

Redstone Rocket

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Around town



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Celebrating 50 years of union

AFGE Local 1858 began Oct. 1, 1958

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

The pages of the scrapbook have yellowed. Fifty years have passed since some members of the then Army Ordnance Missile Command took a step which became a giant leap for their work force successors at Redstone Arsenal.

On Oct. 1, 1958, the local affiliate of the American Federation of Government Employees was born.

Thirty people became charter members of what was then Lodge 1858 of the AFGE union. Glenn Test is believed to have been the first president. Another charter member, Dennis Garrison, became the third president and went on to serve as the national president of AFGE, which was organized in the 1930s. Thomas Childers was the longtime treasurer.

A 50th anniversary celebration is planned for Nov. 13 from 6-9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Research Park, near Madison Square Mall. RSVP by Nov. 3 by calling the union office at 876-4880. Cost is \$25 per person.

"Everybody's invited," AFGE Local 1858 president Don Eiermann said. "This is a tribute to what we have as a result of their actions. And it says a lot about us. We start-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOCAL OFFICE— From left are AFGE Local 1858 administrative assistant Mae Nell Perkins, president Don Eiermann and labor relations officer Vicki Fuller.

ed in a garage (50 years ago) and what we have is a nice organization now."

Because the fledgling local didn't have an office, the members met in an employee's garage. They didn't have payroll deduction

See **Union** on page 15

Union local officers roll call

AFGE Local 1858 is within the American Federation of Government Employees' 5th district which includes affiliates in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The local's officers are president Don Eiermann, assistant president Art Murtha, executive vice president Nita Jones, secretary Barbara Anderson, treasurer Joyce Marion, sergeant-at-arms David Clemons, fair practices coordinator Abner Merriweather, Commissary vice president Georgia Kimbrough, AMRDEC professional vice president Alexander Roach, AMCOM nonprofessional vice president Henry Earl Smith, SMDC professional vice president Frank Bowles, SMDC nonprofessional vice president Theodora Stewart, LOGSA vice president Donald Hunnicutt, Army Corps of Engineers professional development support vice president Hugh Lacy, Garrison nonprofessional vice president Dean Allen and DISA vice president Melvin Gideon. The staff members are labor relations officer Vicki Fuller and administrative assistant Mae Nell Perkins.

The 30 charter members from Oct. 1, 1958 included Ervin Lowther, Robert Bradford, Dennis Garrison, Glenn Test, Jetta Lowther, J.W. Moore, James E. Holland, Charles Nipper, Marion Strange, Robert Shoults, Margaret Turner, Norman Landry, James Locke, C.B. Masters, C.A. Biss, Martin Boyer, John D. Brown, W.R. Easterland, W.G. Gravitt, Samuel J. Laag, L.L. Merrell, S.A. Manning, Thomas E. Bateman, Q.P. Morris, Harold T. Minney, Merle Perrine, Thomas Childers, Elmer Bizarth, George Wells and J.L. Willingham.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ORIGINAL CHARTER— This certificate of affiliation with the American Federation of Government Employees, signed Oct. 1, 1958, hangs inside the office of AFGE Local 1858.

An open lane random survey

Who's the scariest movie monster?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Cecil Longino

Strategic Initiatives Group, SMDC/ARSTRAT



"Frankenstein — just the big head, the ugly green face and the nodules outside of the neck. He's a big lumbering hulk, basically. He's also my favorite. I've always liked him."

Juanita Sales Lee

SMDC/ARSTRAT Legal Office

"The mummy. Not the new mummy. I'm talking about the old mummy — Boris Karloff. Scared me to death. He'd be dragging his feet. He'd be slow, but somehow he'd be catching folks. They'd be frozen in fear."



Ist Sgt. Petey Smith

HHC SMDC/ARSTRAT

"Michael Myers from the movie 'Halloween.' He just won't die and he just doesn't stop coming. And he'll be back this Halloween."

Staff Sgt. Marcus Church

HHC SMDC/ARSTRAT

"Freddy Krueger. He just comes at you in your dreams."



Quote of the week

'Nothing on Earth so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night.

— Steve Almond

Post residents subject of survey

Redstone Communities is excited to announce the 2008 CEL Resident Survey. The survey comes in around Halloween, but it is not so scary.

In fact, the survey can be quite helpful and the first 100 sealed and dropped off at the office (110 Hankins Road) will receive a \$25 gift card. So, before you decide to toss your survey in the recycle bin, take a moment to read it over, fill it out, and mail it in.

Let's not forget: The input you submit is a valuable tool used in making our community better for you and future Redstone families. So, being helpful and participating can pay off for you AND your neighbors. That's so easy it's almost a little frightening!

The survey is called REACT and was designed by the nationally recognized real estate consulting firm of CEL & Associates Inc. CEL stands for Creating Excellence in Living. Only CEL & Associates Inc. employees will open the return envelopes and they have been instructed not to disclose the responses of any individual survey to us. The survey results are completely confidential and anonymous. So get out there and encourage your neighbors to participate! Please contact your Resident Relations Specialist with any questions at 430-1517. Thank you for your participation.

The Staff at Redstone Communities

Leery of logistics modernization

Our leadership has made decisions that threaten the support of our troops in theater. The mass transfer of items to Defense Logistics Agency and the implementation of Logistics Modernization Program before all of the original bugs have been resolved could seriously impede our mission on the war on terror.

DLA has traditionally managed the short lead-time, common items with fairly stable demand bases. These relatively high demand but easily managed items have allowed DLA to create the illusion of superior efficiency over the services. With these statistics, DLA has managed to convince Department of Defense leadership to change the definition of a consumable item which would mandate the transfer of 90 percent of the services' items.

DLA relies on automation with little human intervention to manage their items.

They try to maximize the use of expensive Direct Vendor Delivery contracts. These DVD contracts have caused poor supply availability. Requisitions go from units directly to contractors to be filled within 48 hours as long as the Estimated Annual Demand has not been exceeded. Unfortunately, many units in theater have exaggerated their

Heroic Soldier in roadside rescue

On the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 19, I was traveling north in my POV on Alabama Highway 431 toward Boaz. As I approached a rise in the divided four lane highway that I recognized as the intersection of Cox Gap Road, I noticed several cars pulled over to the side of the northbound and southbound lanes. As I got closer, I could see some stopped vehicles, and a four door car severely damaged by impact with an embankment and a large pine tree. Fire had broken out, smoke was beginning to billow, and the under hood area and ground below the driver's compartment floorboard was on fire and rapidly spreading. The driver would later be identified as 20-year-old Kassie Campbell from Sardis City.

An individual was standing in the highway motioning oncoming traffic to move left away from the fire, and at the same time talking to the occupants. As I moved over and alongside of him, he asked if I had a fire extinguisher. I replied "No sorry.... Is anyone still in the vehicle?" He replied "Yes" and I pulled over more into the median and shut off my vehicle. I sprinted across the road to the wrecked vehicle, and could see two males, one in an Army uniform, already attempting to extricate the driver of the heavily damaged vehicle from the driver's side.

Seeing that the fire was going to quickly engulf the entire car, I went to the passenger side to assist in any way I could. While the two males, the Army member I identified later as Col. Austin T. Morgan, were trying to break the back of the driver's seat and widen the door opening in an effort to pull out the unconscious single occupant, I assisted from the passenger seat by reaching down and freeing her visibly injured and trapped legs from beneath the damaged instrument panel. Col. Morgan had already broken and bent back the upper portion of the driver's side door and window in an effort to get the door open far enough to get her seatbelt off and have enough room to remove her. Acrid, choking smoke was already filling the passenger compartment and the heat was already melting the dashboard. I said something to the effect of "We only have a few seconds, time is running out, we have to get her out now," and everyone pulled as hard as they could while someone was trying to stabilize her head and neck. Other personnel then assisted in moving her to relative safety about 30 to 40 feet away.

Other onlookers had stayed away from the vehicle anticipating an explosion. The fire reached the passenger compartment in approximately 45 seconds to a minute after removing Campbell from the car. The car was quickly engulfed in flames, with the gas tank and ancillary explosions occurring quickly thereafter. An ambulance arrived about five minutes later, followed

See Logistics on page 13

See Rescue on page 15

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: John Morash

Job: General engineer, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulation Division, Decision Support Directorate, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Where do you call home?
Oceanside, Calif.

What do you like about your job?

The great people I get to work with, the interesting projects I have been able to work on the past 20 years, and the educational opportunities that the Army has given me.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hang out with the family (wife Grace and sons Sean, 11, and Evan, 5). I like to go camping, play Xbox with my son (Sean), play chess. And reading and movies.

What are your goals?

Probably continue with the Army. I'll probably retire from the Army in 10 or



20 years. I'd like to work international programs.

What's your favorite type of music?

Alternative rock

Well-recognized retired Marine dies

Lonnie Poling, a retired Marine who was employed by AAR Brown International of Huntsville, died Oct. 12. He was 63.

Acquaintances described him as a Marine who was as professional and demanding in the cockpit or in an aircrew training session as any the Corps ever produced.

"He was a man who consistently led from the front and knew adversity and shared sacrifice as only Marines can experience," Dr. Frankie Stewart said. "There is another side of Lonnie which is essential in order to ease the pain of stressful endeavors which can occur. He knew how to generate fun for everyone and make them laugh. Gen. James F. Amos, assis-

tant commandant of the Marine Corps, said it best: "They spoke of a man that was larger than life."

"Lonnie was extremely well-recognized in the Marine Corps," Tom Chandler said. "Lonnie was a Marine aviator. As you know, aviators are kind of a unique breed."

Poling was the moving force behind getting the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Summit established in Huntsville, according to Mike Roddy.

Survivors include his wife, Rhonda; two sons, Cmdr. Michael Wayne Baze and Mark Poling; one daughter, Lisa Marie Poling; one grandchild, Logan Poling; his father, Gordon Poling; six brothers and one sister.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents:

Oct. 20: A motorist who was stopped for speeding was found to be driving with a suspended license. He was issued two violation notices and released. The vehicle was secured at the scene pending removal by a licensed driver.

Oct. 22: An individual was found to be operating her motor vehicle with a suspended license at Gate 10, after she failed to follow directions. She proceeded through the gate instead of turning



around. The road spikes were deployed and all four of the tires were deflated. When the police made contact with the woman, she was issued two violation notices and released. Her vehicle was towed from the scene.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injury, none with injury.

Violation notices issued: 15 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no proof of insurance, 4 parking in violation of ordinance, 1 following too close, 1 expired driver's license, 1 expired registration, 2 driving with a suspended license.

Gate 1 construction should start soon

Construction planned at Martin Road's Gate 1 will impact traffic flow, according to the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

Work has already begun on the first phase, which will build a truck inspection lane. This on-ramp will enable trucks to merge onto Martin Road after they've been inspected, instead of stopping traffic.

The next phase of construction should start before 2009.

"We're going to tear down the canopy and the concrete where the guards stand on and the building," DPW engineer Rick-eey Hammond said. "And we're going to put in new (concrete) islands, a new build-

ing and guard booths."

This will include construction of two guard booths, a building and an active pop-up barrier.

The third phase will construct about eight parking spaces for semi-trucks. The projects should be finished by early spring.

"During the construction period of both (the latter) projects, there's going to be some traffic delays," Hammond said. "We'll forewarn you a couple of weeks in advance to avoid these gates when construction starts if possible. Right now they're working off to the side."

Automated review system getting good reviews

The MEARS (Multi-user ECP Automated Review System) system could save your Army or Navy program or agency time, money and effort.

Just imagine the possibility of beginning and completing a Configuration Control Board in as little as one day if required. Without any TDY, paper, distribution, or other related ECP costs, your CCB members and sub-reviewers around the globe could login to MEARS over the web, and process your program's ECPs, NORs, RFDs/RFWs, and SCNs on a real-time basis.

MEARS is a collaborative government-developed and owned web-based software program that automates the engineering change process. A configuration management tool, MEARS expedites the Engineering Change Proposal from creation to archival. MEARS, recently named a Best Manufacturing Practices Center of Excellence award winner and site, is managed by the MEARS Program Office at the Aviation and Missile Command. BMPCOE is a business process improvement "think tank" sponsored by the Naval Operations Research Center, University of Maryland, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Originally deployed in 1992 to the Patriot Project Office, MEARS has

been named a DoD "best of breed" solution, and today supports some 3,500 DoD, Homeland Security, Defense Industry, and Foreign Military Sales customers throughout the world.

Several DoD and DHS MEARS customers include the Patriot Missile, Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, MLRS, GMLRS, Hellfire, Longbow, Avenger, PM TMDE, AMRDEC ATE/TPS, CH-47, Hawk, Hercules, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, DSESTS (all at TACOM) as well as the Defense Contract Management Agency, Marine Corps, Naval Surface Warfare Center/Newport, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other elements of Homeland Security.

MEARS handles unclassified documents and drawings, as well as those that are classified. It is NMCI (Navy Marine Corps Internet) certified and links to the Joint Engineering & Data management Information & Control System and the Configuration Management Information System. MEARS, through its DBmapper, can also port data to other relational databases to avoid duplicate entry of data.

A staff of one government program manager, five contractor developers, and four contractor customer support personnel provides world-class customer service from their office at

AMCOM. The MEARS support staff considers itself as an extension of the customer's staff and enjoys being part of the team. The MEARS software resides on a secure server at Redstone Arsenal. Access to MEARS is via web and no software or hardware purchase is necessary by the potential customer.

"MEARS and its customers are like a family," John Rogers, the MEARS program manager, said. "Without exaggeration, we would be nowhere without our customers, and we treat them that way. We continue to develop and mold MEARS to meet the sometimes unique requirements of each customer. Responsiveness to our customer is not just a buzz word with MEARS, it is an absolute necessity."

MEARS gets no direct DoD funding; instead it relies totally on reimbursable dollars from its government and contractor customers. Setting up a business relationship with MEARS is as simple as signing a memorandum of agreement and sending a MIPR for funding.

For more information about MEARS, visit the website at <http://mears.army.mil> and view an online demonstration, or call the MEARS support desk at 842-0864. You can also reach the MEARS program manager 876-8834. (MEARS release)



Courtesy photo

Chapter gives

John Croyle, founder and executive director of Big Oak Ranch Inc., receives a \$500 check from Becky Lake, president of the Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, during the chapter's October luncheon. Big Oak Ranch is home for more than 140 homeless, abused and abandoned children.



AMCOM Historical Office photo

NASA anniversary

AMCOM command historian Mike Baker speaks at a NASA Anniversary Celebration held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas on Oct. 17. The celebration was attended by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, NASA administrator Michael Griffin, Apollo 11 astronaut (and first man on the moon) Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and many other surviving NASA astronauts from the Gemini and Apollo missions. A commemoration was made for the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 7 flight, the first manned Apollo flight. President George W. Bush and former President George H.W. Bush made a video presentation to the 300 guests. Baker presented a 50th anniversary of Explorer I plaque on behalf of the Aviation and Missile Command. "We congratulate NASA on their 50th anniversary and recognize the pioneering efforts initiated by the Army team at Redstone Arsenal for starting the United States' efforts in space," he said. Each guest received a DVD produced by Baker and his staff on the Explorer I story.

Garrison seeks customer service feedback

Make your voice heard in the Army Customer Service Assessment through Nov. 7.

This survey is your chance to provide input to the Redstone Arsenal leadership about what is important to you. The survey is web based and will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete.

You can access it from any Internet based computer. It will list all services and descriptions of those services on Redstone Arsenal. You will be asked to rate the performance of these services as well as their importance to you.

"To help us better understand the results and to fix any problems or issues, you will be asked to provide comments explaining any less than satisfactory or not important service areas," the Garrison said in a prepared release. "If there is an area

or service that you do not use or does not pertain to you it can be marked N/A."

The results will show the Garrison commander how the community views the customer service in each area as well as the importance of the service to the Redstone family.

"We need the survey to be accurate. This is your time to be heard and to be candid," the Garrison said. "Please take a few moments to complete the survey at the link provided from the Redstone, AMCOM, and Garrison home page www.garrison.redstone.army.mil. Click on Customer Survey and provide your input to the Customer Assessment. Your Army voice can make a difference."

For more information, call Steve McFadden at 876-3294. (*Garrison release*)

USO opens new center

ARLINGTON, Va. – The USO has announced the opening of the USO Warrior Center. Located at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the new facility will serve approximately 120 outpatient servicemembers assigned to the Medical Transient Detachment at any given time.

The USO Warrior Center was made possible by the generosity of TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the Benjamin Allen Karsh Memorial Endowment,

whose principal donors are Ambassador William and Sue Timken, and the support of the Department of Defense.

"We are excited to open a new USO center to serve service men and women injured in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom," USO president Sloan Gibson said. "The USO Warrior Center is a demonstration of America's love and support for those whose service and sacrifice defend the liberties we hold dear." (*USO release*)

Iraqi, U.S. forces work together toward success



Courtesy photo

UNITED PATROL— Staff Sergeant Kelley Martin, left, a tank commander with the 4th Infantry Division's Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, walks through a date palm grove with an Iraqi police officer during a patrol in Diwaniya, Iraq, Oct. 14.

By Sgt. RODNEY FOLIENTE

Special to American Forces Press Service

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers and police and U.S. Soldiers who live and work together at the Joint Security Station in Diwaniya, Iraq, are dedicated to one goal: a self-sustaining and independently secure Iraq.

In the short time since the arrival of the 4th Infantry Division's Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the unit's Soldiers said, they have conducted training and daily missions that keep the Iraqi security forces in the forefront and the U.S. Soldiers providing assistance when needed.

Staff Sgt. Adam Martinez, Company C section sergeant, is serving his third deployment to Iraq. The quality and capability of the Iraqi security forces, he said, have shown vast improvement and now have a strong and consistent presence in Diwaniya.

"Iraq has changed a lot since the last two times I've been here. It went from

having hardly any checkpoints to having them every one or two blocks here," Martinez, who comes from Harlingen, Texas, said. "It gives (the Iraqi security forces) a face to the public so they can see how they're working hard to make their country better."

People approach the Iraqi police and soldiers with their problems, he said, adding that the citizens' requests for help illustrate that the people trust them to keep the peace.

The U.S. presence in the area provides more of a support role and assistance in professionalizing the Iraqi security forces, 1st Lt. Cory Guenther, Company C fire support officer, said. "Our working with them shows them a baseline of what standards we're using and gives them (an example for) some of the tasks they should be accomplishing," the Tomah, Wis., native explained.

With each patrol including Iraqi soldiers and police, fewer U.S. Soldiers are required for the missions, Guenther said, noting that as the Iraqi forces con-

tinue to progress, more American Soldiers will find their slots replaced by Iraqis.

Hori, a soldier with the 8th Iraqi Army Division's 4th Battalion, said working with the Americans helps the Iraqi security forces become more proficient. He added that they all are eager for the time when the Iraqi security forces will be able to do their jobs without foreign assistance and Iraq will be strong and self-reliant.

Editor's note: Sgt. Rodney Foliente serves with the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Space Shuttle mission has military crew

Army astronaut Lt. Col. Robert Kimbrough is among the crew members for the Space Shuttle mission Nov. 14.

Veteran space flier Navy Capt. Christopher J. Ferguson will command the STS-126 mission aboard Endeavour to deliver equipment to the International Space Station that will enable larger crews to reside aboard the complex. Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Boe will serve as the pilot. The mission specialists are Navy Capt. Stephen Bowen, Kimbrough, Navy Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and NASA astronauts Donald Pettit and Sandra Magnus.

Magnus will remain on the station, replacing Expedition 17/18 flight engineer Gregory Chamitoff, who returns to Earth with the STS-126 crew. Magnus will serve as a flight engineer and NASA science officer for Expedition 18. Magnus will return to Earth on shuttle mission STS-119.

Endeavour will carry a reusable logistics module that will hold supplies and equipment, including additional crew quarters, additional exercise equipment, equipment for the regenerative life support system and spare hardware.

STS-126 is the 27th shuttle mission to the International Space Station. (NASA release)

Contractor tasked for Apache helicopter support

The Aviation and Missile Command has awarded the Systems Engineering Group of QinetiQ North America a task order to provide airworthiness and qualification engineering to the Apache Helicopter Division of the Aviation Engineering Directorate.

The task order has a one-year base period of performance, five one-year options, and a ceiling value of nearly \$11 million, if all options are exercised.

A directorate under the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, AED is the Airworthiness authority for Army-developed aircraft.

QinetiQ North America will provide AED's Apache Division with specific onsite support services, ranging from reviews of airworthiness documents, such as Airworthiness Releases and Safety of Flight Messages, to reviews of Apache system safety issues and risk

management assessments.

The company also will provide its airworthiness and engineering subject matter expertise to support other elements of the Life Cycle Management Center for Army Apache aircraft. All work will be conducted at AED headquarters at Redstone Arsenal.

"We look forward to continuing our support of the Apache Helicopter platform at a critical time in our country's fight against terrorism," said Kurt Heine, vice president, EXPRESS Programs, Systems Engineering Group, QinetiQ North America.

QinetiQ North America's Systems Engineering Group has been supporting AMCOM aviation and missile platforms, such as Apache, Cargo, Utility and Armed Reconnaissance helicopters, with a broad range of systems engineering, technical and programmatic services, for more than 15 years. (Westar release)



Courtesy photo

Apache helicopter

Deputy program executive officer gives positive forecast in PEO

Summers cites increase in foreign military sales

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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An increase in foreign military sales is keeping members of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space busy.

Rod Summers, deputy PEO for integration, mentioned the rising foreign military sales during his talk Thursday to the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association. He discussed the office's activities and future.

"Future is bright from the standpoint of all the FMS cases we've got," Summers said. "We've got a couple of new development programs. We've got to keep an eye on our industrial base to make sure it stays healthy. But other than that, the future looks good."

Summers presented an overview of the office and its mission. "Summarily what we do is equip the war fighters," he said. "Our mission is to put equipment in the hands of the war fighters that's safe and effective."

He encouraged his mostly contracting audience to focus on equipping the war fighters with the best things they possibly can to defend themselves. "What we do every day is about the Soldier," he said.

About 50 people attended the chapter's monthly luncheon at the Holiday Inn Research Park, near Madison Square Mall.

Summers, 49, a Huntsville native, out-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CONTRACT TALK— Rod Summers, deputy for integration in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, speaks at the monthly luncheon of the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

lined some of today's challenges which include:

- Losing focus in a multi-tasked world. "A contract is the instrument to accomplish our mission of equipping the war fighter. ... We have got to focus on that (the contract)."

- Maintaining skills sets and building the bench. "Sixty-five percent of our employees are eligible to retire in the next 1-5 years. ... BRAC will open up many job advancement opportunities."

- Trying to continuously improve in the face of growing statutes and regulations. "Doing the taxpayers' business is hard. ... When spending a taxpayer's dollar we'd better be very careful how we do it. Very careful."

Happy Halloween haunting requires safety

Parents, kids get advice for trick-or-treating fun

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
Staff writer
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Halloween is a time for parents and children to dress up, hit the streets and rake in the goodies. But they should try to ensure safety along with the fun Friday night.

The central activity for Halloween is the traditional trick-or-treating jaunt through the neighborhood. While the excitement of the evening may send some little spooks rocketing ahead of their parents, Capt. Roger Triplett, assistant operations officer at Directorate of Emergency Services, urges parents to reel them back in.

"It's just not safe for your younger kids to go running ahead," he said. "They need to be supervised closely."

Triplett cautions parents not to think that children are safe to go alone, even for short distances.

"We need mom or dad with them at all times," he said.

Little goblins on the go should carry flashlights and stick to sidewalks. The best neighborhoods to trick-or-treat in are the ones you are familiar with. Trick or treating hours for Redstone housing areas will be from 6 to 8 p.m. All traffic signals must

be obeyed and drivers should be extra cautious. Triplett said additional officers will be doing their part to keep everyone safe.

"The provost marshal will provide additional motor patrols, walking patrols and bicycle patrols as available," he said.

Regardless of whether your child is a fairy princess or the fiercest of zombies, all costumes should be easily visible from a distance. Add reflective stickers, fabric or tape if necessary. Costumes should allow for easy and safe movement and not drag the ground.

Everyone knows that the real star of the evening is the bulging bag of candy each child carts home. However, Halloween safety doesn't end when you return home. Fox Army Health Center urges parents to carefully inspect all candy before allowing kids to have a single piece. To head off teary pleading, carry a few pieces of candy from home in a pocket to pass out while inspections are taking place.

Parents should check candy for signs of tampering. Fruit should be examined for punctures, but the best idea is to throw away any fruit from unknown sources altogether. Parents should be on the lookout for candy that is unwrapped or just plain old. If your child has allergies, separate any candy containing the offending ingredients. Also, throw away homemade items, like cookies or popcorn, if you don't know who made them and where they came from. As tasty as it looks, it's

always better to be safe than sorry.

"Please check things closely," Triplett said. "If you have any doubts, just throw it away."

Once kids have the candy that made the cut, a smart parent knows that moderation should be the rule of the night. A stomach

ache can take all the fun out of a good night for kids. A child who can't sleep because of too much sugar can take all the fun out of the night for parents. Setting out a small portion and then putting the rest away for another time keeps everyone smiling.



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Photo by Kari Hawkins

BIKING TO JOB SITE— Test engineer Brittany Consuegra and Dynamic Test Branch chief Steve Nine enjoy the conveniences of using bikes to travel between the test sites at Test Area 2. The bikes were offered to branch employees earlier this year as a way to cut equipment, maintenance and fuel costs while also provide quick access to test sites. Previously, employees either walked or use utility vehicles for transportation.

Test center goes green with the fun of bikes

Cycles used for convenience, speed while helping reduce energy costs

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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“Going green” in the workplace is as easy as learning how to ride a bicycle.

Learn a little about balance, grab the handle bars, give it some speed – and away you go.

The “Go Green” campaign is a national movement to make the environment cleaner and safer through energy conservation and other non-polluting measures. But for the 19 employees at the Dynamic Test Branch, Redstone Technical Test Center at Test Area 2, “going green” is also about convenience, getting a little exercise and having a bit of fun.

In the past six to nine months, the employees have put up the keys to the branch “gators” (John Deere utility vehicles) and opted for the speed of a mountain bike to travel to the six hazardous test sites contained in Test Area 2.

“They’ve been wildly successful,” branch chief Steve Nine said. “We had three bikes, but then we had to get two

more. The engineers use them every day. They actually get more use than we thought.”

The former Air Force Reserve officer had seen the use of bikes by airmen at Air Force bases to move quickly down the flight line of aircraft. Bikes are also used by the Army at various military installations, such as Fort Rucker’s Aviation Technical Test Center where they offer quick and low cost transportation along helicopter flight lines. So, when Nine and his staff started talking about ways to save equipment, maintenance and fuel expenses and yet still have quick access to its test stands, the idea of using bicycles surfaced in discussions.

“We all thought it would be a good idea to use bicycles here because we are real spread out. We knew we couldn’t afford to buy more gators but we had to have something that would give us instant transportation,” Nine said. “Before we got the bikes, we would either walk or use the golf carts or gators we had. Walking was too slow, and using the gators was too expensive.”

As soon as the bikes were purchased, most employees gave up the idea of walking in exchange for the speed of the bikes.

“There’s 1,000 to 1,200 yards between

our furthest north test site and our furthest south test site,” Nine said. “We average four to five tests a day at various sites. If you are constantly walking between those test sites it takes a lot of time.”

The bikes also easily took the place of the gators (the branch no longer has golf carts) because employees appreciated the cost savings offered by the bikes. The cost savings are big – a price tag of \$15,000 for two gators versus a price tag of \$700 to \$800 for three bikes. Maintenance is inexpensive and, when the bikes are worn out, their low cost makes it easy to replace them with new ones.

Yet, when they first told employees about the idea of using bikes, many were skeptical.

“I thought they were joking,” said test engineer Brittany Consuegra.

“But then I had to go to the test site furthest away, so I said ‘OK, I’ll ride the bike.’ Now they are always being used. The question is always ‘Who has the bike?’ The only complaint I’ve heard is we don’t have enough bikes yet.”

To answer the growing demand for bikes, Nine said two more will be purchased soon. The organization is also

See **Bikes** on page 11

Commands garner Shingo, process-improvement awards

WASHINGTON — The Army Materiel Command claimed six Shingo Prizes in 2008 and other commands received a variety of process-improvement awards at the Pentagon Oct. 10.

During the awards ceremony at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, six organizations within AMC were honored with the Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing, sometimes referred to as the “Nobel Prize of manufacturing.” The Shingo Prize has been awarded each year since 1988 by the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. The AMC organizations were recognized for their implementation of Lean and Six Sigma principles.

AMC commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin said developing better Lean processes has been a journey for AMC that has resulted in both savings for the Army and better service to AMC’s customers.

“We know there are significant savings due to Lean — tremendous dollar savings, we can quantify that,” he said. “But at the end of the day, it’s meant to (provide) better support to our customers in the field. That’s what this is all about.”

The awards presented at the ceremony include:

- 2008 Lean Six Sigma Non-Gated Project Team Award — Anniston Army Depot; Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management.

- 2008 Lean Six Sigma Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control/Design for Lean Six Sigma Project Team Award — U.S. Army Garrison-Alaska; Communications Electronics Command, Life Cycle Management Command; Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management; U.S. Army Europe.

- Organizational Deployment Award — Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army Medical Command.

- 2008 Shingo Prize Silver Medallion Recipients — Red River Army Depot-Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Production Team, Texarkana, Texas.

- 2008 Shingo Prize Bronze Medallion Recipients — Letterkenny Army Depot-Biological Integrated Detection System, Chambersburg, Pa.; Red River Army Depot-Patriot Missile Team; Red River Army Depot-Tactical Trailer Team; Tobyhanna Army Depot, AN/ASM-189 Maintenance Electronic Shop Van, Tobyhanna, Pa.; and Tobyhanna Army Depot-AN/TYQ-23 Command and Control System. (*Army News Service*)

Law addresses claims by AWOL, confined Soldiers

By ERIKA McPHERSON
Chief of Claims

The Personnel Claims Act is implemented by Army Regulation 27-20, Chapter 11. It is a gratuitous payment statute. Soldiers and civilian employees will be compensated for eligible property losses to the maximum possible extent. Payment is authorized for the fair market value of personal property lost, damaged or destroyed incident to service.

Occasionally, the Installation Claims Office processes a personnel claim from a Soldier who later is absent without leave or who has been sentenced to confinement. If the claim arose out of an incident prior to the Soldier going AWOL or being sentenced to confinement, the claim can be processed and paid. As always, the claimant must substantiate the loss or damage of items being claimed. The notice of final action, or the denial letter, will be sent to the claimant’s last known duty address, or the appropriate confinement facility if the claimant is still confined. If an AWOL Soldier later returns to military control, he or she may submit a request for reconsideration for any denied items within 60 days of the claim settlement date.

Claims from Soldiers or former Soldiers alleging loss of, or damage to, their goods resulting from their going AWOL or being sentenced to confinement are a different matter altogether. These claims generally are denied under the PCA. Such claims may include allegations of the loss of, or damage to, their goods while being held as evidence, or allegations that the unit failed to safeguard their goods after they had departed the unit. While such allegations may be considered under the Military Claims Act, they will be insufficient to merit the payment of a claim under the PCA. Likewise, if personal property is damaged during shipment at government expense in connection with such a Soldier’s confinement, separation, or being dropped from the rolls, the claim will be denied. In those instances, claimants must file their claim directly against the carrier to obtain reimbursement.

For more information on the PCA or other claims matters, visit James Friday at the Installation Claims Office, located within the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at building 111 on Goss Road. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. He can be reached at 876-9006.

■ Bicycles prove popular with test area engineers

Bikes

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looking into purchasing tricycles that provide a small trailer for storage between the two back wheels. And the organization’s fleet of bikes will get their first improvement soon: handle bar baskets for carrying notebooks, cameras, test parts and other items.

Of course bikes can sometimes make adults revert back to childhood, doing wheelies, skidding and driving recklessly. But that is frowned upon at the Dynamic Test Branch. Employees are expected to use the bikes as work tools, not toys.

“We have stressed no horseplay with the bikes,” Nine said. “I am not sure how well that has sunk in. These bikes are for official use only. We don’t want to lose a good thing.”

Besides the quick access to low cost transportation, the bikes offer something else that Consuegra appreciates — the chance to get a bit of exercise.

“Riding a bike makes me feel better when I don’t go to the gym after work,” she said.

As for the branch’s four gators — they are now used primarily by support contractors who have to carry a lot of specialty equipment to the test stands.

Logistics

continued from page 2

ASL/PLL requirements or have erroneously requisitioned and EADs have been routinely exceeded. Once an EAD has been exceeded, all subsequent requisitions would be a lead-time away. Depot level items required to support CCAD overhaul programs have low safety levels and if SPR projections are not correct, the CCAD overhaul lines go down. DLA puts more emphasis on possible waste than readiness. Although waste must be minimized, a waste adverse mentality will disrupt readiness in theater.

Before Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury left AMCOM, he stated that LMP would not be implemented until all the bugs from the initial CECOM implementation had been resolved. The general has left and so has his philosophy on LMP implementation. Since the services are obligated to transfer 90 percent of their items to DLA, the Army is, in effect, spending millions on a system to manage the few remaining Depot Level Repairable items. LMP is a commercial SAP system based on a stable demand pattern which would improve efficiency and profitability. Trying to tweak this commercial SAP system to a military application with erratic demand patterns, from an emphasis on profitability to an emphasis on readiness, may prove difficult if not impossible. This SAP system is designed to automate logistics decisions to the point of creating a somewhat artificial intelligence.

Although a noble goal, artificial intelligence in the absence of common sense, artificial or otherwise, could prove disastrous.

Our office has always worked to support the Soldier, taking pride in keeping readiness rates above the Army Materiel Command goal. In the future, we will retain the responsibility but without the control we now have. In the future, we will struggle to support the Soldier in the field.

Tom Fitzgerald

Editor's note: The LMP Integration Office provided the following response. "The transfer of DLRs to DLA is limited to the responsibility for contracting and does not include transfer of item management functions. The services retain full responsibility for management of these items. This transfer of contracting

responsibility is a BRAC requirement that is designed to provide joint contracting of DLRs across the services and requires a DLA Contracting Activity be located on site to support the procurement of depot level repairables for that command. The Aviation and Missile Command and the Defense Logistics Agency in Richmond, Va., have worked together to create a cell of contract specialists and contracting officers to support this transfer. These individuals are still co-located in the Acquisition Center at AMCOM and have a high degree of experience and expertise in contracting for DLRs. Performance metrics to monitor and measure critical aspects of contracting such as lead-times and costs are being developed to ensure continued support to our Soldiers.

"The preparation for the implementation of the Logistics Modernization Program is a key initiative for the command and is intensely managed. The lessons learned from the CECOM deployment of LMP have been fully considered, in order to avoid the problems they experienced after implementation. Significant changes in functionality have been designed into LMP since the initial CECOM deployment to address the major areas of functionality required. In addition, a transformation team was formed that includes experts across all business areas at AMCOM, PEOs and AMRDEC to review the functionality available in LMP for every aspect of our business. Preparation for the implementation also includes full testing of our critical business processes in an end to end scenario within LMP.

"It is critical that we upgrade our current technology to support the logistics and financial functions. Maintaining current systems is no longer an option. The technology is obsolete and individuals with the expertise required to maintain the system are no longer available.

"Implementing a new system and transforming our business will not be accomplished without some level of risk. Change is always difficult and it is recognized we will continue to identify new functionality required to improve our efficiencies over the next several years, just as we have done with our legacy systems for the past 30 years. The AMCOM leadership is committed to ensuring we minimize the risks associated with these changes to the maximum extent possible and that our outstanding support to Soldiers is not degraded.

"Thank you for your commitment to providing outstanding support to our Soldiers."

Naming beneficiaries can avoid legal entanglements

Updating your will
doesn't settle estate

By Capt. LAURA MATEJIK
Chief of Legal Assistance

Many people are afraid of probate court – of the expenses and time associated with assets that become entangled in probate court proceedings. There is one way to minimize the number of your assets that will pass through the probate court — by naming beneficiaries.

For certain assets, such as life insurance policies, annuities, bank accounts, and even mutual funds and stock certificates, you can designate beneficiaries who will receive your property at the time of your death. Keep in mind, however, that by merely designating a beneficiary and nothing more, you are only keeping

the asset out of probate court. That asset may still be considered by the federal and state government as part of your gross estate for estate tax purposes. Presently, the state of Alabama imposes no estate tax for its residents (but that could change in the future).

Probate assets

What is a probate asset? Typically, a probate asset is any asset that has no joint owner. Any asset for which all beneficiary designations fail will become probate assets. While probate in Alabama is comparatively simple and inexpensive when compared to probate in other states, it is advantageous to minimize the number of assets that go through probate court proceedings. Accordingly, in the event of an unexpected death, your loved ones can receive the money they need without having to go through probate.

See Will on page 17

AFGE Local 1858 turns 50 years old

Union

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for membership dues, so they used cards and put a check mark to indicate who had paid.

“Geez, we’ve come a long way,” Eiermann said. Of course it’s not the oldest local. AFGE Local 738 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., turned 66 years old this year, for example. Local 738 president Audrey Harris plans to attend the Redstone group’s 50th celebration.

“We started out with two bargaining units (50 years ago),” Eiermann said. “Now we have 18 bargaining units that we represent on post. We’ll have 20 because of the standup of the AMCOM Contracting Center which is a subsidiary of the new Army Contracting Command.”

Local 1858 filed Oct. 20 for clarification with the Federal Labor Relations Authority and it hopes to soon establish bargaining units for the professional and nonprofessional contracting employees.

Vicki Fuller, AFGE Local 1858 labor relations officer, said the union represents both professional and nonprofessional employees from GS-1 through GS-15 or their equivalent in the various bargaining units. This entails about 9,800 people.

“I think it’s much more organized (than 50 years ago),” she said. “I think we’ve gotten more sophisticated in knowing how to fight for issues for the federal employees. We’ve become more knowledgeable about the federal laws. We lobby for federal employees’ rights, for their benefits.”

The local has negotiated many benefits for Redstone employees since its inception. These include alternative work schedules, performance appraisal system, the promotion selection process, and the grievance and appeals process with a third-party review (arbitration) option.

“We’re in the process right now of negotiating a new tele-work option for all employees under AMCOM,” Eiermann said.

Through the years, the union has evolved as its

work force has changed. What was primarily a blue-collar environment has become today’s mostly white-collar population.

“As a result of that transition the focus on the issues and the areas of concern have changed,” Eiermann said. “The focus of the local has changed and adapted to meet the needs of employees.”

The union’s two longtime staff members are Fuller and administrative assistant Mae Nell Perkins. Fuller became the union’s secretary more than 25 years ago, when hired by then president Everett Brouillette. She served as secretary about 10 years and then became the local business agent and subsequently the labor relations officer. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 1986 and her law degree in May 2003.

“I learned by trial and error,” Fuller said of representing employees. “I learned by experience. I never will forget that first case.”

Eiermann joined the union in 1998, started getting into representation in 2000, was elected the executive officer in 2001 and was elected president in 2003. He is an equipment specialist in the Aviation and Missile Command’s Integrated Materiel Management Center, assigned to the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

As evidence of the union’s cooperative working relationship with the Garrison and AMCOM, he pointed out that the local received about \$30,000 apiece from these two entities at the end of fiscal 2008. These monies will be used at the union’s building 3202 on Mauler Road to purchase new furniture, a new computer and a new video-conferencing system.

“In the future we plan to continue striving to effectively represent folks here at Redstone Arsenal,” Eiermann said. “And we plan to grow our local by educating people that we’re here and employees have a right and ability to affect working conditions through their participation in our local. We intend to keep doing what we’re doing and that is to maintain effective representation for the people out here.

“I think it’s a great testament to the folks out here that we have maintained this organization for 50 years. And I hope in all sincerity that we’re able to celebrate another 50 years.”

Purple Heart eligibility criteria revised

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials announced Oct. 6 that eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart have been expanded to permit prisoners of war who died in captivity to receive the award.

The revised department policy presumes, servicemembers who die in captivity as a qualifying prisoner of war, that their death was:

- As the “result of enemy action”;
- As the result of wounds incurred “in action with the enemy” during capture; or
- As a result of wounds incurred as a “result of enemy action” during capture.

These presumptions are made unless compelling evidence is presented to the contrary.

The revised policy allows retroactive award of the Purple Heart to qualifying prisoners of war since Dec. 7, 1941. A posthumous award will be made to the deceased servicemember’s representative, as designated by the secretary of the military department concerned, upon application to that military department. Each military department will publish application procedures and ensure they are accessible by the general public. Family members with questions may call:

- Air Force Personnel Center, (800) 616-3775;
- Army Military Awards Branch, (703) 325-8700;
- Navy Personnel Command, Retired Records Section, (314) 592-1150;
- Marine Corps Military Awards Branch, (703) 784-9340. *(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)*

Soldier's courageous actions will be remembered

Rescue

continued from page 2

by a fire truck. By the time the fire department began to fight the blaze, the Dodge Neon automobile was already totally engulfed and destroyed by the flames. Col. Morgan applied first aid lifesaving measures by checking her airway and rolling her onto one side until the ambulance and first responders arrived.

While heartbreaking to learn the extent of Miss Campbell’s head injuries from the accident, the singular actions of Col. Morgan were heroic and placed him directly in danger of losing his own life. Without hesitation, he displayed total disregard for his own safety in order to come to the rescue of a helpless trapped human destined for a tragic death by fire.

In 30 years of active duty as a military police officer, I have never witnessed any greater heroic deed and effort to save a human being from certain death with absolute disregard for personal safety. It was fortuitous for Kassie and her family that Austin Morgan happened upon this tragic accident while returning from duty with his Army Reserve unit in Atlanta. His desire to help is indicative of the caliber of Soldier he is and valued civilian employee of NASA. His selfless and courageous actions on the afternoon of Oct. 19 will forever be remembered. We need more like him.

Rex Forney Jr.
Aerodyne Inc., Huntsville

All-American Soldier sees opportunity on horizon

War fighter returns, prepares to retire

By **KARI HAWKINS**
 Staff writer
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The horizon is filled with promise for Master Sgt. Alex Taylor and his family.

As he prepares to retire after more than 28 years, this Operation Enduring Freedom veteran and his wife, Ginny, are settling down again as a family following his deployment, making plans to add another baby to their family of three boys, managing a list of health issues and home school challenges, and looking forward to the possibility of including another foster child in their family.

Amidst the mayhem of a busy household, Taylor, 45, is also looking forward to the opportunities of a civilian career.

But he's not leaving the Army behind.

Taylor, who has had a previous assignment with the former 8th ROTC Brigade, hopes to take on an assignment as a JROTC instructor at a local high school come next school year. And, as an instructor, Taylor will pass on to students the things he's learned in the Army about leadership, responsibility, self-respect, discipline, and the rights and duties of a U.S. citizen.

"When I was younger I never really cared about who's in office," Taylor said. "Being in the Army has made me take an interest in who's running, who's in office and how they impact our service. It's so important that people get out and participate in the voting system. Our whole government is based on representation. If you don't vote, then don't complain."

This All-American Soldier also wants to emphasize to both his future students and his own children that their relationships will define their lives.

"The people around you are so important," he said. "Life is incredibly temporary and incredibly fragile. You don't know how long the people you love and care for will be around. Relationships are so important. So, too, is self-respect. People who have respect for themselves are going to be productive members of society."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FAMILY FUN— The best time is horsing-around-time with dad at the Taylor home. Master Sgt. Alex Taylor enjoys the rough and tumble of his three sons, Nate, 12, Wes, 4 and Levi, 2. His wife, Ginny, is expecting their fourth child in April.

The Taylor family, which also includes Ginny Taylor's mom Marilyn Torrice, is happy with the decision they've made to remain in the Huntsville area, where they have lived for five years.

"As far as supporting the military and veterans, I have never lived in a community that does more than Huntsville," Taylor said. "The people here, it's just what they do. You don't run into communities like this often, and that's why we're staying here. You can't find this kind of support just anywhere."

Until his retirement in July, Taylor is assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Garrison at Redstone Arsenal, where he serves as a liaison between the Army and local community. In his free time, he is catching up — after a 15-month deployment to Afghanistan — on the day-to-day activities of his sons, who all have health issues.

"When he left, Levi was 11 months old. He was showing a few signs of autism," Ginny Taylor said. "Everything that happened during those next 15 months — things like intestinal scopes and neurological testing — led to a diagnosis of autism."

"When Alex left, he left an 11-month-old baby. When he came back, he saw for the first time all we had been dealing with — the early intervention, the

speech therapist, a full schedule of special education. He had to come up to speed with all that."

His other two sons — 12-year-old Nate and 4-year-old Wes — are also diagnosed as high functioning autistic. Nate, however, is a highly gifted pre-teen who is now studying subjects on the college level. Besides their sons' health issues, Ginny Taylor has lupus and is in the early months of her fourth pregnancy.

"I'm so glad Alex is home because he can do things with the boys that I can't," Ginny Taylor said as her husband was rough housing with son Wes on the living room floor.

Taylor joined the Army for the same reasons many others do — to continue a family tradition and to build a better life for himself outside his hometown of Beaver City, Pa. His father and uncle were both World War II veterans, his father also served in the Korean War, and his two grandfathers served in World War I. His family's military history can be traced all the way back to the Revolutionary War.

But Taylor didn't know that his own military history, steeped so much in the past, would also lead to his future.

While serving at Fort Richardson, Alaska, as a staff sergeant with the 6th Infantry Division Light Fighter Academy, he met his wife, a specialist with

Headquarters-Garrison. Taylor taught at the air-assault pre-ranger school and Ginny Taylor worked in public affairs on the post's newspaper and magazine.

"We lived in co-ed barracks and we were good friends," Ginny Taylor said. "We helped console each other over our bad boyfriends and girlfriends. There were five pregnant females on our floor, and that left us to buff the floors every night. We're probably the only barracks romance that's lasted 15 years."

Ginny Taylor left the Army right before their marriage in 1993 due to her medical problems. The couple remained in Alaska for a year before service in a variety of assignments over the years took the family to Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas and Redstone Arsenal. Taylor has served as a drill sergeant, infantry squad leader and platoon sergeant. Along the way, assignments led to brief tours in Korea, Panama, the Sinai Peninsula, Saudi Arabia, Honduras and Kuwait.

"This deployment (to Afghanistan) was the longest one I've ever had," said Taylor, whose entire military career has been with the infantry.

"A year you can do because it's one of everything. You think 'Yeah, I can miss one birthday, one anniversary.' But when you go longer than that it affects you mentally. Instead of one, you are missing two of everything. I missed two of Levi's birthdays and two Easters."

Taylor volunteered for deployment. At the time, he was serving with the former 8th ROTC Brigade, which oversaw 138 junior ROTC and 21 college ROTC programs in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and part of Florida.

"I didn't think I was doing my part. I was an infantryman. I had trained many years to be an infantryman in combat and I wasn't doing anything that related to my skill," he said. "I felt like Soldiers were over there (in Afghanistan and Iraq) and I was playing it safe here. I had to go."

Before he left in early 2007 for training at Fort Riley, Kan., and then for deployment to Afghanistan, the family did what many families do to create life-long memories — they went to DisneyWorld.

"We didn't have the money for that. But we thought we might never have a chance to do that again, so it was 'Let's go to DisneyWorld!'" Ginny Taylor said. "We tried to have as much family fun time and home time as possible before he left."

In Gardez, Afghanistan, Taylor was an embedded tactical trainer, assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and attached to the 4/73 Cavalry. He traveled throughout the Paktia Province to train police at various police stations.

"We stayed and lived pretty much with the Afghan police, and we taught them how to be police rather than thugs," Taylor said. "They needed education and structure. We taught them about civil rights, the law, the chain of command and how to use their weapons. In one year, we saw the police force turn into a professional organization."

There is now a police academy in Afghanistan as well as bridges, clinics and police stations built in the Paktia Province by Soldiers in Taylor's unit, and Taylor helped convert an old Soviet building into a chapel. During the first month of his deployment, Taylor was involved with an operation with Afghan police to catch and prosecute criminals, recover stolen equipment and improve communities.

"What was on the news that entire first month was whether Paris Hilton would ever get out of jail. My God, why does anyone care?" Taylor said. "What we were doing never made the news."

Taylor, however, saw evidence of increased terrorist activities before returning to the U.S. in April.

"Things were ramping up pretty hard as we left," he said. "The reason the bad guys are freaking out and trying to increase attacks is because they are losing. Iraq is lost to the terrorists, so the focus for the bad guys for war is moved. But the Afghan National Army is 1,000 times better than it was when we got there. Whatever you are hearing in the media, we are winning over there."

Taylor and other Soldiers were also able to help the Afghan people directly by giving them

See **Soldier** on page 17

ATF ready to join Redstone explosives family

By JUDYTH LeDOUX

ATF Explosives Training Branch

Since the implementation of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has answered the call to protect the public from criminal acts involving the misuse and unsafe storage of explosives. To accomplish this mission, ATF utilizes its own explosives specialists and explosives technicians who are dedicated to enforcing federal explosives laws and regulations.

ATF's special agent certified explosives specialists and explosives enforcement officers possess advanced training and education in all facets of the commercial and military explosives communities.

ATF CESs and EEOs currently receive the bulk of their specialized training at ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research located at Fort AP Hill, Va. The approaching move of NCETR to Redstone Arsenal will greatly enhance ATF's explosives mission in administering and enforcing federal controls on explosives commerce, as well as investigating bombings, explosives thefts and other explosives incidents. The new NCETR will afford ATF CESs and EEOs outstanding training opportunities and the ability to join forces with our

partner agencies to improve on already existing bombing and explosives investigative techniques.

ATF CESs must maintain a working knowledge of military and commercial explosives, as well as homemade or improvised explosives devices. As ATF's primary investigative resource on explosives, CESs are responsible for responding to all explosions, conducting explosives recovery and disposal operations, participating in liaison activities with other public safety entities and giving courtroom testimony within their area of expertise. CESs support national security at events such as political conventions and major sports competitions. Additionally, they deliver training for ATF personnel, private and public sector safety entities and other law enforcement, military and international partners.

A special agent who is interested in becoming a CES must apply to be an explosives specialist candidate. Accepted candidates are assigned an experienced CES as a mentor and enter a two-year candidacy program. Also, CES candidates must successfully complete the three-week ATF CES basic course.

In addition to the CES basic course, the CES candidate must successfully complete the hazardous materials course (delivered by the Environmental Protection Agency), ATF's advanced explosives destruction course, ATF's post blast investigation course and the International Society of Explosives Engineers blasters certification. During their candidacy, CESs must also participate in explosives-related investigations, disposal operations and demonstrations.

Once attaining CES status, a special agent must successfully re-certify every two years, which involves standardized practical skills testing and a two-week course. ATF CESs are stationed in strategic locations throughout the world.

A CES who successfully completes the Hazardous Devices School, a six-week certification course led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Redstone, qualifies as a CES bomb technician, or CESBT. A CESBT may render safe or disarm destructive devices when in the interest of public safety, conduct large-scale explosives destruction operations, execute and interpret device X-rays and assemble live and inert explosives/incendiary devices for training purposes.

Special agents who handle explosives detection canines are fully functioning CESs. They are held to the same responsibilities and training requirements as non-handler CESs.

ATF's EEOs have unique technical capabilities in explo-

sives and bomb disposal. ATF EEOs are among the most highly trained and technically proficient explosives technicians in the United States.

EEOs render bombs and other explosives devices safe, provide explosives device determinations that are used in criminal prosecutions and conduct threat assessments of vulnerable buildings, airports or national monuments. Their duties range from constructing facsimiles of explosives and incendiary devices and con-

ducting explosives products testing and evaluations to assisting the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service in conducting antiterrorism capability assessments outside the continental United States. EEOs also provide expert courtroom testimony in support of ATF explosives investigations as well as state investigations. Approximately one-third of ATF's EEOs are dive team members and are

See **Explosives** on page 18

■ People urged to name beneficiaries

Will

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You can designate beneficiaries for most bank accounts. Establishing a payable on death account is one of the easiest ways to keep money out of the probate courts. In Alabama, you can designate bank accounts and Certificate of Deposit as POD. You have control of the money in the account while you are alive. Only upon death, may your POD beneficiary claim the money directly from the bank. You can also hold a joint account with right of survivorship that permits the other account holder to take the entire account upon your death. Contact the banking institutions that hold your accounts to make the appropriate designations.

Tods versus pods

A transfer on death registration form permits you to register stocks and bonds so that they pass to the TOD beneficiary upon your death. In Alabama, you can also register a brokerage account in TOD form and the beneficiary you name will inherit the account automatically at your death. Much like the POD designation, the TOD designation permits you to control the money while you are alive. At your death, the beneficiary will deal directly with the brokerage firm to transfer your account directly to his name. Contact your brokerage firms to make the appropriate designations.

You can also designate beneficiaries for retirement accounts. If you are married, the federal law automatically designates your spouse as the beneficiary for your 401(k) or other pension plan from your employer. In such a case, the only way that you can designate someone other than your spouse is if your spouse signs a written waiver. If you are

unmarried, you can choose anyone as your beneficiary. If you do not name a beneficiary, then your account will go to your estate, which means it goes through the probate court. If you have a Thrift Savings Plan account, you can designate the beneficiaries for that account using a TSP-3 form.

What can't you designate beneficiaries for? You cannot create transfer on death designations for real estate in the State of Alabama. Depending on how your deed is titled, the property may pass to your spouse upon your death. If you are unsure, you should contact a real estate attorney to make that determination. You also cannot create a transfer on death designation for vehicles. If a title to a car is held in one name only, and if the person named on the title dies, the vehicle will pass through the probate court.

Merely updating your will is not sufficient to ensure that your estate passes as you wish upon your death. It is important to keep your beneficiary designations current, so you avoid having your assets transferred to an unintended person. You should review your beneficiary designations every few years. In addition, you should also review your beneficiary designations when major changes occur, such as a birth, death of a family member, a divorce, a marriage, or a move to another state (as different state laws could apply).

Editor's note: This article is for educational purposes only as well as to give you general information and a general understanding of the law, not to provide specific legal advice. By reading this article you understand that there is no attorney-client relationship between you and the author. This article should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.

■ Civilian career appeals to retiring Soldier

Soldier

continued from page 16

winter clothes, shoes, hats, mittens, socks and toys – mainly dolls and kites – for the children.

"I received 64 boxes of donated supplies from Ginny and our church (West Huntsville Baptist) and my sister in Mississippi. Our home school group (Excalibur) also helped a lot," Taylor said.

Yet the donations only made a dent in the immense poverty Taylor witnessed in Afghanistan.

"You can't imagine poor like this," he said. "We as Americans have never seen poor like these folks in Afghanistan. They go barefoot in the spring, summer and fall so that they have shoes for winter. Their homes are made of mud. They really don't have anything."

Taylor made regular calls home from Afghanistan.

"It was great being able to talk to him pretty often. But that also caused its own set of problems," Ginny Taylor said. "It got to where we didn't want to leave the house in case he called. We didn't want to keep our normal activities in case a call came. With his schedule, it seemed like we would get calls right in the middle of the school day or when we were trying to go somewhere."

Some of that was solved with a cell phone, which Ginny Taylor kept with her constantly to catch calls while she was out of the house. Some was solved with e-mail communications.

"It was important for us to keep our routines and keep our outside activities because that was our way of coping with the deployment," Ginny Taylor said.

While he was gone, the Taylor family cared for a baby foster daughter, who has since returned to her family. They hope to be assigned another foster child in the near future.

"It's something that we can do and that we enjoy doing," Ginny Taylor said. "Some people are missionaries. With all our health issues, we can't do that. But we can bring children in our home who need a family and a healthy environment. It takes a lot, but it gives so much back."

"We've always had a house that could handle more kids," added Taylor.

Taylor is thankful to be back home and thankful for the support he's received from his wife during his deployment.

"I could never have done the mission over there and readjust to life here if it hadn't been for her attitude and hard work. I've got a lot of heroes. But that's my favorite one over there," he said, smiling and pointing to his wife as he helped son Levi with a Winnie the Pooh puzzle.

Reaching out to audiences from the air

Stunt pilot entertains, teaches with shows

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
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On the front of Paul Johnson's 1969 Pontiac Catalina is a vanity license plate that tells the entire story.

It reads "Lil Arprt."

That's short for Little Airport.

Johnson, a former Navy jet pilot and now an aerospace engineer at Redstone Arsenal, can actually land and take off a 1941 Clipped Wing J-3 Cub from atop the Catalina, thanks to his ace flying abilities, and a specially designed catch and release system.

From spring until November, Johnson and his comedic air show act — complete with airplane landings on the car top, dubbed the "world's shortest airport," and speed races with his 1979 Ford Econoline jet-powered dragster van, called the "world's fastest van" — are available for small-town, weekend air shows throughout the Southeast. When he isn't flying, Johnson often finds the time to talk with school children in the towns he visits, giving them his own "in-your-face" motivational message of what it takes to make dreams come true.

"I talk to a lot of kids," Johnson said. "My message is about



Photo by Kari Hawkins

DAREDEVIL— Redstone Arsenal aerospace engineer and former Navy jet pilot Paul Johnson uses his air show act to entertain, educate and motivate. He takes his act — which includes the "world's shortest airport" and the "world's fastest van" — to small-town air shows from spring to late fall, where he entertains crowds while also talking to school-age students about his career and the importance of getting an education.

staying in school, staying out of trouble and doing your homework. I only get 'boos' about homework ...

"I tell the kids how I've always wanted to fly airplanes in the Navy, always. I've had six dreams and I've done five of

them. I wanted to go to college. I wanted to become a mechanical engineer. I wanted to work in the aerospace industry. I wanted to fly jets for the Navy. I wanted to get married and have a family. My sixth dream is the only one I have doubts about making come true. My sixth dream is to become an astronaut."

He often asks students what their dreams are. Sadly, for Johnson, those dreams involve being a sports star, not pursuing math and science careers.

"It's always the question 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' When they tell me something about being a star football player or a star basketball player, I ask them what their backup plan is going to be," Johnson said.

"Only a fraction of athletes become stars. They have to have a backup plan. They have to have other dreams, too. And, whatever their dream is they have to stay in school and stay out of trouble to make it happen. Elementary and high school are stepping stones to college, college is a stepping stone to a career, and a career is a stepping stone to success and

happiness in life."

Johnson hopes his presentations lead some children to look more closely at technological career opportunities. For them, Johnson is a living example of technology success.

In 1982, after completing his degree at the University of Louisville, Johnson began a two-year coop program in the aerospace industry at Redstone Arsenal. He became a full-time employee, but then took a six-year military leave of absence to fly jet aircraft for the Navy.

In 1991, Johnson returned to his aerospace career at Redstone Arsenal. Ten years later, he saw the Cub and Catalina for sale on a website. They had been used in air shows since 1970. With them, Johnson saw an opportunity to reignite his flying days.

He later bought the "world's fastest van" — which can race at speeds up to 300 mph and which comes with a primary parachute, a secondary airchute and an afterburner — on eBay.

Johnson's air show appearances — including shows in Illinois and Kentucky, and last summer's show at Huntsville International Airport — have been hit and miss over the years. Work obligations, including an assignment as an American diplomat at the U.S. Liaison Office in Moscow for the joint U.S. and Russian space effort, and a work student program at the University of Alabama-Huntsville to earn a master's in engineering management; along with the birth of his now 17-month-old son Arthur have caused Johnson to fly a relatively low profile. But, with plans to expand his air show act, he is now flying high with new ideas to entertain, educate and motivate.

"I'm modernizing the Catalina. We are replacing the 1940s technology of the car top landing act," he said. "The entire car is being rebuilt. We're adding a new engine that will give us a 600 horsepower motor. We've also gutted the plane, and have done some work to make it like brand new, and so it can fly at slower speeds and at night. I've also got a 1938 Taylorcraft airplane that I want to rebuild and add to the act."

Johnson's air show act is marketed under Wright Attitudes, referring to history's Wright

brothers and being a play on the need to have the "right attitude" in life. The act provides 12 to 15 minutes of aerobatic entertainment with a comedic twist. Johnson first flies down the runway, trying to attach himself to the top of the Catalina, which is driven by his wife Juliana. At first, he doesn't succeed, but then — on the second pass — there is a connection between the car and plane. After waving to the crowd, Johnson then takes off from the top of the car.

But that's not all. Johnson's act often starts before the aerobatics, and continues during his displays and demonstrations.

"The plane can be strapped down on the top of the car and we can drive through town," Johnson said. "Normal air show pilots show up on Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday they go up to fly and then they're gone. We will come in a few days early, use our airplane to promote the show and go into the schools to talk to kids. The airplane can also tow banners in the sky to promote the air show."

Johnson, a member of the Alabama Wing Civil Air Patrol, first started visiting schools in 1990-91 while in the Navy when the public affairs office asked for pilots to talk to school-age children. On those visits, he would take his pilot's gear to impress the kids and talk to them about realizing their dreams. He continued his school visits as an aerospace engineer and then added them to his air show act.

"I've spoken at over 100 schools in Georgia, Alabama, northern Florida, Tennessee, Illinois and Kentucky," he said.

The kids are often impressed with Johnson; his J-3 Cub, which was used to train military pilots prior to World War II; a live jet engine display and demonstration that shoots a 15-foot flame and brings along a whole lot of noise; and his souped up racing van. He uses his more than 1,400 hours of flying military and civilian aircraft, and his 16 years of work in aviation, aeronautics, aerospace technologies, space sciences, physics, astronomy and mathematics combined with his air show antics to talk to students about what it takes to build a career and be successful in life.

■ Training site moving to Redstone

Explosives

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certified to conduct underwater crime scene investigations and evidence recovery.

Following criminal investigator basic training, EEOs take ATF courses on post-blast investigation, chemistry of pyrotechnics, advanced explosives destruction training, advanced explosives investigation training and other internationally available courses. EEOs also attend the HDS six-week certification course at Redstone Arsenal. HDS is a requirement for many of the responsibilities administered by EEOs. Additionally, the majority of the EEOs previously served as explosives specialists in the military, where they received one year of specialized explosives training.

The EEO program is aligned under the Explosives Technology Branch at ATF's National Headquarters.

In addition to CESs and EEOs, ATF contributes the expertise of its U.S. Bomb Data Center, the National Response Team, three forensic science laboratories and explosives detection canines to explosives incidents and criminal investigations. Also, ATF's industry operations investigators are responsible for regulating and inspecting the licensed and permitted explosives industry members.

Security assistance command settling onto post

Managers of foreign military sales moving from Fort Belvoir, Va.

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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When international allies are looking to supply their forces with top of the line equipment, they turn to those who have the equipment regarded by many as the best in the world. They buy American. U.S. Army Security Assistance Command oversees those foreign military sales from beginning to end.

"You see how respected the U.S. military is," Col. Catherine Lacina, USASAC chief of staff, said. "These countries really want to be able to interoperate with us. They want the same equipment that we have. We really do lead the world, I think, in a lot of the technology and the quality of equipment we provide."

Tenants of Redstone 20th in a series

USASAC has been a major subordinate of Army Materiel Command since the mid-1970s. In fact, they are in the process of moving from Fort Belvoir, Va., to Redstone alongside AMC as part of base realignment and closure. Currently they are located next door to AMC in a temporary location off Redstone Road. They will still be next door when AMC

moves to their permanent facility. USASAC's new building is being constructed as part of the new AMC complex on Martin Road.

They work closely with the State Department, Congress, the White House and the Treasury Department. Charged with the life cycle management of foreign military sales, they also work closely with program managers and executive offices – many of which are already located at Redstone Arsenal.

"I think we'll fit in very well. We already have a security assistance for foreign military sales element that we work with closely out of AMCOM," Lacina said. "Now we're just closer to that organization. We work with a lot of PEOs and PMs. Here at Redstone you have missiles and space, and the aviation community."

While the aviation portion of their business is probably the highest profile, it is not all they do. Lacina explained that the equipment eagerly sought after by foreign governments is much broader in scope.

"It's equipment and services," she said. "It's all the standard equipment that the Army gets. We provide helmets, weapons, ammunition, trucks – any Army equipment that we are allowed to sell. There are limits to what we can provide them."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

UPDATE— Michelle Voeller, public affairs specialist, goes over a meeting schedule with USASAC chief of staff Col. Catherine Lacina.

USASAC is an Army agency, but they do business with all branches from other nations. They are working with about 140 nations. Lacina said it is hard to find nations they aren't working with. The quantity of equipment isn't always indicative of the impact it has on the purchasing country. Seeing the impact a small amount of equipment can have on a nation is one of the best parts of the job, according to Lacina.

"You see how important it is to our coalition nations and allies, even though foreign military sales are a small portion of what AMC does," she said. "You provide trucks to a small country in Africa and it makes a huge amount of difference in how their security forces can do their mission... Getting two trucks to Jamaica is just as important to us as getting 10 Black Hawk helicopters to Saudi Arabia. It makes a big difference to them."

The war has dramatically increased the workload USASAC is churning out. Lacina said it has been a real challenge to support that greater need while undergoing a major move.

"In the last couple years, because of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan as well

as other factors, our business has skyrocketed. We are doing a huge amount of business that we have never done before," she said. "I'd say that for the past 10 years we've averaged about \$3.5 billion worth of foreign military sales for the Army. Last year we did \$14.5 billion of new sales for the Army."

Currently, USASAC is working with split operations while they are in the moving process. Three of the four regional operations components dealing with FMS have made the move. One is still doing business out of Fort Belvoir, as is the component specifically dealing with Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"A lot of those folks have not chosen yet to move to Huntsville," Lacina said. "We actually have split operations in our regional operations. A portion of our plans section is here. A portion of our policy section is here. The PAO is here. The EEO is here. We have a little bit of everything here."

Approximately 60 of its employees are working on post. Assessments are still being made to see how many employees at Fort Belvoir will be moving as part of the next wave. A large number of new hires will also be joining the organization at Redstone in the coming months.

"We had a lot of employees back at Fort Belvoir who have chosen not to move," Lacina said. "So we've had a lot of vacancies and we're hiring. It's rather exciting actually. We're getting some of the experience from Redstone with people who actually know a little bit about the business. It's always good for an organization to get some new blood and new ideas in."

Since they are in the process of moving, USASAC is using the opportunity to study how their agency works. The final number of people and offices making the move will be determined by the study results.

"Our new building is being built to house 367, which is our entire command," Lacina said. "Right now, though, we are going through sort of an organizational redesign. We're studying efficiency to see what can be gained."

■ Pilot uses air show act to entertain, educate and motivate

Pilot

continued from page 18

"I have literally boxes of letters from school kids and teachers about what an impression all this makes on them," Johnson said. "No matter if they are young or older students, I hope they get the message that they have to stay in school to make a difference in their own lives. If they are high school students and they are undecided about their lives,

I hope this helps them focus on what is important.

"Among the many things I tell them is a story about the nerds in school. I tell them that they may tease the kids who read books and study hard. But someday they will be calling those kids 'Boss.' If they don't get their act together, they may find themselves someday calling those nerdy kids 'Your Honor.' And that's something they definitely want to avoid."

For more information on Johnson's air show act, visit www.wrightattitudes.com.

Bravo Company earns shutout for first victory

Bulldogs blank rival Charlie

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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After opening the season with two losses, the Bravo Company flag football team was hungry for a win.

The Bulldogs got it Oct. 20 by beating rival Charlie Company 14-0 at the field off Patton Road. Bravo improved to 1-2.

"We just were able to move the ball on offense," Bravo player/coach John Sweeden said. "Everybody played good. We didn't allow any points. That's how we won."

Bravo opened the game with a six-play, 40-yard touchdown drive. Kareem Jones scored on a 16-yard run at 15:45 for a 6-0 halftime lead.

With 4:39 left in the game, Sweeden caught a pass from quarterback Derrick Chandler and sprinted to the end zone. The play covered 50 yards. Chandler connected with Sweeden again for the two-point conversion which ended the scoring at 14-0.

Julian Moore and Jay Gavigan made two sacks apiece for the Bulldogs on defense. Moore also knocked down a pass at the line of scrimmage; and Chandler intercepted a pass.

Charlie, the defending post champion, fell to 0-3.

"We finally got the defense

clicking and the offense had a bad night," Wolf-pack player/coach Johnnie Akins said. "We're going to go hot and cold until we get everybody going. And once we get clicking like a well-oiled machine, it's going to be ugly out here."

Civilian Welfare Fund 30, NCO Academy 0: The league's first civilian team improved to 2-0 in the night's second game.

CWF quarterback William Kelly threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Cook and added a two-point conversion run for an 8-0 lead at 15:23 in the first half. David Benjamin made a 70-yard interception return for a 14-0 halftime advantage.

Stacey Steele became the quarterback after intermission and scored on a 2-yard run. He passed to Jacques Eckles for two points and a 22-0 lead over the Academy (0-2).

Steele scored on a 44-yard punt return with 3:33 left in the game. For the two-point conversion, he threw a lateral to Kelly who threw it back to him. Steele then passed to Charles Acker in the end zone to end the scoring.

"Defense played well. They swarmed to the ball," CWF player/coach Brad Harris said. "We had good quarterback play by William Kelly. The receivers caught the ball that was thrown to them. We played together as a team."

"We just came up against a team that had a little more expe-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BULLDOGS GET LOOSE— The Bravo players prepare to take the field against Charlie on Oct. 20.

rience than we did," NCO Academy player/coach Shawn Jones said. "But it's still early. We'll be all right."

Flag football standings entering this week

	Won	Loss
Civilian Welfare Fund	4	0
Headquarters & Alpha	3	0
326th Chemical Company	3	1
Marines	2	2
Bravo Company	2	2
HHC 59th	1	2
NCO Academy	0	4
Charlie Company	0	4

Oct. 20: Bravo def. Charlie 14-0; CWF def. NCO Academy 30-0; and HHC 59th def. Marines 14-6.

Oct. 21: 326th Chemical def. Marines 28-8; CWF def. HHC 59th 28-22; and Headquarters & Alpha def. NCO Academy 27-6.

Oct. 23: CWF def. 326th Chemical 26-22; Marines def. Charlie 14-0; and Bravo def. NCO Academy 6-2.

Corps of Engineers golfers win tourney

A Corps of Engineers team won the Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers Golf Tournament on Oct. 2 to benefit the Post Scholarship fund.

Tom Small, Boyce Ross, Steve Lewis and Jerry Belt shot 60 for first place.

Second place went to another Corps of Engineers team – Bill Veith, Steven Feldman, Ken Arrington and Lt. Col. David Bailey. They shot 61 and won by tie breaker over the third-place team, which also had 61.

The third-place Tetra Tech golfers included David Carlton, Scott Haas, Lee Norton and Kevin Kennoy.

In fourth, with 62, was the L3 team with Steve Essig, Dave Andrews, John Rivenburgh and Mike Mann.

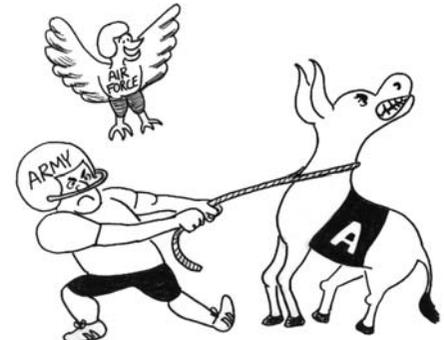
Air Force should soar over Army Nurses give advice after hours

Falcons too strong for Black Knights

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Skip's Picks were 283-97 for 75 percent after nine weeks of college football. Here are this week's predictions:

Air Force at Army — **AFA**
Florida at Georgia — **Georgia**
Auburn at Mississippi — **Ole Miss**
Arkansas State at Alabama — **Bama**
Tennessee at South Carolina — **SC**
Tulane at LSU — **LSU**
South Florida at Cincinnati — **SF**
Central Michigan at Indiana — **Ind.**
Michigan at Purdue — **Mich.**
Miami (Fla.) at Virginia — **Miami**
Northwestern at Minnesota — **Minn.**
Wisconsin at Michigan State — **Wis.**
West Virginia at Connecticut — **WV**
Kansas State at Kansas — **Kan.**
Georgia Southern at The Citadel — **Citadel**
San Diego State at Wyoming — **Wyo.**
Tulsa at Arkansas — **Tulsa**
Fresno State at Louisiana Tech — **Fresno**
Kentucky at Mississippi State — **UK**
Pittsburgh at Notre Dame — **ND**
Furman at Samford — **Furman**
Hawaii at Utah State — **Hawaii**
Missouri at Baylor — **Missouri**



Clemson at Boston College — **BC**
Duke at Wake Forest — **Wake**
Florida State at Georgia Tech — **Tech**
Iowa at Illinois — **Illinois**
Iowa State at Oklahoma State — **OS**
Oregon at California — **Oregon**
Temple at Navy — **Navy**
Wash. State at Stanford — **Stanford**
Brigham Young at Colorado State — **BYU**
Washington at Southern Cal — **USC**
Boise State at New Mexico State — **Boise**
Louisville at Syracuse — **Louisville**
Nebraska at Oklahoma — **Okla.**
TCU at UNLV — **TCU**
Texas at Texas Tech — **Texas**
UAB at Southern Miss — **SM**
Rice at Texas-El Paso — **Rice**
Utah at New Mexico — **Utah**
Ariz. State at Oregon State — **OS**
Colorado at Texas A&M — **Colo.**
East Carolina at UCF — **East**

What should you do in the middle of the night when your baby wakes up with a fever? What about when you're miserable on a Sunday afternoon with a sore throat? What's the best way to take care of a cold? At what point should you go to the doctor? Sometimes it's difficult to know what to do when you're feeling sick or hurt.

That's why Fox Army Health Center offers enrolled beneficiaries and active duty Soldiers a service to obtain health care advice through a nurse advice line. The nurse advice line is available during Fox's non-operational hours: Monday through Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m., and Friday 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. Monday; coverage is also available on federal and military holidays. You can access this service by calling 955-8888.

When you connect to the nurse advice

line, a registered nurse identifies the severity of your symptoms and advises the most appropriate level of care. Levels of care include: self care, appointments at Fox Army Health Center for routine/same day care, appointments with network facilities for urgent/acute care and Emergency Room referrals. These nurses follow strict protocols to ensure the highest standard of care is provided.

The nurse advice line is a call center that is located outside of Fox Army Health Center. So, if you need medication renewals, test results, or other communication with your primary care provider, you will continue to contact Fox and your clinic directly. The nurse advice line is a resource to assist you with health related questions and getting the right care at the right time. (Fox Army Health Center release)

Flu shots schedule set

Fox Army Health Center has released the following flu shot schedule:

Active duty family members and military retirees and their family members are scheduled Nov. 1 and 15 from 8 a.m. to noon, and Nov. 6 and 20 from 1-4 p.m. After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given this group on a walk-in basis in Primary Care Clinic 2.

Current DoD civilians may get their

flu shots Nov. 6 and 20 from 1-4 p.m. After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given to DoD civilians on a walk-in basis in the Occupational Health Clinic.

By regulation, retired DoD civilians and their family members and contractors are not eligible to receive the flu shot from Fox, unless you also fit into one of the beneficiary categories.

For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Hunter orientation

MWR and Outdoor Recreation will hold the Hunter Safety Orientation for all those that want to hunt on Redstone on Nov. 11 or 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. For more information, call 876-4868 or 876-6854.

Bowling benefit

Teams are needed for the Bowl for Kids' Sake fund-raiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 at 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. at Plamor Lanes, 2404 Leeman Ferry Road. For more information, call 880-2123 or visit www.bbbsna.com.

Honor Flight classic

Honor Flight, Tennessee Valley will sponsor an 18-hole benefit golf tournament Nov. 14 at the Links at Redstone. Deadline for registration and payment is Nov. 6. For more information, e-mail Nick Leone at: nleonegolf@comcast.net.

Hockey bus trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring a hockey bus trip to Nashville on Nov. 25 to watch the St. Louis Blues take on the Nashville Predators. The bus will depart the Kroger parking lot, Drake Avenue and South Memorial Parkway, that afternoon at 3:30 and return immediately

after the 7 p.m. game. "This year we once again feature two ticket pricing options at \$75 and \$40," a prepared release said. Each ticket package includes either a lower bowl or sideline balcony game ticket, transportation, and snacks and beverages on the bus. This trip is open to all Team Redstone members and their families. However, children must be chaperoned. If you are interested in attending this game, you must put your name on the priority list by e-mailing your contact and ticket request information to Robert Olson at robert.j.olson@us.army.mil. Payment in full must be received by Thursday. Space is limited, so get on the priority list today.

UAH hockey

The University of Alabama-Huntsville Chargers hockey game against Bemidji State at 7:05 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Von Braun Center is Military Appreciation Night. The Redstone community, including immediate family members, can get free tickets at building 3206 on Little John Drive or the Recreation Center on Patton Road. Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis, according to Garrison Operations.

Armed forces night

The Madison Academy and Columbia High football teams will tee it up Thursday for what is being dubbed "the battle of Indian Creek." The two schools are com-

paring their efforts that night to honor the men and women actively serving in the military. "We owe it to our armed forces to do something special to show our gratitude," said Rod Matthews, president of the Madison Academy Touchdown Club. "Anyone with a military ID will be given free admission." Fans are being asked to bring care package items for deployed servicemembers. Drop boxes will be set up at the gates for this National Junior Honor Society project. The Mustang Band and the Columbia JROTC will unite to raise the colors during the pregame ceremony and a fireworks show is planned for after the game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at Madison Academy. Entrances to the campus are located on Slaughter Road and Old Madison Pike.

Roller derby

The Dixie Derby Girls are extending a special discount to all active duty military as the roller derby team makes its long awaited leap from a local rink to the Von Braun Center. The Dixie Derby Girls will hold a doubleheader Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center South Hall. First, the Dixie Derby Girls will face the Central Arkansas Roller Derby. In the nightcap, the Dixie Derby Girls All-Stars will face Knoxville. The military discount ticket is \$8, instead of the normal \$12. Doors open at 6 p.m. For tickets call Brook Johanson (910) 824-6156.

Bowling center news

Redstone Lanes Bowling Center will close Thursday at 1:30 p.m. for a special

function and will reopen Friday at 10:30 a.m. ... Redstone Lanes, building 3424 on Hercules Road, offers three banquet rooms for your party or business meeting needs. Call 876-6634 or 842-2695.

Youth basketball

CYSS Sports and Fitness is registering youth ages 5-17 for basketball through Nov. 3. The cost is \$55 and includes a uniform. Practices begin in early to mid-November and games will be played January through March. Children must be registered with CYSS and have a current sports physical. For more information, call 313-3699.

Heroes 5K

Huntsville Track Club and the Semper Fi Community Task Force will hold the second annual Heroes' Run 5K on Nov. 8. "Come out and support veterans recovering from combat injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan by participating in the HTC's Half-Marathon (13.1 miles) and Heroes' 5K (3.1 miles)," a prepared release said. "Show Alabama's support for all the armed services as we proudly recognize and support these brave young Americans to whom we owe so much, by running at their side." The half-marathon starts at 8 a.m. and the 5K starts at 8:20 at Hillwood Baptist Church, 300 Kohler Road, just off South Memorial Parkway at the intersection of Mountain Gap Road. For more information, call Dick Franklin 881-0331 or e-mail dickfranklin@knology.net.

See **Announcements** on page 23

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. 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.

Bible studies

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 for lunch and 6:30 p.m. for Bible studies, praise and worship, prayer, fellowship, food and fun at Bicentennial Chapel. Child care will be provided at the Child Development Center; and home-schooled children ages 6 and up will have a homework/lesson room and supervisor provided for them at the chapel. For more information, call Sharon Olshefski 489-0404 and Laura Keegan 489-7686.

Evaluation association

The Rocket City Chapter of International Test and Evaluation Association will hold a luncheon meeting today at 11:30 a.m. at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's Shelby Center, room 301. Educators will speak on "Testing & Evaluation: Educating the Future." One Continuous Learning Point can be awarded for attendance. RSVP with chapter secretary James Knoch 876-2550.

Veterans group

VFW Post 5162 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion building on Triana between Bob Wallace Avenue and Governors Drive. For more information, call Robert Davenport 679-3180.

Defense association

National Defense Industrial Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter will have a luncheon Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Marriott, Tranquility Base. Registration will open at 11. The price is \$20. Charles Wiley is to speak on "Accuracy of Reporting in the Media." For more information, call Sigma Services 533-6986.

Geospatial conferences

Organizers of the Rocket City Geospatial Conference and the Terrain Summit have agreed to merge their two events. The first Rocket City Geospatial Conference was held in 2007 and the Terrain Summit, a biennial event, was first held in 2005. The combined event will see its attendance expand as it also joins with the fifth annual Alabama GIS Symposium, typically held at Auburn University. The combined events will be held Nov. 18-20 at the Huntsville Marriott. For more information, visit the conference web site at www.RocketCityGeospatial.com.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User Group will meet Nov. 8 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. The meeting starts at 9:15 a.m. with presentations/open discussions on Windows-Internet topics of general interest. At 10:15, Howard Blood, past president and program director of the Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society, will discuss "Computers and Genealogy." Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 714-5898.

Admin professionals

The International Association of Administrative Professionals invites all civilians and contractors in any type of admin field to attend its meeting held every third Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. For more information, call Hillary Marshall 313-1349.

Space society

HAL5 will have its monthly meeting Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Dan Irwin, NASA researcher, will speak on "SERVIR — Space Technology Improving Life on Earth. A 21st Century System for

Improved Environmental Decision Making in Mesoamerica." A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 506-3833.

Garden club

The Redstone Garden Club will meet Nov. 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Jerry Redus will present a program on Vermiculture. For more information, call Sharron Eubanks 828-9560 or Diane Breffielh 864-8121.

System symposium

A symposium will be held on Nov. 3 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the building 5250 auditorium (room A115) to provide information on how MEARS (Multi-user ECP Automated Review System) could be utilized to save program time, money and effort in support of war fighters. There will be some hands-on demonstrations provided. Ronnie Chronister, AMCOM deputy to the commander, will be the keynote speaker. The symposium is sponsored by the MEARS Program Office in conjunction with Leader Investment for Tomorrow Class 6, Project Team 1.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "The Disintegration Of a Confederate State, Three Governors and Alabama's Wartime Home Front, 1861-1865" will be presented by Jeffrey Purser. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Club 9783, which meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the building 4610 cafeteria. For more information, call Paul Pickett 544-6078.

Strategic speakers

Strategic Speakers TM Club 6054 will meet today at 11:30 a.m. in building 4488, room A-311. Charles Wiley, a radio/TV talk show personality and commentator, who has appeared on hundreds of network and local programs including many times on CNN Crossfire and C-Span, is the guest speaker. For more information, call C. Purifoy 955-8452.

Stuhlinger symposium

Ernst Stuhlinger, a world-renowned space scientist, will be recognized for his unique contributions to aerospace scientific and technological advancements with a symposium at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Stuhlinger, an original member of the Wernher von Braun rocket team, died May 25 at his home in Huntsville. This program, organized and sponsored by the Louis Salmon Library at UAH, will be held Nov. 18 at the University Center. A fee for the symposium is \$85 (\$100 after Nov. 11) and includes attendance to the symposium, refreshment breaks, lunch and banquet. Go to UAH's Continuing Education website to register or get more information at <http://www.coned.uah.edu> and click on the

Stuhlinger Symposium button. Or you can register by telephone during business hours by calling 824-6010 or 448-4031. For more information, e-mail David Christensen at dabchris@aol.com, or Charles Lundquist at lundquc@uah.edu.

University women

American Association of University Women will hold its monthly meeting Saturday at the Knight Center, Alabama A&M University campus building 63, 7500 Meridian St. Meet and greet starts at 9:30 a.m., brunch at 10 (\$15) and the program at 10:30. For more information, e-mail Lois at herb.guendel@knology.net.

Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9436 or Chief 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

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Cookout fund-raiser

AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate workers participating in a cookout Oct. 22 to raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign include, from left, Joel Velez, Liz Preston, Nora Morris, Chuck Cramer, Leslie Davis and Andrew Lenoir.

AMCOM. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

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 Redstone Arsenal, the DoD requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. There are two programs offered free of charge to Army personnel and on a space available basis to others authorized access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Keith Coates at the Garrison Safety Office 876-3383, e-mail keith.coates@us.army.mil or e-mail MSF instructor Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

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 or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

VA benefits

Veterans Administration representative Andrew Carver will visit Redstone Arsenal on Wednesday of every week from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide anyone with assistance and information about veterans benefits and VA processes. Please give him a call and schedule an appointment at (334) 430-8860; or you can reach him at 842-2718 Wednesday only. Office location is building 3493, Retirement Services Division, Military Personnel Office. Family members, retirees and active duty are welcome to solicit information regarding VA benefits.

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Cyrus Russ 539-6511.

Pilots wanted

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking qualified applicants to apply for Warrant Officer Flight Training School. Applicants must have a high school diploma and age 18-33. Age waivers will be considered. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Cyrus Russ 539-6511.

Cadet program

Join the Army Reserves and enroll in your college ROTC program simultaneously through the Simultaneous Membership Program. Earn anywhere from \$470 to \$1,400 a month as a SMP cadet. As a member of the Army Reserve SMP Cadet Program, you are non-deployable, you have an opportunity to pursue the degree of your choice and you can assure yourself of a future as a commissioned officer in the active Army or the Reserves. For more information, call your local Army Reserve recruiter 922-1422.

Veteran education

The North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence is accepting applications for the Veterans Upward Bound Program. Free services include career assessments, academic instruction, tutoring, counseling, life skills workshop and others. For more information and eligibility requirements, call 372-4600.

Military service awards

The 21st annual GEICO Military Service Awards Program, sponsored by the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation, is under way. The program honors one enlisted member from each of the five military services, and one enlisted member from the Guard/Reserves component, for outstanding service to his or her military and/or civilian community. Nominations are due by Friday. For more information, call the local GEICO Insurance office 837-0551.

Driver's license office

The Redstone Arsenal Alabama Driver's License Satellite Office, located in the PX/Commissary complex, provided service on Tuesday and Wednesday during the summer. It will continue to be open Tuesday and Wednesday — from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed for lunch noon-1 p.m. — as long as the workload supports it staying open. The services available include transfer out-of-state driver's license, issue Alabama I.D. cards, renew your driver's license or state I.D., testing/license of ves-



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Welcome home

Some of the members of Redstone's Ten-Miler team are introduced during the Welcome Home celebration for the Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. From left are David Riddle, Joseph Robenson, Brad Schroeder, Skip Vaughn and Lt. Col. Chris Hackett. Redstone's runners finished first in the government agency category and third for all-comers in the 24th annual race Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C. The local chapter was named the best in AUSA for the fifth consecutive year. The celebration was held Thursday at the Heritage Club.

sel and motorcycles, and testing for learner's permit (no testing after 3 p.m.). The office can be reached at 882-8698.

Veterans office

The local office for Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to veterans and their families in applying for benefits from the VA. These benefits include, but are not limited to, Service Connected Compensation Claims, Non-Service Connected Pensions, Appeals, Death Benefits for Widows, Education Applications, VA Insurance, and applications for VA Headstone/Markers. The office can also assist you in filing for state veteran benefits, for example the Alabama Dependent Scholarship Program and admittance to the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. "We are a full service office with accredited veteran service officers available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are located at 115-B Washington St. off the Courthouse Square in downtown Huntsville," a prepared release said. "Service is based on a first come, first serve system. No appointment necessary." For more information, call 532-1662.

Army training

Do you want to be on the cutting edge of Army training? The 1st Battle Command Training Group offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing your professional management, training and leadership skills. It has immediate openings for sergeant first class through lieutenant colonel — specialty and branch are immaterial — who want to transfer

and make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 1st BCTG conducts continental U.S. pre- and post-mobilization computer simulation based Battle Command Staff Training exercises. It trains and validates Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the Southeast in wartime readiness. It offers CONUS mobilization opportunities training and preparing USAR and ARNG units for deployment. Unit benefits include Fragmented Annual Training, and opportunity to travel throughout the Southeast. It encourages and supports attendance at Army professional development schools. For information call 1st Sgt. Larry King (205) 987-8443 ext. 4410, Capt. John Walker (205) 444-5208 or Lt. Col. Anthony Escott (205) 444-5163.

Library book talk

Get an early start on your holiday "spirit." Join other book lovers around the library fireplace Nov. 7 from noon until 1 p.m. at the Post Library for a discussion of the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol." This is the Victorian era story of the miser Scrooge who learns the true meaning of Christmas when visited by the ghosts of his past, present and future. Coffee and tea will be provided. Bring a bag lunch if desired. Call 876-4741 for more information.

Customer services

Do you have a comment or opinion about the services provided at Redstone Arsenal? Team Redstone and all DoD installations

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want your feedback about the services you are receiving at your home station. This is a new approach to customer service with the resources, enthusiasm and manpower to ensure your voice is heard and understood. Each installation is now assigned a full-time customer service officer, whose sole responsibility is to ensure customers have multiple avenues to offer feedback on all services that are provided by the Installation Management Command. The process for your individual feedback is through the Interactive Customer Evaluation System which is automated through the Internet or filled out with an ICE comment card at the service provider's location. You can access the Interactive Customer Evaluation site at <http://ice.disa.mil> or www.redstone.army.mil and leave a comment. You can reach customer service officer Steve McFadden at 876-3294, e-mail steven.ray.mcfadden@us.army.mil or the ICE administrator Wendy Norris at wendy.norris1@us.army.mil.

Interactive feedback

Have you ever gotten "hot" over a situation and you wanted to tell someone? Take it to the source so you can "cool" down with ICE, the Interactive Customer Evaluation web site. You have direct access to all Redstone Arsenal service providers to let them know how they are doing, tell them of shortcomings or offer a pat on the back for a job well done. Log onto the Internet at <http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil>; click on the ICE icon on right; and scroll down and find the service category you wish to rate or scroll to bottom and click "show all" to see the entire list for Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-3294.

Yard sale vendors

The 203rd MP Battalion Family Readiness Group seeks vendors for its first

Indoor Craft and Yard Sale on Nov. 15 at the Athens Armory, 1402 Armory St. in Athens. Thirty spaces, sized 10-by-20, are available to vendors and are expected to go quickly. You can reserve your space for \$25. The family readiness group will provide one table per space and do all the advertising. This event is indoors – which means rain or shine. Call Laurie 679-7282, Shelley 230-9307, Amanda 457-6697 or Ruth 883-4364.

Health benefits

Attention, civilian workers: The Federal Benefits Open Season is Nov. 10 through Dec. 8. During these dates, employees can enroll, cancel or make changes to their health, dental, vision insurance as well as sign up for Flexible Spending Accounts. Specific plan brochures for the new year will be available online closer to open season. Mark your calendar for the Annual Health Fair on Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of Bob Jones Auditorium. Many of the health, dental and vision providers will attend and distribute information. For more information, contact your servicing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center human resources specialist.

Acquisition professor job

Defense Acquisition University, Program Manager's Course (PMT 401) has multiple positions at DAU Midwest Region, Kettering, Ohio. It seeks well qualified acquisition professionals with recent defense systems management experience (program manager, deputy, or other significant acquisition management experience in government or industry). As a professor of acquisition management you will: apply your knowledge, experience, technical, managerial and leadership competencies to

teach and facilitate high levels of learning for the DoD acquisition work force; facilitate classroom-based learning through case studies, simulations and workshops; develop curriculum, writing case studies and teaching guides; consult and mentor executives and senior managers on policy, processes and best practices. For more information, call Bob Steele (937) 781-1055 or see the vacancy announcement number AD-1101-HH19-852-08 at www.USAJobs.com.

Mr. Man pageant

The "Mr. Man Premiere" is Feb. 13 at the Westin (Bridge Street Town Centre). This premiere event will reveal each contestant's character through personality, finesse and style. A panel of judges will decide who will win the title of "Mr. Man." "SB Productions is seeking the caliber of men who possess the completeness of what a true gentleman should portray to compete in the Mr. Man Premiere," a prepared release said. "For those who are selected, runway and etiquette preparation will be given." For more information, call 278-8862 or 683-3083.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Tax Assistance Center needs volunteers to both prepare active duty and retiree returns and to schedule such appointments. Volunteer preparers must attend a 32-hour computer assisted training program to earn their IRS Tax Preparers Certificate. The training and certification will be held Jan. 5-9. The Tax Center will open for business from Jan. 19 through April 15. Volunteers are asked to work at least one four-hour shift each week. "This is a highly rewarding volunteer opportunity that not only provides a tremendous service to the Redstone community, but will give you an in-depth understanding of the tax system and the ability to prepare your own tax return," a prepared release said. To volunteer or for more information, call Capt. Alyson

Mortier 313-1289 or e-mail alyson.mortier@us.army.mil.

Veterans Day gala

Bob Jones High School hold a Veterans Day Gala on Nov. 7. The morning will start with a breakfast from 8-8:30 a.m. followed by a presentation in the auditorium. If anyone is interested in attending or participating, call Brett Chapman 651-2650. "We are also interested in anyone who would be willing to speak and answer questions in History classes following the presentation," a prepared release said.

Veterans Day weekend

The 2008 Veterans Day Parade is fast approaching. This year's theme is "Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty." You can watch the parade live on WAFF 48 on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. The broadcast will repeat that evening at 3 a.m. and again on Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Jim Myles will be the grand marshals at the parade. Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Kevin Campbell will be the reviewing officers. For more information, call Dave Carney 217-6311. Here's the Veterans Day weekend schedule: Friday, Nov. 7 – Wounded Warriors arrival at Huntsville International Airport at 2:30 p.m.; reception for Wounded Warriors at the Heritage Club in downtown Huntsville at 6:30. ... Saturday, Nov. 8 – Heroes Run 5K at Hillwood Baptist Church at 8 a.m.; Marine Corps Ball at 6 p.m. (for tickets call 541-6287); AUSA Military Night for the University of Alabama-Huntsville vs. Bermidji State hockey game at the Von Braun Center at 7:05 p.m. (for tickets visit the VBC box office). ... Monday, Nov. 10 – YMCA breakfast at 7:30 a.m. (for tickets call Mike Taylor 428-9622, ext. 3004); reception and dinner at 5:30 p.m. (for tickets call Dave Carney 217-6311). ... Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day breakfast at 9 a.m.

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For tickets call Dave Carney 217-6311; Pre-parade ceremony at VBC at 10:45 a.m.; parade kickoff (cannon) at 11 a.m.; Veterans Museum open house (free admission) after parade; Senior Center big band special at 2 p.m.; Veterans Memorial unveiling at City of Madison downtown at 3:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts (400) retiring colors ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park at 4 p.m.

College graduation

Columbia College will confer 110 associate, bachelor's and master's degrees on graduates from the Redstone Arsenal campus at a commencement ceremony Saturday at 1 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Dr. William Carner, associate dean for graduate studies, will give the commencement address. Mike Randerson, vice president for adult higher education, will confer the degrees.

Thrift Shop grants

The Redstone Thrift Shop Welfare Committee announces its annual grant program. It will be accepting applications for 2009 starting on Jan. 1. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28. Requests will be reviewed and awarded in April. For an application, organizations wishing to solicit funds should call Jennifer Kennedy 682-6981 or e-mail jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com.

Logistics awards

The 2008 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award luncheon/ceremony is Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and

Civilians Club. Officials will present two awards — the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (NSPS or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (NSPS or military equivalents). These awards are presented annually to recognize Team Redstone individuals who have provided outstanding service in the field of logistics support, made notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of logistical support, and demonstrated excellence and professionalism in his or her assigned duties. The following Team Redstone individuals have been nominated: 2008 Management/Executive Award nominees — Patricia Durham, Barry Beavers, Michael Boyajian, Ronald B. Smith and Michael Ragoza; 2008 Professional/Technical Award nominees — Debra Brenner, Peter Ewing, Cynthia Fugate, Jane Gold, Ronnie Golden, Annette Hunt, John Kleyer, Wayne Stoops and Lynn Watts. Tickets cost \$17; and the final day to purchase tickets is Nov. 12. For tickets call Bessie Byrd 955-3460, Bettye Carter 313-1482, Linda Cosgray 313-4004, Tom Murphy 313-6186, Ingrid Qualls 313-1466, Marveline Readus 313-1588, Brenda Sisk 313-1613, Debbie White 313-4165 and Diane White 955-0135. The event coordinator is Thomas Murphy 313-6186.

Senior health care

CASA's senior health fair is Nov. 3 from 9-noon at New Hope County Shed, 161 Walnut St. in New Hope; phone 723-4247. Mark Craig, Madison County license

director, and Jerry Craig, District 3 county commissioner, are to provide free lunch.

Holiday bus trip

Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring a Holiday Bus Trip to Nashville's Opryland on Dec. 14 to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Show featuring the Radio City Rockettes. "The 2008 edition is a magical production featuring Santa himself, the legendary 'Parade of the Wooden Soldiers,' the awe-inspiring 'Living Nativity' plus everyone's favorite 'Santa's Workshop' where the Rockettes come to life as ragdolls," a prepared release said. "You will have plenty of time to purchase tickets to tour the famous Ice Sculptures if you choose, or spend time in the Opry Mills Mall and the famous Opryland Hotel to get those last minute Christmas gifts." The buses will depart the Kroger parking lot, at Drake Avenue and South Memorial Parkway, at 9 a.m. Dec. 14 and return to the same location about 10 that night. The price for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Show and roundtrip bus excursion is \$59 for adults and children. Due to bus travel safety concerns, children must be at least 5 years old to participate. Make your reservations by Nov. 24 by emailing charles.urban@conus.army.mil.

Prayer breakfast

You are cordially invited to attend The Garrison Quarterly Prayer Breakfast is Nov. 5

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at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club ballroom. Donation is \$6 per person (pay at the door). The speaker is Garrison chaplain James Benson; and the soloist is Oscar Polk of Bicentennial Chapel Protestant Choir. RSVP by Thursday with Sarah Brazzel sarah.brazzel@redstone.army.mil or Julia Story julia.story@us.army.mil.

Theater show

Renaissance Theatre would like to offer all military personnel a discount on shows at its Main Stage and Alpha Stage. It's offering a \$2 discount on matinee shows (shows scheduled between noon and 4 p.m.) with a military ID. The theater will present "Miracle on 34th Street" Nov. 28-29 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 30 at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 4-6 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m. and Dec. 11-13 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$14. Renaissance Theatre, 1214 Meridian St., can be reached at 536-3117.

Women veterans

Women of all armed forces branches and military experience are invited to march or ride together in the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 in downtown Huntsville. For more information, call Valerie Coffey 313-0453 or e-mail valerie.coffey@us.army.mil.

Digital photo contest

The 2008 All Army "Digital Photography Contest" invites you to enter your favorite

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digital images to compete against the best photographers in the Army. The entry deadline is Dec. 7. Categories include people, place, object, military life, experimental and "theme" category – Military Friends. The divisions are active duty and civilians. The classes include color and monochrome. For more information contact the Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Vincent Road, phone 876-7951. The contest website is <https://artscrafts.fmwrc.army.mil>.

Halloween party

Saborlatino invites everyone to a Halloween Party at the American Legion on 2900 Drake Ave. on Saturday from 9 p.m.

to 2 a.m. "DJ Ed will be jamming to the hottest Latin beats," a prepared release said. Cover charge is \$10 per person. There will be cash prizes for the best costume. "If you don't have a costume, you are still welcomed to party with us," the release said. You must be at least 18 to party, 21 to drink. To reserve your tables, call Yvonne 783-5756.

Road advisory

On Thursday or Friday, road crews will repair the bridge approach on Martin Road east between Patton Road and Gate 1.

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