 16 has been proclaimed the American Heart Association's second annual Walking at Work Day. A sedentary lifestyle is a major underlying cause of death, disease and disability with approximately 2 million deaths every year attributable to physical inactivity, according to a proclamation from Fox Army Health Center.

**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 building 3466 on Snooper Road. This is the temporary location because of Bicentennial Chapel's major renovation. Free childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 325-3152 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404. "Bible studies this semester are: Covenant by Kay Arthur and Parables of Jesus, both taught in the morning session; A Heart Like His by Beth Moore, taught at the noon session for the working sisters; Revelation by John MacArthur, taught at the 6:30 p.m. session," a prepared release said.

**Computer users**

The Huntsville Personal Computer Group will meet at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave., on Saturday at 9:15 a.m. with the Windows/Internet Special Interest Group as Kevin Wangbickler, the past HPCUG president, will present a topic of general interest. At 10:45 there will be a short

business meeting followed by Jim Offenbecher discussing the identification and removal of spyware and other malware, including rootkits, using free tools and techniques. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 534-4324.

## Logistics training workshop

The Logistics Support Activity's World-wide Logistics Training Workshop is April 21-25 at the Sparkman Center. The workshop offers attendees with both strategic and tactical backgrounds an opportunity to receive instruction and obtain a wide range of information on logistics systems, programs, capabilities and initiatives. Registration continues through Friday. For more information, e-mail [logsa.wltw@conus.army.mil](mailto:logsa.wltw@conus.army.mil).

## Sister conference

The first Sister Conference, to address women's issues, is Saturday at the Marriott Hotel, 5 Tranquility Base. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and breakfast at 9, followed by workshop sessions. Tickets are \$10. An award banquet, for presentation of Space Camp scholarships to high school females interested in math and science, will be held Friday at 7 p.m. The banquet ticket cost is \$40. Cost to attend both the banquet and conference is \$50. This is sponsored by the Greater Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. For more information, call Helen Drake 890-1029 or 704-0005 and Marsha Readus 430-6882.

## Sergeants major

The Sergeant's Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. This month's meeting is April 17. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-6778.

## Project institute

The Project Management Institute North Alabama Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Research Park at Madison Square Mall (note location change from last meeting). The featured speaker is Randy McCarty, PMI-NAC vice president for programs. The cost is \$20 for PMI members, \$25 for non-members. Please register by 5 p.m. April 14 at <http://www.northalabamapmi.org/ChapterMeetings.htm>.

## Defense industry

The Tennessee Valley Chapters of Women in Defense and National Defense Industri-

al Association will host Richard Alpaugh, deputy to the commander of the Army Security Assistance Command at their April industry luncheon on April 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Marriott, Tranquility Base in Huntsville. The cost for individuals is \$25 or a corporate table (seats eight) may be reserved for \$200. Please register online at <http://conferences-bysigma.com/wid/>. If you do not wish to pay online, fax your payment information to Sigma Services 533-4508 or call 533-6986. Reservations are due by April 25.

## Parent advisory council

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet April 29 at 11 a.m. in Redstone Room, Challenger Activity Center building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent Participation Points are awarded for attendance — 5 points equals a 10 percent discount on child care fees. "Please join us to learn what is happening at the Redstone Child and Youth Services facilities and to voice your ideas, opinions or concerns," a prepared release said.

## Federal employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet May 10 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Refreshments and social begin at 9:30 a.m. and the business meeting at 10 with program to follow. The program will be a forum for all 5th Congressional District candidates who qualify for the seat being vacated by Rep. Bud Cramer.

## Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will have its monthly luncheon April 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The theme is "Spring Fashion Extravaganza" with a fashion show by Stein Mart and music by vocalist Darlene Berry. Kathy Stallings of Birmingham is to speak on "Transformed from Ordinary to Extraordinary." For information call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

## Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Scheduled speaker Greg Biggs, an author and tour leader from Clarksville, Tenn., will present "Turning the Tide, The Union Cavalry at Shelbyville, Tenn." Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. Call 858-6191 for information.

## Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting April 30 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Retired Sgt. 1st Class David Carney will discuss the Madison County Veterans Memorial. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast April 26 at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

# Rocket Announcements

## Acquisition symposium

The Defense Acquisition University will hold its annual Acquisition Community Symposium on April 15 at DAU's Fort Belvoir, Va., campus. The theme this year is "The Defense Life-Cycle Management Challenge: Innovation in Acquiring, Sustaining and Improving DoD Weapon Systems." The symposium will address one of the major challenges facing the Department of Defense, that of cost effective logistic support of DoD systems. The symposium will include a Service Acquisition Executive Panel, an Industry Panel, four parallel tracks, and will feature a keynote address by John Young, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. It will be simulcast live via VTC and will be held at the Raytheon Company's Warfighter Protection Center at 401 Jan Davis Drive, Huntsville (Cummings Research Park). Cost to attend the VTC simulcast at Raytheon is \$40 for Alumni Association members and \$45 for nonmembers and covers the day's program plus breakfast, lunch and refreshments. For information on how to attend the Acquisition Community Symposium at Fort Belvoir, visit [www.dauaa.org](http://www.dauaa.org). For information on how to attend the Huntsville VTC simulcast at Raytheon's Warfighter Protection Center, e-mail [dauaa.south@dau.mil](mailto:dauaa.south@dau.mil).

## Space/missile defense

The 11th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition issues a call for papers with deadline April 30. The conference is Aug. 11-14 at the Von Braun Center. For information call 533-6986 or e-mail [smdconf@smdconf.org](mailto:smdconf@smdconf.org).

## Electromagnetic course

The 12th DoD Electromagnetic Windows Short Course and Symposium is April 28 to May 1 at the Sparkman Center. Registration is under way. Events qualify for TIPS credit. For more information, contact [Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil) or visit <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/EMWS08/>.

## Security professionals

The Mid-South Chapter of NCMS, the Society for Industrial Security Professionals, and the Defense Security Service will hold the ninth annual NCMS/DSS Security Seminar on Thursday at the Von Braun Center. The theme this year is "Transitioning From the Greatest Risk to the Greatest Asset." To register call Paul Mal-

one 428-1308. The web site is <http://www.ncms-midsouth.org/>.



## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

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

### Civilian deployment

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

### Surplus sales

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

federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:93hdstc@bellsouth.net).

## Tax center

The 2007-08 Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is open through April 15, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center is in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road. All active duty servicemembers, retirees, their dependents, as well as Reserve and National Guard servicemembers on military orders for 30 or more days and their dependents, are eligible for e-filing of federal and state tax returns. There is no charge for this service. For an appointment, call 842-1040.

## Thrift shop

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

## Bookkeeper job

The Thrift Shop has a job opening for bookkeeper. Requirements include a thorough knowledge of Quick Books financial program and proficiency with bookkeeping procedures. Applications can be picked up during business hours at the Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road. Deadline for applications is April

14. For information/applications, call Belle 881-6992.

## AER book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for the Army Emergency Relief campaign is April 21 through May 2 at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center building 5300, the first floor corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. "As in the past, we accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and video tape," a prepared release said. Donations will be accepted until April 29. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

## CFC applicants

Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2008. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications continues through Thursday. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and Postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. A copy of the 2008 CFC package may be acquired by calling Donna Johnson, Local Federal Coordinating Committee chairman, or Melinda Seigler, CFC director, 842-1037 or on the local web site <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

## Scholarships for youth

Youth Friendship Foundation Inc. and the Investing in Our Youth Partnership are accepting scholarship applications for 2008. All high school seniors are eligible. Applications are available to download at [www.youthff.com](http://www.youthff.com) (go to "Documents"). Deadline to submit application and all required documentation is April 21. For more information, call 655-9616.

## Autism fund-raiser

April is Autism Awareness Month. The Autism Society of Alabama is supporting a fund-raising walk Saturday at Chapman Middle School. Sponsors, walkers and donations are sought for this event. The walk gets larger every year and will include a moon bounce, goody bags, and crafts for the kids, plus a resource fair for the parents. Pre-registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt (\$30 day of the walk). To sign up call 1-877-4AUTISM or visit [www.autism-alabama.org](http://www.autism-alabama.org). All donations are tax deductible.

See Announcements on page 23

## NARFE scholarships

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association offers \$1,000 college scholarships to eligible high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of NARFE members. The Federal Education and Assistance Fund administers the program through contributions to the NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Fund. The deadline to apply is April 30. For more information or to obtain an application, call Jerry Cox 536-6057, Barbara Boomershine 519-3327 or visit [www.natvp@narfe.org](http://www.natvp@narfe.org).

## Space lecture

HAL-5 (local chapter of the National Space Society) presents a free public lecture May 1 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Stephan Davis, deputy mission manager for Ares I-X at Marshall Space Flight Center, will speak on "Ares I-X: First Flight of a New Generation." A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 509-3833.

## Commissary sale

The Redstone Arsenal Commissary Case Lot Sale is scheduled May 14-17. "We will also be sponsoring an 'On-Site' Case Sale April 24-26 in Birmingham Air National Guard Base, 5700 East Lake Blvd., Birmingham," a prepared release said.

## Butler High reunion

S.R. Butler High School Class of 1983 is planning its 25-year reunion Oct. 11 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. If you are a member of the Class of '83, e-mail [bellecambron@yahoo.com](mailto:bellecambron@yahoo.com) or call 509-6014 with your latest information or visit <http://www.classreport.org/usa/al/huntsville/bhs/1983/>. An invitation is also extended to the Classes of 1982 and 1984.

## 40th reunion

S.R. Butler High School Class of 1968 is planning its 40-year reunion for May 24. For more information, call John Miller 536-9986.

## Acquisition career day

The Acquisition Support Center, Regional Customer Support Office at Huntsville announces the Army Acquisition Work Force Career Day conference April 15-16 at Redstone. No pre-registration is required. Registration will be held 8-9 a.m. April 15 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Various acquisition career development topics will be discussed that day until 4:30 p.m. One-on-one counseling sessions with acquisition career managers will be held April 16 at building 5206 off Martin Road. There is no cost and attendees will earn 8 Continuous Learning Points. For more information, call Branigan Carter in the ASC Regional Customer Support Office 876-8067.

## Senior health fair

The Senior Health Fair, presented by the Care Assurance System for the Aging, is April 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Madison Senior Center, 1282 Hughes Road. For more information, call the Senior Center 830-1576 or CASA of Madison County 533-7775.

## Reserve unit

If you have several years invested in your military career, you do not want conflicts between Reserve duty and civilian life to keep you from earning 20 qualifying years. The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay for and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King [jwk108@yahoo.com](mailto:jwk108@yahoo.com) or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

## Voice lessons

Join the Southern Splendor Barbershop Chorus for a Free Night of Voice Lessons on Thursday from 7-9:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Athens Bible School. For information call 233-3893 or visit the web site [www.southernsplendorchorus.org](http://www.southernsplendorchorus.org).

## Vocal ensemble

Lyra vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia, will perform April 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary of the Visitation Church, 222 Jefferson St. The concert is free. Donations will be accepted. For information call Gordon Keene 830-4467 or 679-8133.

## Tobacco cessation

Fox Army Health Center will begin its next series of tobacco cessation classes April 22. DoD civilians are encouraged to attend the five sessions every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., responsible for 20 percent of all deaths. Tobacco kills more Americans yearly than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fire and AIDS combined. For sign up information, call health promotion educator Rick Stock at FAHC Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1443.

## Latin dance

SaborLatino invites you to the "Latin Spring Jam" on Saturday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. Deejay Ed will be playing the "best Latin mixes and old school." There's a \$10 cover charge, \$15 for couples. For reservations call Yvonne 783-5756 or deejay Ed 651-9626. You must be 18 to party, 21 to drink.

## Volunteer sponsors

The Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources is soliciting volunteers to serve as sponsors for military and civilian employees relocating to Redstone Arsenal. Sponsors will ensure a smooth and uneventful transition for individuals realigned to Redstone as a result of a permanent change of station move or civil service job change. To become a sponsor, call Theresa Falcetano 313-2205 or Ronnie McDaniel 842-2418.

# Rocket Announcements

## Best 1st sergeants

Nominations are being accepted for the third annual 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award. The award, presented by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, recognizes Army active duty, Reserve and National Guard nominees from the North Alabama area. Anyone can nominate a first sergeant for this award by contacting David Carney at david.r.carney@us.army.mil or david.r.carney@lmco.com or 652-2460. Winners will be selected based on the care they provide their Soldiers and the families of Soldiers, and will be announced at AUSA's annual Army birthday dinner. Nominations must be submitted by May 15.

## Cancer awareness

A one-hour class on Colorectal Cancer Awareness is Thursday at noon in the Wellness Center Classroom at Fox Army Health Center. This is open to all active/retired military, their family members and DoD civilians. Class size is limited to 24 people. To sign up, call 955-8888, ext. 1026.

## Career development

Florida Institute of Technology will hold a seminar in Resume and Career Development on April 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Heritage Club in downtown Huntsville. Admission is \$10 per person. To reserve a seat, call 883-5387.

## Youth orchestra benefit

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra would like to invite everyone to join them at the Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurants on April 29. "While you enjoy your meal, you can also enjoy beautiful live music performed by some of our area's most talented young musicians," a prepared release said. "At various times throughout the day and evening, small groups and soloists from the Youth Orchestra will be playing some of their favorite pieces. As a special treat this day, the Huntsville Youth Orchestra's Novice and Beginning String Orchestras will be holding open rehearsals on the patio of the Providence Cheeburger restaurant from 4:45 until 7 p.m." On April 29, Cheeburger Cheeburger is donating a portion of all profits from both of its restaurants to support the Youth Orchestra. Cheeburger Cheeburger has two locations: 5000 Whitesburg Drive in south Huntsville (at the corner of Airport and Whitesburg), and 7 Town Center Drive in northwest Huntsville (just north of 72, in Providence Town Center). They are open from 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.

## Infantry reunion

The 88th Infantry (Blue Devil) Division and TRUST Troopers, the Southeastern Chapter of the 88th Infantry Division Association, will hold its 55th annual reunion April 24-27 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Veterans of the 88th Infantry (Blue Devil) Division, TRUST (Trieste U.S. Troops), USFA (U.S. Forces Austria), 88th Regional Readiness Command and families are invited. For more information call Robert McCall 881-6325.

## Jazz concert

Tennessee Valley Jazz Society will have a benefit concert April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Butler High School Fine Arts Facility. General admission is \$35. Advance purchases are \$25. All contributions are tax deductible. For information call Arthur Henderson 653-3015.

## Holocaust remembrance

The Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama invites you to an observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on May 1 at 7 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church, the new room, at 607 Airport Road southwest. A reception will follow. For information call chairperson Sue Farbman 883-5471.

## Health decisions day

April 16 has been declared National Health Care Decisions Day. The goal is to encourage Americans to execute a living will and/or a health care power of attorney to express their wishes regarding health care treatment in the event they are unable to communicate. Living wills are used by doctors, family members and state courts to determine whether the terminally ill, injured or unconscious patient wants to be kept alive artificially. A health care power of attorney designates another person (an agent) to speak with the patient's doctors, access the patient's medical records, and make medical decisions on the patient's behalf. In support of National Health Care Decisions Day, the Redstone Legal Assistance Office will be available from 8:30 to noon and again from 1-4 p.m. April 16 to assist eligible clients with completing these documents. Active duty servicemembers, retirees, and their family members can expect to consult with an attorney or paralegal on a walk-in basis and to leave with completed documents. All services will be provided without an appointment and on a first come first served basis in building 111, Goss Road. For more information about National Health Care Decisions Day, visit the following web site: [www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org).

## Space Camp scholarships

The Air Space and Missile Defense Association is offering 16 scholarships to Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Eligible is any child age 9-11 of a parent or guardian currently assigned to SMDC, PEO Missiles and Space, STRATCOM, MSIC and MDA. Applicants should submit a 200-600 word essay by May 5. The mailing address is Radiance Technologies, Attn: Pete Weiland, ASMDA Space Camp Scholarships, 350 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805; fax 704-3412; and e-mail [pweiland@radianceotech.com](mailto:pweiland@radianceotech.com).

## Unclaimed vehicles

Morale Welfare and Recreation is working in conjunction with the Directorate of Emergency Services to identify and remove vehicles from the parking lot adjacent to the Auto Skills Shop. The allotted time for a vehicle to be left in the lot is three days, which is posted at the parking

area. If the owners do not remove their vehicles, the vehicles will be towed at owners' expense to a lot downtown. This will start April 14.

## Volunteers wanted

It's time for the 2008 Whistle Stop Barbecue and Festival, May 2-3. Community volunteers are needed for many areas of the festival. If you are interested in attending and helping out, call volunteer coordinator Ann Tiller 564-8119.

## Community yard sale

Christmas Charities Year Round is holding a Yard Sale on May 3 from 6:30 a.m. till noon at its parking lot at 2840 Jordan Lane. Spots are available for \$20 each and come with one table. Additional tables may be reserved for \$5. Any items that are not sold may be donated to CCYR (no hauling back home). They are accepting donations for CCYR to sell. There is free parking, restrooms available, and refreshments for sale. Raffle tickets for a gas grill, gift basket and movie passes will be drawn the day of the yard sale. For more information, call CCYR at 837-2373.

## Parenting workshop

Parent on Board, a three-session workshop led by Vicki Goodman and Claudia Smith, Family Services Center, is offered April 22-24 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service building 3338 on Redeye Road. Bring your lunch and they'll provide the water, coffee and cookies. Session

1 is Preparing Your Child to Succeed; Session 2, Encouraging Positive Behavior; and Session 3, Parent as Coach by Reinforcing Your Child's Academic Skills. Although the concepts can assist parents with any age child, this is a video-based learning system which targets the elementary school child. The facilitators present the training materials and encourage group discussion. To register call ACS at 876-5397. For more information, ask for Virginia Dempsey or e-mail virginia.dempsey@conus.army.mil.

## Education center news

Redstone Arsenal Army Education Center, Directorate of Human Resources, Garrison, has made improvements to its testing program. Effective April 1 the Testing Office operating hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The new monthly calendar lists the examination schedule and is posted at: [https://www.earmyu.com/public/facility\\_pages/Redstone\\_Geo\\_Ed\\_Center/](https://www.earmyu.com/public/facility_pages/Redstone_Geo_Ed_Center/). Click on "Testing Office Schedule." Customers are able to view the testing calendar and then make an appointment. Army Personnel Testing, DANTES, certification and proctored distance education examination services are available. The improved scheduling system will provide Team Redstone with the maximum opportunity to utilize the Education Center Testing Office. For more information about testing, visit building 3222 on Snooper Road, call 876-9761 or 876-9764 or e-mail redstone.testing@us.army.mil.

