

Redstone Rocket

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Community waves red, white, blue

Parade of activities set Veterans Day

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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What do the Curvy Red Hatters of Hazel Green, TOW Carrier and its mounted TOW II missile, Rocket Taekwondo, U.S. Submarine Veterans, Huntsville Havoc and Rolling Hills Academic Dancing Divas all have in common?

They are among the 120 and counting entries that will appear in Huntsville's annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 beginning at 11 a.m. in downtown. They will be marching down streets lined by hundreds of patriotic Americans who will be cheering, waving flags, celebrating and honoring the nation, its military and its servicemembers under the event's theme — "Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty."

"This is a heck of an event," said retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, who oversees the city's Veterans Day committee. "Isn't it amazing what has happened over the years?"

"Twelve years ago, (veterans) Ed Banville and Hal Meeker were organizing a parade that maybe had 50-some units, and there was no Veterans Day dinner or breakfast. Since then, we've all worked hard and have been able to expand and grow this event."

Veterans Day in Huntsville is an event that includes more than the flagship parade. This year, it includes four days of activities — many open to the public — that kick off on Nov. 7 with the arrival of the Marines' Wounded Warriors, continue on Nov. 8 with a Heroes Run, Association of the U.S. Army-sponsored Military Night at a University of Alabama-Huntsville hockey game and a Marine Ball, on Nov. 10 with a YMCA Prayer Breakfast, a Senior Center Big Band veterans concert and a Veterans Day dinner and on Nov. 11



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LEADING THE WAY— The Redstone Arsenal honor guard sets the pace for the 2007 Veterans Day Parade. Redstone Arsenal and its Soldiers will once again be front and center at this year's Veterans Day Parade, set for 11 a.m. Nov. 11 in downtown Huntsville. Hundreds of parade participants and spectators are expected along the two-mile parade route.

with a Veterans Day breakfast followed by the parade and conclude in the afternoon of Nov. 11 with a Veterans Museum Open House, veterans memorial unveiling in Madison and a retiring of the colors ceremony in Veterans Memorial Park.

The events surrounding Veterans Day have been made possible, Drolet said, by volunteers and an entire community eager to show its respect for the nation and the military.

"All you need is a group of people willing to pull things together to provide an avenue through which the community can show its respect and admiration," he said.

The end result — downtown Huntsville streets filled with patriotic Americans.

"It just goes to show you that this town is absolutely the most committed town to supporting

the men and women of the military, past and present," he said.

"It's incredible the way people traditionally support events like this. The turnout is always overwhelming. Folks will be wearing red, white and blue. They will be cheering and waving flags. Everyone gets emotionally wrapped up in this. There's a lot of love in this city for our nation."

This year's theme — "Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty" — was chosen in honor of the Veterans Memorial that will someday grace Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Huntsville. The words "Courage," "Sacrifice" and "Duty" are all part of the memorial design.

As in years past, the parade will kick off at 10:45 a.m. with a salute ceremony. The parade will then begin with the traditional firing of a Revolutionary War

cannon followed by the parade's first entry — students from the lead school in the Veterans Memorial Coin Drop Campaign carrying the parade's "Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty" theme banner. They will be followed by grand marshals, Redstone Arsenal and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles and his wife, Alice. Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, and his wife, Kathy, will be the reviewing officers.

The two-mile parade will first pass by the reviewing stand on Clinton Avenue, then turn right on Monroe Street, turn left on Williams Avenue, turn left on Lincoln Street, continue along as Lincoln turns into Monroe Street, and then turn right on Holmes Avenue.

See Parade on page 11

An open lane random survey

What was your favorite subject in school?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Tandy McCutcheon
Garrison DOIM contractor
"I guess Business Leadership. Excellent professor, interesting subject. Everybody needs the class."

Pvt. Catherine Flores
Charlie Company
"Most likely English because I love to read literature."



Pvt. Kimberly Flores (Catherine's twin)
Charlie Company
"Math because I was good at it."



William Kelly
Retired sergeant first class
"Math. I never had a problem with numbers."



Special Olympics volunteers appreciated

On behalf of Huntsville/Madison County Special Olympics, please let me take a moment to thank you and everyone from your organization/school that helped us this year with Special Olympics.

Over 350 special people enjoyed this day, which is dedicated to them, because of your willingness to volunteer.

It may have only been a few hours of your time but it provided many of the Special Olympians with a lifetime of wonderful memories.

We look forward to working with you and your team again next year.

Gloria Bink
volunteer chairman,
United Space Alliance

Commentary: Auto Center actually teaches skills

Do-it-yourself brake job cost this writer just \$50

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
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Puttering around post a couple of weeks ago, I noticed a squeal coming from my brakes. With a sinking feeling, I began envisioning the money flying right out of my wallet. As much as I wanted to put it off, I knew I had to replace my brakes quickly. My family would be loading up and heading to the mountains to go camping at the end of the week. I couldn't stomach the idea of us trying to negotiate steep inclines with our brakes squealing wee, wee, wee all the way home.

After getting a few estimates around town, I was close to tears.

Everyone wanted about \$200 to do my brakes. Now, I'm driving the required beige minivan all moms are issued upon the birth of their third child - not a high performance piece of machinery by any means. I could not make my stingy little fingers let go of that much money for something that seemed so simple. Suddenly, a light bulb went off over my head. I would buy the parts and do it myself at the Auto Skills Center on post.

I picked up the required parts at a local auto store and headed down to the skills center for a safety training class. I'll admit, when I walked in I began to wonder if I was in over my head. However, Dennis Gibbons patiently walked me through the shop, pointing out equipment, explaining safety precautions and generally



Kelley Lane-Sivley

See Skills on page 11

Give to those who help us

Disaster takes many forms. There are the ones that come immediately to mind, such as weather, fire, physical illness. But there are also other types of disasters that can affect you. How many do you know who have been affected by their child's drug use, rape or other physical/sexual abuse, Alzheimer's, emotional illness issues, fear/animosity during divorce, or just not being able to make ends meet for whatever reason. Our economy has been on everyone's mind lately. What would happen if you or a loved one lost a job and couldn't find another quickly? Where would you turn?

Disasters don't wait until you've paid all the bills or packed up and moved the family and all the valuables into a safe location. They don't care if a family member is in the hospital. Bills won't wait until you have time to save a little more money. Disasters don't take into consideration that "it's not a good time right now" and come back later. They hit when you least expect it - at night when you're asleep, when you're at work, at school, at church.

Who helps these families, these individuals - people just like you - with money, food, clothing, shelter, emotional support when they have lost everything? We can't always physically be there to help others in need. But, Combined Federal Campaign charities can. Every page of your brochure contains many wonderful organizations which help others. Look through your brochure and find one that speaks to your heart. Please consider giving them a donation. It doesn't have to be a large one. They appreciate every dollar you give.

Disaster is not human. It doesn't sit around and laugh about how it can make your life miserable. It doesn't have the ability to plan, to schedule, to make a decision to hit you at the worst time possible. But when disaster does hit, it is always the worst time possible. Plan ahead. Think about helping a CFC organization that will be there when you need them. Because... you might.

Lynn Moore
IMMC

Quote of the week

"In Seattle we're on life support and one of the nurses just tripped on the cord."

— ESPN Radio's Colin Cowherd on the lack of success this year by Seattle sports teams

Clarification

AFGE Local 1858 adds the following to its list of officers which appeared in last week's *Redstone Rocket*: Valerie Harris, vice president for RDEC nonprofessional unit; Patricia Johnson, vice president for MEDDAC/DENTAC professional and nonprofessional units; and Marcia Stevens, vice president for AMCOM professional unit.

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By Skip Vaughn
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Name: Staff Sgt. Amanda Rodriguez-Smith

Job: Instructor/writer, TMDE Systems, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School

Where do you call home?
Dallas, Texas

What do you like about your job?
Just interacting with the Soldiers. Meeting the Soldiers from the ground floor. It's interesting to see them actually learning our job here at Redstone.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
The only thing I do by myself is run.

What are your goals?
To be governor of Texas. That's my ultimate goal. Other than that, all my

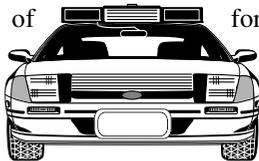


little goals are just adding up to that.

What's your favorite type of music?
Country, I guess.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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



for her arrest from the Madison County Sheriff's Office. She was arrested by Redstone Police and released to a Madison County deputy.

Oct. 29: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after stopping at Gate 3 for a pass. He was issued a citation and released. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

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

Violation notices issued: 11 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 2 driving with a suspended/canceled/revoked driver's license, 1 failure to yield right of way, 3 expired tags.

Oct. 27: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license when he was stopped for speeding. A check through NCIC also revealed a warrant for Failure to Appear out of the City of Madison. He was issued two violation notices and released to the Madison Police Department.

Oct. 28: An individual stopped at Gate 1 and did not have any identification. A check through NCIC revealed a warrant

300th tower ready to go to war

Surveillance system milestone celebrated

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The Army and prime contractor Raytheon will celebrate another milestone Thursday for the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment tower.

A ceremony 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Raytheon, on James Record Road in Huntsville, will honor the 300th RAID tower to be delivered to theater. The surveillance system helps protect troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's a tower surveillance system," Paul Kritter, the integrated product team lead for integration and test at Raytheon, said. "It integrates two camera systems and a radar."

The Army's first requirement for RAID came in October 2002 because of the need for a force protection system in Afghanistan, and the system was deployed by March 2003. Its role has expanded from defensive force protection to collecting surveillance and reconnaissance for offensive operations.

Raytheon has been the contractor since the beginning. In 2002, a 30-day rapid reaction contract sent an aerostat and two 117-foot towers to Afghanistan.

"It was 2003 when the first RAID towers were delivered," Kritter said.

Lt. Col. Jay Gautreaux is the Army's product director for RAID. He will be among the speakers at Thursday's celebration.

"We're providing force protection assets to the war fighters in both OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) and OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom)," Gautreaux said. "And we're making a difference as far as saving lives and preventing insurgent activity."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PREVIOUS MILESTONE— The 100th RAID tower is displayed at Raytheon during a celebration in April 2007.

Retiring worker's question answered

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

I plan to retire on Jan. 2, 2009. I will finish with 320 hours of annual leave and have been told that that a portion of my annual leave will include my annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2009. Is this correct?

Answer: When you retire and the projected annual leave that you are being

paid for includes an annual federal employee salary increase (payable in January of each year), the increased amount will be included in any part of the portion of projected leave that carries you past that date. For example, if you had five weeks of annual leave in your lump sum payment, and three of those weeks would have been after the January increase if you remained employed, those three weeks would be paid at the rate that included the January increase. P.S.: In short, yes.

Standing up for Army values despite war injury

Veteran has normal life after losing leg in Iraq

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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At 5-foot-9, Jeffrey Adams stands up every day for the Army values.

Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage – all are part of his own motto to live life to its fullest, to shrug off the disappointments and setbacks, and to be thankful for the blessings in his life.

Yet, he makes his stand on only one good leg.

Adams' left leg is actually a prosthetic titanium leg. He lost 97 percent of his leg to a roadside bomb while on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq, on Nov. 7, 2004. Since then, he has resumed a normal life – taking a medical retirement as a first lieutenant, graduating from Louisiana State University, marrying his college sweetheart and moving to Huntsville, where he works as a mechanical engineer in the missile defense industry.

"I'm living my life exactly as I would if I had my left leg," said Adams.

"I was asked to speak to my graduating class in college. They didn't ask me to speak because I was the most intelligent. They asked me because they saw me as someone who didn't give up. I came back and finished my degree after Iraq. I spent my last semester in college on crutches with one leg (he received his titanium leg soon after his December 2005 graduation). I believe you should 'suck it up and drive on.' I told my fellow graduates that there are a lot of opportunities out there for us and we can't throw them away."

Though others may recognize him as a hero, Adams does not seek out hero status.

"I had it easy. I'm not the hero when I have four military brothers who died over there. There are a lot of Soldiers who have lost a lot more than I have and who have



Photo by Kari Hawkins

NEVER GIVE UP— Jeffrey Adams, with his wife Katie and assistance dog Sharif, enjoys living the normal life of a young, mechanical engineer in Huntsville with the help of a prosthetic titanium leg. Adams, who lost his left leg to a roadside bomb in Iraq on Nov. 7, 2004, is now a snow ski instructor for other disabled veterans, and occasionally speaks to groups about his injury and his determination to fulfill his life's dreams and aspirations despite his disability. Adams is medically retired from the Army.

had to handle a lot more than I did," he said. "They were the ones who did what had to be done. I was just another Soldier."

Although he no longer wears the Army uniform, Adams is also not one to sit back and feel sorry for himself. When he's not working at Boeing's Jetplex complex, he can be found working on the Shelby road-

ster he and his wife Katie are building from scratch. He is also a certified ski instructor, using his skills to teach other disabled veterans how to snow ski and experience the thrill of sports post injury in a program sponsored by Disabled Sports USA and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Adams also is a participant in a study at Walter Reed Hospital and supported by John Hopkins University that tracks the lives of wounded veterans. He is willing to talk to the public about his disability, accepting speaking engagements, such as one on Nov. 8 in Orlando, Fla., where he will speak at a fund-raiser for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI).

Adams is the first Iraqi war veteran who is the recipient of a highly trained Canine Companion provided by CCI. Sharif, a Golden Retriever/Labrador mix, is his constant companion, helping with things like turning on light switches and picking up dropped pens.

"He's a great companion," said Katie Adams. "When he's not working, we get to play with him in the yard and have a great time with him."

Adams joined the Louisiana National Guard while in college, serving as an enlistee and then as an officer in a combat engineer unit.

"I liked the National Guard because you could turn that military switch on and off. You could go from being on post to going to college and having a normal life," he said. "The Guard is a mix of so many different skills and backgrounds because each Guard Soldier has their own full-time job and their own trade. So, within your unit, you have a lot of diversity."

Adams' National Guard duty also took him into the full-time life of a Soldier when his unit was activated for deployment to Iraq in May 2004.

"As soon as 9/11 happened, I knew I was getting deployed. It was just a matter of when. My feeling was it was a job. I just needed to go and do it, come back and

continue with my life," said Adams, who was only four credit hours shy of graduating with his engineering degree when he was deployed.

Adams' unit deployed in August 2004 and was in Baghdad in October and early November 2004 as the U.S. presidential elections neared.

"We noticed a big increase in activity. It started about two weeks prior to the election. The insurgents believed the more Soldiers who were injured the better chance they had to sway our election," Adams said. "The incident rate went up 200 to 300 percent."

Adams, who was 25 at the time, was serving as a platoon leader for a 35-man combat engineer unit that was in charge of surveillance, patrol and community relations within a two-square-mile sector of the city.

"We provided whatever the community needed as well as defending against insurgents," Adams said. "Our mission was to win the hearts and minds of the people. If they needed a water infiltration system for a drainage ditch, then we would work to get that for them. We helped with whatever need we saw in the area."

On Nov. 7, 2004, Adams and another lieutenant were on security patrol when a unit south of Camp Victory got hit by a car bomb. The two Soldiers patrolled the front gate of Camp Victory as the unit was bringing casualties through the gate.

As the two Soldiers left that post and traveled outside the gate in a Humvee, they noticed something suspicious that looked like a roadside bomb.

"We went 350 meters down the road from it, then got out of our Humvee and walked back 25 meters. We looked through binoculars for antennas or anything else that confirmed it was an IED (improvised explosive device)," Adams said.

"We didn't see anything and decided to call the bomb squad to have them check it

Agency provides dogs to work beside disabled

Wounded Soldiers among recipients

By KARI HAWKINS
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Gloria Favor has a special relationship with Daria.

Beyond teaching the 8-month-old Labrador/Golden Retriever mix to sit and stay, she is also teaching her what it means to work as an assistance dog.

Someday, when Daria is fully grown and trained, she will become an assistance dog through Canine Companions for Independence, working every day to help a hearing impaired person or someone with a physical, cognitive or development disabilities or, possibly, a Soldier who has been disabled.

"We are expanding our program for disabled veterans because there is a great need there. We want to make disabled veterans more aware of the services we can provide them with the help of an assistance dog," Patrice Shields of Canine Com-

panions for Independence said. "We have served veterans since we first started in 1975. But Jeffrey Adams (of Huntsville) is the first Iraqi war veteran to receive one of our dogs."

Adams will speak at CCI's Tales & Tails Gala fund-raiser on Nov. 8 in Orlando, Fla. He will be accompanied by his CCI dog Sharif and wife, Katie.

Daria may someday help a disabled veteran. But for now, she goes to work with Favor every weekday at Nesin Therapy Services in Madison, where Favor is a physical therapist. There, the puppy, wearing a vest signifying her as an assistance dog, gets used to working in the midst of activity as employees provide clients with physical therapy.

"My job is to socialize her," Favor said. "I'm teaching her basic commands, like sit, down, stay, up, come and car. I'm supposed to integrate her into a daily routine. When we are outside, I'm supposed to teach her to watch me more and not be distracted by noises."

Favor uses positive reinforcement to teach Daria not to lick or

sniff people, not to eat food off the floor or from the table, not to play with things that belong to people and not to get on furniture, among other things.

Daria has been with Favor since the end of May. Favor went through an application process, which included a phone interview and an onsite interview, to be a trainer for Canine Companions for Independence.

"They want to make sure you have a safe environment for a puppy," Favor said. "They are strict because they don't want anything to happen to the dog. They gave me tips on how to make my apartment puppy-friendly. And they wanted to make sure I had a fenced in area where she could be taken off the leash or I had somewhere I could take her where she could run and play and just be a dog."

It is required that Favor be able to take Daria to her place of employment because part of the training is acclimating the dog to be able to work in all kinds of situations and around all kinds of people. Daria is also crate-trained, which means she has been trained to not bark or



Photo by Kari Hawkins

EAGER TO HELP— Gloria Favor is training 8-month-old Daria to be a working dog for Canine Companions for Independence. When she is fully trained, Daria could be given to a disabled Soldier who needs the help of an assistance dog.

make any other noises when she is commanded to stay in her crate.

"They need to be trained so that they just blend into the background," Favor said. "You should be able to take them into a

restaurant and they lay down under the table so that other customers don't even know they are there."

Daria will be with Favor for about year and a half. She will then be taken to CCI's regional training office in Orlando where she will undergo six to nine months of intensive training as an assistance dog and then be matched with a disabled or hearing-impaired person.

"There's only a 40 percent success rate," Favor said. "If she fails, I can adopt her."

But that's not the goal.

"I keep in mind that Daria is going to go on to help other people," Favor said. "It will be hard to let her go, no doubt. But her training will let her help someone become more independent. She will be someone's hands or feet or ears. There are always people who are in need of an assistance dog."

For more information about Canine Companions for Independence, check out their website at <http://www.caninecompanions.org> or call 1-800-572-2275 or the CCI regional office in Orlando at 1-407-522-3300.

■ Veteran believes in driving on regardless of obstacles

Soldier

continued from page 4

out. As I was turning back to get into the Humvee, a bomb that was buried in a shallow hole blew up about 10 feet away from us. The insurgents had used a decoy to draw us out of the Humvee and then they used cell phones to command a bomb to detonate 10 feet from us. They were there to hurt us."

The explosion ripped Adams' leg from his body. He looked down to find it was gone. He and the other lieutenant, whose shrapnel wounds eventually caused him to have a knee replaced, were able to get back to their Humvee and escape the area. At some point, Adams passed out and woke up a day and a half later in a German hospital. He was flown to Walter Reed on Nov. 10.

"My leg was my only injury. There were no complications," Adams said. "I was blessed. I never went into a depression or had any problems like that. I think it's because I have a very practical family who knew how to kick me in the butt. We don't feel sorry for ourselves. We take what life gives us and we make the best of it."

At the time, Adams was dating his wife, Katie. She, too, has a no-nonsense, practical approach to setbacks. Adams said he got through the recovery days with the help of Katie and his family along with the help of Master Sgt. Sandy Ussery of the Louisiana National Guard, who served as a liaison for the Adams family during the days at Walter Reed, and the incredible doctors, nurses and staff at Walter Reed.

"I received the best care on earth at Walter Reed. During that time, I had 22 surgeries to clean blasted debris from the tissue. There was also infection, and I had pneumonia in one lung while also having a blood

clot in the other lung," Adams said.

Following his hospitalization, Adams took up snow skiing for the first time in his life as a member of the Wounded Warriors Project. It was during one of those trips that he asked an occupational therapist about getting an assistance dog. At the time, Canine Companions for Independence was just starting a program for modern-day disabled veterans. Adams applied for one of their dogs and, after about six months to a year, he and Katie went to Orlando to train with a possible assistance dog.

"We had a two-week course where we had to learn 40 commands. It was a training session for us," Adams said. "We had to learn how to give commands, how to correct and how to reward. They assume you've never had a dog before. You work with different dogs while you are there because the people at CCI want to see how you do with different dogs so they can match the dog's personality to your personality."

Adams was hoping for a large, male dog, possibly a yellow Labrador. And that's exactly what he got.

"I liked Sharif a lot from the start," he said. "But they decided he would be our dog. We had no say in the process."

Sharif was born in California in a program developed by CCI. He was raised by prison inmates in Greenwood, Miss., with the help of local residents who would take the dogs out in public areas on weekends. He became part of the Adams family on Feb. 17.

With Veterans Day approaching, Adams is somewhat hesitant in his reply when asked what he would tell young people who are considering serving in the military.

"If they would like to do that, it's very honorable. It's a great thing to serve your country," he said. "It gives you a good sense of national pride. It wouldn't hurt for us to have more of that."



Courtesy photo

Superior service

Keith Vincent, left, the AMCOM senior command representative to AMC's 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in Balad, Iraq, receives a Superior Civilian Service Award from Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin on Oct. 22 during Griffin's visit to Iraq. Vincent was recognized for his work supporting the Aviation and Missile Command mission as part of the 402nd AFSB, under the command of Col. Robert Sullivan.

Thanksgiving meal moves to Wednesday, Nov. 26

Dining facility changes schedule to accommodate traveling troops

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The traditional Thanksgiving meal in the dining facility will be served a day earlier this year.

Wednesday, Nov. 26 is the date for the dining facility's holiday feast for active duty and retired military and their families. This will enable the troops to go home for Thanksgiving, Nov. 27.

"The reason for the change, from talking with the command, they want to allow the Soldiers to eat early so they can leave and be home with their family members," installation food adviser Anthony Jones, of the Garrison's Directorate of Logistics, said. "I think it's a great change for the Soldiers. Instead of being on the highway away from home, they can be at home with their family members."

Said post Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, "The focus is on the Soldier."

Lt. Col. Keith Jackson, commander of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, expressed the significance of this traditional feast for the Soldiers.

"It's a chance for us to really take a pause from our busy schedules and give thanks for what we have as a nation and as individuals," Jackson said. "We'll have a chance to dine together as units and have our leaders serve our Soldiers as well as enjoy the meal. We see this as a team-building event."

That Wednesday the breakfast meal for the troops is 7-8 a.m. Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for

all single Soldiers from the units, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for Soldiers with family members, and from 1:30-2:30 p.m. for military retirees. The retired sponsor can bring two guests.

The dinner meal that day for the active duty military is from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Soldiers E-4 and below and their family members pay a discount rate of \$5.40. The standard rate of \$6.35 applies to E-5s and above, their family members and retirees.

Dennis Hardin, assistant project manager for contractor K&K Food Service, said he likes moving the holiday feast to Wednesday. About 1,000 people are expected.

"It's a great opportunity," Hardin said. "It gives us a chance to give some of our employees (Thanksgiving) off with their families, also."

In 33 years at Redstone, Hardin said, "I might have had one (Thanksgiving) off."

The dining facility will be open Nov. 27 but just on its weekend hours: 7:30-10 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for dinner.

"We're going to have just normal operation (Nov. 27) because we will have already served Thanksgiving meal that Wednesday," Jones said. "We'll be operating on just normal operation that day, except we will be on a weekend schedule."

The menu for Wednesday, Nov. 26 includes shrimp cocktail, steamship round of beef, baked ham, chicken cordon bleu, roast turkey, giblet gravy, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, seasoned green beans, seasoned corn, assorted breads, assorted pastries, beverages, and a full salad bar.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE?— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles helps serve the 2007 Thanksgiving meal to the troops.

Afghan national security forces show progress

By NAVY SEAMAN WILLIAM SELBY

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The mood of Afghan citizens has changed dramatically in the past year due to the progress the Afghan security forces have made, a senior military official said Oct. 24.

“I’ve seen a lot of progress here in the Afghan army and police,” Army Col. Bill Hix, commander of Afghan Regional Security Integration Command South, said to bloggers during a teleconference.

While the Afghan army has had about five years to develop, Hix said, the Afghan police didn’t really start to reform until last summer, when U.S. troops began to mentor them. Progress has been gained in the professionalism of the Afghan Security Forces but there are issues that need to be addressed, Hix said.

“We’ve got mentor teams embedded in the Afghan army and police from three different nations.”

— Col. Bill Hix
commander of Afghan Regional
Security Integration Command South

During the Sarposa prison break in June, Hix said, the Afghan government responded quickly, deploying more than 1,000 soldiers in less than 24 hours to combat the Taliban, but there were a number of problems. At that point, he said, Afghanistan’s army and police weren’t working as closely together as they are now.

For the past few weeks, the Taliban have been intimidating citizens to try to gain power in Helmand province. “The fundamental difference between what is happen-

ing today in Helmand and what happened in Kandahar in June is that the army and police are operating as an integrated team,” Hix said. “In some cases, the police are fighting side by side with the army.”

Another component to the improvement of the Afghan security forces are the operational mentor and liaison teams that have been embedded with the army and police, Hix said.

“We’ve got mentor teams embedded in the Afghan army and police from three different nations,” he said. “We conduct coordination, but all of us are actually taking our lead from the Afghan commander.”

Hix acknowledged that some corruption remains inside the Afghan security forces, but he said it is being addressed through several programs.

“There are a number of programs that we’ve instituted, most of them in the police, because the police have a much stronger reputation for corruption,” he said. “On the army side, there is an increasingly energetic (inspector general) audit team program that’s being put in place that goes out and looks at corruption.” Hix expressed confidence that the corruption issue will continue to improve.

Improved professionalism among Afghan soldiers and police has led to greater confidence in them among the Afghan people, Hix said.

“There’s a degree of hope for the future that they may have not had before,” Hix said. “Pushing the Taliban away from the population, disrupting their safe havens in areas where they prepare before they come in to put (bombs) on the road (or) attack a checkpoint ... is really key to kind of keeping them off-balance and putting them on the run.”

When the Afghan army and police forces are the ones who are taking the fight to the Taliban on a day-to-day basis, the confidence of the people is going to rise, Hix said.

“I think the concern of the Taliban is going to rise as

well,” he added, “because they’re no longer going to be able to claim that they’re fighting an infidel’s army.”

Editor’s note: Navy Seaman William Selby works for New Media directorate of the Defense Media Activity.

Social Security speeds disability claims

Social Security announces a Compassionate Allowances initiative, a way to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that their conditions obviously meet Social Security’s standards.

“Getting benefits quickly to people with the most severe medical conditions is both the right and the compassionate thing to do,” Social Security commissioner Michael Astrue said in a prepared release. “This initiative will allow us to make decisions on these cases in a matter of days, rather than months or years.”

Social Security is launching this expedited decision process with a total of 50 conditions. Over time, more diseases and conditions will be added. A list of the first 50 impairments — 25 rare diseases and 25 cancers — can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Compassionate Allowances is the second piece of the agency’s two-track, fast-track system for certain disability claims. When combined with the agency’s Quick Disability Determination process, and once fully implemented, this two-track system could result in 6 to 9 percent of disability claims, the cases for as much as a quarter million people, being decided in an average of six to eight days. *(Social Security release)*

Public affairs specialist proves her mettle in martial arts

11-time world champ
trains and teaches

By MARCO MORALES

For the Rocket

People who have met SMDC public affairs specialist Dottie White and who don't know much else about her also don't have a clue about her warrior side. Her quiet demeanor and glowing, fair-haired youthful appearance give the impression that she wouldn't hurt a living insect much less a human being. However, people who have competed with Dottie in martial arts have a clear understanding of her fierce, warrior side.

Dottie is an 11-time world champion in women's black belt martial arts fighting. She is also the 2008 world champion, ages 30 and above, in the women's black belt weapons category and the 2008 world champion, ages 30 and above, in the women's black belt fighting category.

During four recent competitions which were conducted from early July to mid-October in Orlando, Fla., Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis, Minn., she won first place in the women's black belt weapons, forms, middleweight fighting, and as the age 30 and above overall grand champion.

"I believe training along with knowing Taekwondo with a passion is the key to being the best during competitions," White said. "I have spent many long hours in training facilities focusing on forms coupled with building up my physical stamina and endurance. It's a regimen that doesn't lend itself to shortcuts."

When she isn't at work in the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command public affairs office or focusing on pursuing a bachelor's degree at Athens State University, she is training or teaching martial arts at the River City Karate Studio in Decatur.

The sensei at the studio, Chase Russell – a third degree black belt and owner/instructor – assists White in her preparation for each tournament.

"Chase is a great sensei. All of the students there learn from his structured and disciplined style," said White, a fourth degree black belt. "I still learn from Chase during sparring sessions to best prepare me for competitions."

But one would wonder how much more she can actually learn after achieving so much and winning so many martial arts tournaments.

Initially influenced by her brother-in-law to try the martial arts experience when she was 20, White's preparation for competing in tournaments reflects personal dedication and discipline. "When I first started I thought maybe

I was too old and clumsy," she said. "My self-confidence was so low that I avoided eye contact with people."

Then she was introduced to Wilburn King, owner and instructor of King's Southern Karate Studio, which used to be located in Decatur and no longer exists. The late King taught White to be the best in martial arts.

"Through martial arts training I have overcome my shyness and have also gained a great deal of strength and self-confidence, thanks to Mr. King," White said. Her training warmup session includes doing some 200 side-straddle hops, 75 push-ups, numerous rigorous abdomen crunches and a series of stretching exercises

"Taekwondo is a passion I take seriously," she said. "It is like a shining light inside of me that never flickers or dies."



Courtesy photo

SERIOUS COMPETITOR— Dottie White strikes a pose using a Taekwondo stance during one of her recent workouts with Team Kirage (pronounced courage) who sponsors some of her travel throughout the competition season.

Non-traditional workouts prove effective

Tabata Protocol can be intense

By RICK STOCK
Health promotion educator, Fox Army Health Center

Several months ago I ran into a challenge with my hamstrings, which of course brought me to the medical profession with me trying all forms of possible healing alternative therapies. I did find one health care agency that was able to help me immensely. There was no diagnosis, which was very troubling to me and led me to start my extensive research and quest to learn more about the human body.

As a certified personal trainer and a certified coach in healthy behaviors, I already had a skill base and a background of working out via cross training for many years. The personal research led me to many different protocols on exercise, action movements, range of motion exercises, stretching and flexibility.

The injury made me look outside my comfort zone of going to the gym almost daily with many 2-and-3 workout days. I was doing the same routines over and over, but the good feelings of the gym kept bringing me back seeking endorphin highs but not receiving them because of the hamstring challenge.

In all my research, I learned the more I learned the less I knew which gave me zeal to research and research for hours upon hours to enhance my learning curve.

Underground training

The focus of this article, however, is on one of the many "underground training" routines that I was unfamiliar with. I have now become familiar with all routines that are usually not found in most gyms. This includes sandbag training, battling ropes

training, plyometric box training, kettlebell training, Indian clubs training, resistance band training, etc.

The routine that I am about to share with you as I do with people quitting tobacco and those seeking nutritional advice is a routine to get people moving. People have many excuses for not going to the gym, but now there are short workout bursts that can be done at home which eliminates all excuses.

Before I get to the gist of the article let me share with you the many benefits of bicycling both on and off the road. These are great for the knees and hips, and when you take a mountain bike up to Monte Sano you also get the benefit of touching your spiritual side in a powerful way.

Less stress on joints

Nordic Walking, now considered the best cardiovascular exercise even over running, is another activity that Redstone offers. It is easy and fun and is a full body workout without stress on your knees, back and hips.

Part of my healing process was to utilize pool running, both forward and retro running with ankle weights that seemed to unlock my hamstrings in combination with many other ranges of movement and flexibility exercises. Nordic Walking is a low impact form of exercise, and running in the pool is a non-impact workout with 20 minutes equating to 60 minutes of land running without the impact.

Before attempting any of the following protocols, I recommend that you of course talk with your health care professional. Once you have done that, there are three people that I recommend conferring with on post for more information and training demonstrations: Joe Martin, an exercise physiologist at the MWR Wellness Center, phone 955-6844; Jeff Terry, a personal trainer at the Redstone Fitness Gym, 313-

1201; and me. All of us will sit down with you and check your level of fitness and assist your transition into this protocol.

Anywhere and anytime

My testimony for the following is that I am enamored by the program as I gained much more lean body mass in minutes compared to my 60-90 minute weight workouts. I incorporated the workout about 9-10 months ago and work out at 5:30 five mornings a week. The exercise regimen itself only takes four minutes, eight minutes or 12 minutes with rest in between every four minute workout. I love it because every day is a different workout and on weekends, I will sometimes do the complete circuit "underground workout" in my backyard.

Finally, let's get to the heart of the matter that can make a tremendous difference in your health and wellness. Nishimura Tabata is the pioneering researcher who devised a workout that consists of eight intense training intervals of 20 seconds followed by 10 seconds of rest. This totals only four intense minutes that you can incorporate into your program as a cardiovascular or strength training regimen with many permutations.

Tabata and his team studied subjects who worked at 170 percent of their maximal oxygen uptake (VO₂ max-amount of oxygen used during exercise) by exercising on stationary bikes and found that VO₂ max increased and the subjects' anaerobic capacity increased by 28 percent. The Tabata Protocol thus increases both aerobic and anaerobic systems.

When I started this many months ago with tight hamstrings, I would get on the exercise bike at one of the MWR gyms. I would start out slowly for about 5 to 10 minutes and then engage the mechanism of the Tabata Interval Protocol thinking how hard can this be? Remember, I only had to go full

speed on the bike for 20 seconds and then I got to rest for 10 seconds, pedaling backwards or just letting my legs dangle and I only had to do it for eight segments (20-10 X 8= 4 minutes). Initially, I could only do it four times for a total of two minutes.

Another benefit of the Tabata Protocol from a cardiovascular or strength training standpoint is that you do not need any special equipment. Here are four you can combine for an excellent cardio-workout in only four minutes. These are called: 1) squat thrust (burpees); 2) mountain climber; 3) jumping jacks and 4) high knees. You can do these anywhere and at anytime.

The easiest way to feel the effect of the Tabata Protocol is to simply do jumping jacks for 20 seconds with a 10 second rest eight times for a total of four minutes. You may think that is the longest 20 seconds you have ever experienced followed by the shortest 10 seconds ever. It is recommended that prior to beginning this, however, that you do a five minute easy warm up (a simple walk on the treadmill or bike or just a walk around the neighborhood) followed by the Tabata jumping jack interval and then a cool down to include stretching.

The Tabata Protocol can be very intense but it can be a tremendous asset to your workout program or it can be your workout program at only 14 minutes per day or just a couple times per week.

To make this process easier for you, you will need a quality interval timer at www.gymboss.com or its equivalent plus a timer.

All exercises mentioned can be observed at many Internet sites including YouTube. Great workouts can be seen at www.workoutz.com and www.crossfit.com.

For more information or a consultation in making health and wellness changes in your life, feel free to call me, Rick Stock, at 955-8888 ext. 1443, Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine.



Courtesy photo

Costume project

Members of the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office raised more than \$390 at their Halloween breakfast bake sale. They have contributed \$22,034 to the Combined Federal Campaign, surpassing their \$18,600 goal. Participants in the CCWS Halloween costume contest include: top row, Tracy Magnusson, Sandra Frierson, Regeana Williams, C.J. Patterson, Yvonne Heusinger, Diane Caldwell and Bill Ruta; and bottom row, Karen Carden, Corrie Hughes, Amanda Ruebush, Lacey Keenum and Kalie Meadows. The winners were first place, Heusinger; second, Meadows; and third, Magnusson.



Courtesy photo

Streetwise pumpkins

"Loggies and the City" is the winner of the JAMS Logistics Directorate's pumpkin decorating/carving contest Oct. 23. It's the work of Flo Flores, Kyndel Foreman, Renee Kelly and Bethany Marbut. Christy Carter and Carol Whitaker took second place; and Deanie Blankenchip finished third. Proceeds from the event went to the Combined Federal Campaign.

Family copes with toddler's medical condition

Sharing awareness for hydrocephalus

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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When a new baby is on the way, parents discuss the usual things – nursery decor, names, cloth or disposable diapers. There are a million things to think about. While waiting to find out the sex of their youngest child via ultrasound, Deborah and Tech. Sgt. Ed Norris were faced with something they had never considered. Doctors told them that something was wrong.

“They said there appeared to be some issues with her brain,” Deborah Norris said. “It was devastating for us.”

They were told their unborn baby had hydrocephalus, an excessive accumulation of fluid inside the ventricles of the brain. It affects one or two of every 1,000 babies born. When you say hydrocephalus, however, many people have no idea what you’re talking about, Deborah Norris said. “The older generation called it ‘water on the brain.’ When you say that people nod. They know that name,” she said.

While it usually stems from a blockage in the natural fluid pathways within the brain, that blockage can come from a number of causes. Blockages can come from tumors, cysts or scarring from other illnesses. Parents may never know what caused it.

Babies are not the only people with hydrocephalus, though. It is estimated that 375,000 adults have what is called nor-



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

SPREAD WORD— Deborah and Tech. Sgt. Edward Norris want to reach out to other families with children like their daughter, Adora, who are living with hydrocephalus.

mal-pressure hydrocephalus. It is often misdiagnosed as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s disease or simply dementia.

Wanting to know all she could about her baby’s diagnosis, Deborah Norris began researching hydrocephalus. Although she found lots of information about the medical condition, she didn’t find much about the people affected by it. She felt very alone.

“I had a million questions,” she said. “We felt like the only family whose child was dealing with this.”

Doctors were unsure whether her newborn daughter, Adora, would live and what challenges she would face if she did. The child does have some developmental delays. She is also using a walker to help with her balance, a common problem for hydrocephalus patients. The family has had more than a few scary moments over the three years of Adora’s life, though.

The three other Norris children know that when Adora is sick, it is more complicated.

“If I say ‘Adora has vomited.’ They know we’re headed to the emergency room,” Deborah Norris said.

Adora has had two brain surgeries so far, including one to place an artificial shunt inside her head to help fluid drain as normally as possible. She will need more surgeries in her future. Since Adora was born, Deborah Norris was able to connect with a parent support group in the area they were living in Washington state and then another in Baltimore, Md. Meeting other families dealing with the same issues has been a comfort, Deborah Norris said.

The family moved to Huntsville in June when her husband became an Air Force Reserve recruiter here. While any cross-country move is difficult, she was faced with making new connections to doctors and families dealing with hydrocephalus.

The Children’s Hospital of Birmingham is considered at the forefront of hydrocephalus research and treatment. However, Deborah Norris said there is no formal support group.

“We have the research network available here,” she said. “We’re starting a support group in Birmingham and trying to get families here in Huntsville to come together and start one here.”

She has been working with the national Hydrocephalus Association, Children’s Hospital and parents in the Birmingham area to help spread the word about hydrocephalus. The group just held its first Walk, Run, Ride and Family Fun Day fund-raiser on Oct. 26 at Veterans Park in Hoover. At the end of the day, more than 200 people had participated to raise about \$18,500 for the Hydrocephalus Association.

“Our walk was a great success,” Debo-

rah Norris said. “We hope to do one in the future in the Huntsville area.”

To help raise awareness, Gov. Bob Riley has issued an official proclamation declaring November Hydrocephalus Awareness Month for the state. Deborah Norris hopes other families living with this condition will come forward to join support groups and share their experiences.

“Hydrocephalus knows no race, no income level,” she said.

Surgeon general airs views on access to care

By Lt. Gen. **ERIC SCHOOMAKER**

Army surgeon general

Access to the highest quality care is our first priority for Soldiers, family members and all our beneficiaries. I was dismayed to learn that, at a recent AUSA conference, most of a very large audience of Family Readiness Group leaders did not feel that we had made headway in providing increased access to care. The members, many of whom we interviewed afterward, had a number of specific complaints.

The complaints again were primarily about access, and not about the quality of care. The most common complaints were: 1) inability to get through on the phone to make an appointment; 2) being told there were no appointments available and to call back, and this happened repeatedly; 3) the MTFs refusal to give them a referral to the network, despite there being no appointments

See Care on page 12

Veterans honored at Veterans Day Dinner

Several veterans will be recognized at the Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 10, as inductees in the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes or the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The following retired veterans will be inducted in the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes:

- Air Force Col. Leo K. Thorsness, recipient of the Medal of Honor, Silver Star (2 awards), Distinguished Flying Cross (6 awards), Air Medal with Valor (10 awards) and Purple Heart Medal (2 awards). Prisoner of War in North Vietnam for six years, some of that time with Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain.
- Sidney E. Lyons Jr., recipient of the Silver Star Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Valor (2 awards).
- Peter J. Ritch, recipient of the Bronze Star Medal

with Valor and Navy Commendation Medal with Valor.

- Vernon V. Collins Jr., recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal.

The following veterans will be inducted into the Military Order of the Purple Heart:

- Master Sgt. Vernon V. Collins
- Lt. Gen. William G. Carter
- Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti
- Tech 5 Dewey E. Phillips
- Sgt. Delbert Leonard Robinson
- Maj. Robert Karwoski
- Sgt. George N. Elrod
- Sgt. 1st. Class Howard Andrews
- Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Wigley
- Lance Cpl. James C. Draper
- Capt. (the late) Johnnie Hooper
- Col. Leo K. Thorsness

Fund-raising for vets memorial delays groundbreaking

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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For all the joy and honor the Veterans Day celebration gives local veterans, the absence of one major event from the festivities is disappointing for organizers.

Last year, officials representing the Veterans Memorial announced plans to raise enough funds by Veterans Day 2008 so that ground could be broken for the memorial on Veterans Day. But fund-raising goals have not yet been met, forcing the cancellation of this event.

“With the slowdown in the economy combined with this being an election year, fund-raising got complicated,” said retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, who oversees the city’s Veterans Day committee and who is a lead organizer for the memorial. “We had to delay the groundbreaking for about a year. We are significantly along in fund-raising. There’s no ques-

tion this town will support it. It’s just a question of timing.”

So far, fund-raising efforts have raised \$1 million of the total \$4 million needed for the memorial. Fund-raising has been a mix of donations from corporations, veterans groups and the community. One fund-raising event that has been especially encouraging has been the “Coin Drop Campaign” organized at local schools.

“I’m excited about how the schools are responding. It’s heartwarming to see what’s going on,” Drolet said.

The lead school in the Coin Drop Campaign – which will be announced soon — will start off this year’s Veterans Day Parade, with students carrying a “Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty” banner.

For more information on the Veterans Memorial or to make a donation, visit the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation website at <http://www.madisoncountyveteransmemorial.org/>.

■ Writer does her own auto repair

Skills

continued from page 2

making me feel at home. My confidence surged. At the end, I was presented with my very own qualification card. I now had proof I belonged there.

I had another moment of doubt when I was on my own again. I headed over to the tool window for lack of a better plan of action. I mustered as much false bravado as I could and told Jonathan Luker behind the counter that I was going to do my brakes. He smiled.

“Do you know what you’re doing?” he asked.

“Not a clue,” I replied with gusto.

Still smiling he handed me a small stack of tools, told me which work station to pull into and said that he would be right over to help me get started. I got my van pulled in and tools arranged in the area with a smile patted firmly to my face. Inside I was shaking. I couldn’t believe I thought I could do this. The image of my family careening down a mountain with squealing wheels was replaced by one of us all just hurtling clear off the side.

Over the next few minutes, my panic subsided. Luker explained the steps I needed to follow. Using a jack and removing the lug nuts wasn’t scary. I’ve changed tires before. Loosening a couple bolts didn’t seem like a problem. Putting the new pads on

before bolting it back together was simple. Luker left me to it and promised to come back and check my work.

A woman on a garage floor is a bit of a novelty, I suppose. As I turned ratchets and tightened clamps, I had a small audience. Men working on their own cars would pause to watch for a moment on their way to or from other parts of the shop. All offered to help. I had been bitten by the do-it-yourself bug though, so I sent them on with a smile. I was going to do this to prove to myself that I could.

A grand total of 45 minutes later, I was done. The brakes were replaced and the wheels back on. Luker inspected my work and proclaimed it whatever word men use instead of fabulous. I had done my own brakes. Even better, they actually worked. Instead of the \$200 I had been quoted, I did the whole job for right at \$50 – including parts, work-space rental and a manicure the next day to degrease my cuticles.

The best part of the experience? The looks I get from people when I tell them I did it. Since they’re still paying some guy four times as much to do their brakes, they think it must be hard. They think I must be mechanically gifted. I let them keep right on thinking it. I know better. Bill Woosely, the Auto Skills Center manager, once told me that any idiot can do their own maintenance. I am proud to say I am, in fact, any idiot. I am woman, hear me honk.

■ Veterans Day brings many events in community

Parade

continued from page 1

Parade entries include eight floats and six marching bands, including the Alabama A&M University Maroon and Gold, along with local JROTC programs, VFW, American Legion, and Elk Lodge groups and fire departments along with the Cahaba Shriners, Jewish War Veterans, 82nd Airborne Association-Vulcan Chapter, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 443, Military Officers Association of America, Hunts Spring Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Red Cross, the Rocket City Owners Group and Huntsville Ballet Company. Military hardware will include the Bradley Fighting Vehicles, HIMARS and SLAMRAAM.

One of the highlights of the parade will be the estimated 1,000 Soldiers from Redstone Arsenal who will be marching.

Also making an appearance in the parade will be the veterans inducted in the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes and the Military Order of the Purple Heart at the Veterans Day Dinner as well as veterans from Tut Fann State Veterans Home chaperoned by Patriot Guard Riders and the 22 Wounded Warrior Marines and one wounded Soldier who will be visiting Huntsville as part of the second annual Wounded Warrior program sponsored by the Semper Fi Community Task Force.

The parade will end with a lot of big noise from one of the area’s best high school bands – the Johnson High School Marching Band accompanied by the Johnson High Marine Corps JROTC.

“The parade pulls in all kinds of folks from the community,” Drolet said. “It’s a community cohesive event that we can all celebrate.”

Commentary on the parade will take place at the reviewing stand on Clinton Avenue where WAFF’s Lee Marshall and local veteran Max Bennett will announce each entry. Commentary will also be provided toward the end of the parade at the Veterans Memorial Park on Monroe Street, where veteran John Perry will be joined by WAFF’s Brad Travis and veteran John Bongiovanni. The Huntsville Concert Band will also perform for the crowd at the park.

There will be a live telecast of the parade on WAFF-48 as well as repeat airings at 3 a.m. Nov. 12 and 11 a.m. Nov. 16.

Sponsors for Veterans Day activities are the Air, Space & Missile Defense Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, City of Huntsville, City of Madison, Madison County Commission, Madison County Military Heritage Commission, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Defense Industrial Association, Redstone Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association, Team Redstone, North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition, WAFF-TV and Woody Anderson Ford.

Events surrounding Veterans Day include:

Friday, Nov. 7 – 2:30 p.m.: Wounded Warriors arrive at Huntsville International Airport; 6:30 p.m.: Reception for Wounded Warriors at the Heritage Club in downtown Huntsville.

• Saturday, Nov. 8 – 8 a.m.: Heroes 5K Run beginning at Hillwood Baptist Church, Mountain Gap Road and Memorial Parkway, \$15, www.huntsvilletrackclub.org; 6 p.m.: Marine Corps Ball (Tickets: 541-6287); 7:05 p.m.: AUSA Military Night, UAH vs. Bemidji State at the Von Braun Center Arena (Tickets at the VBC box office).

• Monday, Nov. 10 — 7:30 a.m.: YMCA Prayer Breakfast at Huntsville Museum of Art (Tickets: Mike Taylor, 428-9622, ext. 3004); 2 p.m.: Senior Center Big Band Special Concert for veterans, Senior Center; 5:30 p.m.: Veterans Day Reception and Dinner (Tickets: \$100, contact Linda Crutcher at linda.crutcher@lmco.com or 722-4260 for reservations).

• Tuesday, Nov. 11 — 9 a.m.: Veterans Day Breakfast (Tickets: \$50, contact Linda Crutcher at linda.crutcher@lmco.com or 722-4260 for reservations), Speaker: retired Air Force Col. and Vietnam POW Leo Thorsness; 10:45 a.m.: Pre-Parade Ceremony at Von Braun Center; 11 a.m.: Parade kickoff; After parade: Veterans Museum Open House (free admission); 3:30 p.m.: Veterans Memorial Unveiling at City of Madison; 4 p.m.: Retiring of the Colors by Boy Scouts Troop 400 at Veterans Memorial Park.

Corps of Engineers outside post and box

Huntsville Center has unique mission

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Some members of the Redstone community go about their business miles from the Arsenal's gates. The Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center isn't located within the installation's walls, but its work reaches far beyond Redstone.

"We have project managers who work with pretty much every installation across the United States and in many cases, across the world," Lt. Col. David Bailey, Huntsville Center deputy commander, said.

Tucked away between Wynn Drive and the Boardwalk off University Drive, the Huntsville Center is a hub of specialized Corps of Engineers business. While regional offices handle the construction of facilities on Army posts in their district, the Huntsville Center is not tied to any specific region. Instead, its mission boundaries are set by programs.

Tenants of Redstone

21st in a series

"We're unique in that we don't have geographic boundaries," Bailey said. "Huntsville Center takes care of a lot of the Corps of Engineer work that needs to be centrally managed throughout the Army or is very



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

IN OFFICE— Lt. Col. David Bailey is deputy commander of the Huntsville Center Corps of Engineers.

high tech and specialized. That needs to be taken care of in one location."

They provide design, engineering support, management and contract services worldwide for their areas of expertise. By doing similar projects repetitively, they have attained a level of expertise that saves the nation time and money.

"It costs less because they don't have to go through design every time. We have people who have become very good at doing it," Bailey said. "They can see what space they have and adapt it, maybe changing exterior for climate, but they are relatively minor adjustments opposed to a

major redesign."

For some projects, use of their expertise has become mandatory. They are the center for the Army Range and Training Lands program, electronic security systems, medical facilities, environmental and munitions, and utility monitoring and control systems.

They are the Center of Standardization for 17 types of facilities. Having standardized plans and facility designs on installations saves more than money. For Soldiers and their families, it can also save a lot of stress.

"For example, parents and children going to a standardized child development center know what it's going to look like and

where things are," Bailey said. "It makes things a little more comfortable for them."

For six other directories of expertise, using the Huntsville Center isn't required. However, it is a good idea, Bailey said. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience dealing with issues such as installation access control points, barracks and facility reduction programs. They also have working contracts with furniture and equipment suppliers that can save organizations money.

"Barracks aren't much good without beds," Bailey said.

The Huntsville Center began in the late 1960s to support the Sentinel Ballistic Missile Defense System. Twenty years later, it made the transition from being a construction and design based entity to a procurement and technology organization.

They employ close to 700 engineers, scientists, construction experts, project managers, contract specialist, explosive ordnance experts and administrative professionals. While most of their work force is civilian, there are some active duty, reservists and guardsmen within their ranks. At any given time, they have at least 30 team members deployed around the world.

The Ordnance and Explosives program takes Huntsville Center employees all over the world. They have worked the Coalition Munitions Clearance program in Iraq in all of its phases since the war began. The program is moving into its third evolution, where the facilities and management of unused and unexploded ordnance are in the process of being turned over to the Iraqi army.

Huntsville Center workers are working with Korea to clear land mines. They are working to dispose of waste, chemicals and ordnance from current and former military sites within the United States. They are working within Russia to safely clear chemical weapons sites. When they finish, there is little trace that they were ever there, Bailey said.

"Plants to destroy chemical weapons are built next to where the weapons are stored," he said. "The plants will be destroyed (after their mission is completed)."

With changes in the Army itself and base realignment and closure moves happening nationwide, business has picked up considerably for the Huntsville Center.

"Things are moving within the Army as part of transformation. Everywhere they're doing that, they need the correct facilities. They're closing down in some places and we have a large environmental mission to help with cleanup of things we're going to turn back in," Bailey said. "With BRAC, units are closing down and moving. Those things are tied together. Also, there is growth of the Army initiative. There is a huge military construction program for the next couple of years."

The requirements fulfilled by the Huntsville Center are varied and some are highly technical. With their global mission and detached location, Bailey said that many people never know what and how much is going on there.

"Most people think of Corps of Engineers as that big red castle (logo) they see on a dam somewhere when they go fishing," he said. "Most people have no idea what we do here because it is so diverse and so outside of the rest of Corps of Engineers. It doesn't fit neatly with what they know about Corps of Engineers."



Courtesy photo

Joining SMDC

Dr. Steven Messervy, a member of the senior executive service, is being reassigned as special assistant to the commanding general of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Since 2005, Messervy served as the general manager of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency. He has also served as the deputy program executive officer for missiles and space.

■ Army surgeon general shares view on patient access

Care

continued from page 10

available; and 4) the attitude of the staff on the phone or at the front desk.

There appears to be a resurgence of problems which I have not seen in some time. A few appear to be a marked increase in demand — for example, at Fort Drum, N.Y. — where the per capita clinic visits have doubled in the past year or so, reflecting exhausted, stressed and ill Soldiers and families; a strained MTF clinic capacity from our own MEDCOM deployments, shortages of primary care providers and the like; and difficulties accessing Tricare networks for consults.

My staff and I are working very hard to understand and to fix the problems with access to care. Some of the problems will have simple answers; most will be harder. We have a talented team and together we can find solutions. We are also interested to hear what you all think and have to say on this topic — I'd like to factor in your ideas to the solutions our staff is working.

I agree there is a serious issue with patients who need to see a provider getting an appointment. In addition to adding providers, why not look at the other side of the fence? Specifically, the number of no shows in the clinics. When a patient has an appointment with a civilian provider and doesn't keep it, they can be charged for the missed appointment. This same process should be applied to our MTFs as well. If a patient were to pay the civilian equivalent (\$25-50) for not cancelling an appointment in time for someone else to get it, I believe one of two things would happen: 1) a decrease in no shows 2) enough money recouped to offset the cost of hiring more providers. Another consideration is that after three no shows in six months, the family must be assigned an off-post provider. The Soldiers who no show can have a payroll deduction action to recoup the money. Our patients are given free access to a fantastic quality medical community, and many of them abuse this privilege with no consequences.

Editor's note: The surgeon general's October blog can be found at <https://blog.amedd.army.mil/tsg/>.

Partnership promotes interest in engineering

Project Lead the Way Inc. has teamed with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center under an Educational Partnership Agreement that will use a variety of Army technologies to promote student interest in the engineering and technical fields.

An EPA is a formal agreement between a federal agency and an educational institution as a further means to encourage and enhance study in scientific disciplines at all levels of education. The partners in this EPA, in addition to AMRDEC and PLTW, are the U.S. Army's America's Army team, the 3rd Recruiting Brigade, and Ohio Department of Education.

"The EPA will give students access to state-of-the-art Army technologies for research and study that would not otherwise be available to them," said Cindy Wallace, deputy for the Office of Research & Technology Applications, AMRDEC.

The platform for the new curriculum is the America's Army PC game, a free online game that provides players with a



Photo by Devon Smith

LAB TOUR— A group of Ohio teachers, representing Project Lead the Way Inc., tours the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center to learn about the science and technology needed to develop and maintain some of the weapon systems of America's armed forces. TJ Lapointe, left, a government product lead for the AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility, discussed how his Solider-focused organization has revolutionized engineering operations to turn challenges into solutions and get equipment to the war fighter on the battlefield. In the past three years, the Army has recognized five PIF projects during its annual "Top 10 Greatest Inventions" program.

virtual role, or test drive, in the Army by introducing them to Army technologies, Rules of Engagement, training and missions. (AMRDEC release)

Platoon sergeants lead from front in competition

Events decide best of best in 59th Ordnance Brigade

By Spc. RYAN STROUD
59th Ordnance Brigade Public Affairs

In the early morning of Oct. 23, four platoon sergeants, dressed in their Class As, stood quietly, waiting outside a conference room. They looked each other over, corrected any uniform malfunctions and spoke about the previous day's events. They laughed, nervously, as they discussed possible questions which might be fired at them. The door to the conference room opened. It was the first platoon sergeant's turn to go inside and face the board of sergeants major. The other three men wished him "good luck" as he prepared to enter the room. Little did they know, everything they had been working so hard for, every part of their week's worth of competition, would be decided right here, right now.

Fast forward. It's 4 p.m. and all four platoon sergeants, now dressed in ACUs, are standing in front of a large crowd of onlookers. The two in the middle, Sgt. 1st Class Terance Hill of Charlie Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Ricardo Resto of Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, are the leaders of the competition. The difference between them is only five points. The winner of the first 59th Ordnance Brigade Platoon Sergeant of the Year is announced, and a small, yet humble, smile slowly creeps over Hill's face.

Hill and Resto placed first and second in the competition which saw them competing in a multitude of events, ranging from a simulated rifle range, land navigation course and formal board in front of 59th Ordnance Brigade's most respected group of sergeants major. The competition ran from Oct. 20-23, and featured platoon sergeants from Redstone and Fort Gordon, Ga. Though Hill came out the winner, the competition was close the entire way.

"I'm at a loss for words, really," Hill said, laughing. "I'm on cloud nine right now, I'm feeling great. It was a great competition. It was really close. I was down 30 points before the board and was able to pull it out. I'm ecstatic, to be honest."

"It was a good competition," Resto said. "Everyone did amazingly. It was close and tough, but good."

Preparation for the events began months in advance for the two.

"The preparation was important and it took a lot of time," Resto said. "The biggest thing for me was trying to balance training Soldiers on a daily basis, still finding the time to study and prepare, and handling personal things like going to college."

The visible preparation also helped the trainee Soldiers who fall under Resto to see what it takes to succeed in the Army.

"When our Soldiers see us preparing to compete and then actually competing in this competition, they see us, their platoon sergeants, leading from the front," he said. "It's the best form of training, leading from the front."

After Hill had completed his preparation, he found an even harder task to overcome.

"For me, the hardest thing about this competition was getting to sleep," Hill quipped. "I guess it was the fear of the unknown, being nervous or just being excited about what was coming. It was just really hard to fall asleep."

Going into the final event of the competition, Hill trailed Resto by 30 points. The final event was the formal board, and Hill knew he had to step it up.

"You know, I didn't really know what was going to be asked in that board, so I just studied everything I could study," Hill said. "I just didn't stop. Overall, this whole competition was a great experience. Being in the first Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition in TRADOC and the entire Army, it's amazing. It's like being a part of history. I can now say that, not only did I win the competition, but I was the first in history. So now, I'm going to be getting ready for the next competition and there's a good chance I might be calling on (Staff) Sgt. Resto for some extra guidance and support," he said, laughing and shaking Resto's shoulder.

"One of the things I enjoyed the most about this competition was seeing NCOs helping NCOs," Resto said. "We are leaders of Soldiers and we are the best (platoon sergeants), so anytime you get the chance to learn from the best, you take it. And that's what hap-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

WRITE ANSWER— Staff Sgt. Ricardo Resto of Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, takes a written test during one of the events of the 59th Ordnance Brigade's Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition.

pened. We all learned so much from teaching each other."

Sgt. Maj. Stanley Parker, 59th's S-3 sergeant major, was organizer of the competition.

"Overall, the Soldiers competing performed at a level that showed great leadership and the ability to lead and train Soldiers," Parker said. "They did an amazing job."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

HONOREE— Sgt. 1st Class Terance Hill of Charlie Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, is winner of the first 59th Ordnance Brigade's Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition.

Academy says goodbye to retiring commandant

By Spc. RYAN STROUD

59th Ordnance Brigade Public Affairs

“I feel grateful to end my career here leading NCOs,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Hughes, the retiring commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

She relinquished command to Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade during her retirement ceremony Oct. 24 in the Redstone Fitness Center.

“NCOs are the backbone of the Army and the Soldiers who come through the

academy are the future first sergeants and sergeant majors, and they are the ones fighting and winning the global war on terror, so I feel extremely grateful to have had the chance to be here and to lead these fine individuals,” Hughes said. “It’s a bittersweet experience but all things must come to an end and I feel like it’s my time. I couldn’t have picked a better place to end my career than at the NCO Academy and Redstone Arsenal.

“I am the first female command sergeant major in CMF 94 and I hope all other female Soldiers will put their gender

aside and work hard. If you work hard, the leaders who work with you will only see a Soldier with potential, not a female.

“I hope (the Soldiers standing in the formations of the ceremony and those in attendance) take with them that they are confident and gifted leaders who are ready to take over and lead Soldiers,” she said.

Hughes arrived at Redstone in May 1985 as a private.

“If you would have told me so many years ago when I drove through those gates Redstone Arsenal that I would be leaving here a command sergeant major, I wouldn’t have believed it,” she said laughing. “But my career is a testament to everyone I have ever served with, the guidance they gave me and never giving up.”



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

FAREWELL— Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Hughes, retiring commandant of the NCO Academy, gives her retirement speech Oct. 24.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Contingency planning

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli, center, and members of his staff participate in Installation Force Protection Exercise Program seminar training Oct. 29-30. The training was provided by Army Management Staff College with partners in the fields of first responders from Madison County and Huntsville. The purpose of the training is to provide an overarching educational awareness for the Garrison’s roles and responsibilities for all hazard disaster responses to any potential crisis and consequence management situation in the Redstone and surrounding community. The IFPEX program is also designed to develop an understanding of how the many federal, state and local agencies implement the National Response Framework with the utilization of the National Incident Management Systems. Redstone Arsenal will participate in a command post exercise in February with focus on implementation of command and control of contingency plans for Redstone Arsenal.

Non-line of sight testing helps counter small boat threat

By ALLAN ASHLEY
NLOS-LS Navy liaison

The Navy's Littoral Combat Ship is a versatile platform capable of a range of missions in the littorals (coastline areas). One such mission is to successfully engage hostile Fast In-Shore Attack Craft. The shipboard fielding of the Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System will form a large part of the Navy's counter-FIAC mission.

NLOS-LS is a joint Army/Navy developed system that comprises 15 Precision Attack Missiles vertically launched from a Container Launch Unit. The shipboard application of NLOS-LS will consist of 4 integrated CLUs (totaling 60 missiles) installed into a LCS Mission Module, with up to 3 NLOS-LS Mission Modules per ship.

To optimize the missile's targeting electronics for all potential target sets, sea-based as well as ground-based NLOS-LS testing is conducted. In August, Navy Research and Development Test Teams (with Army support) successfully conducted Captive Flight Test N1B in the waters off of Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida panhandle.

A CFT involves mounting and flying the PAM seeker module and a test rack aboard a Redstone-supplied and crewed

UH-1 helicopter and measuring seeker performance against pre-defined target sets. CFTs are used to establish seeker performance data and to evaluate algorithms and the missile tracker in a moving environment that is as close as possible to an actual missile terminal trajectory. CFT N1B leveraged the testing efforts from five previous CFTs conducted during the NLOS-LS System Development and Demonstration program phase which ultimately contributed to the design and development of the PAM seeker and software algorithms.

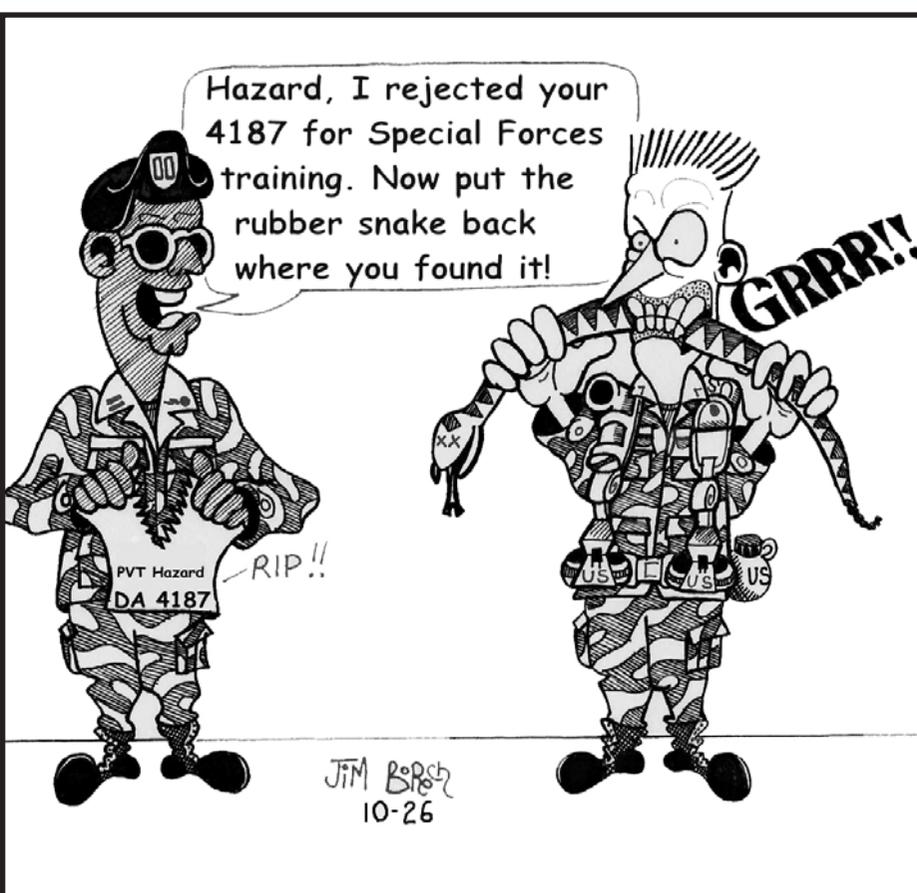
The main objectives of CFT-N1B were to evaluate the PAM seeker in acquiring and tracking targets against representative FIAC in warm waters using the Semi-Active Laser operated from a Navy helicopter (SH-60, from Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla.), and to evaluate PAM Infrared seeker performance in the detection, acquisition and tracking of waterborne targets (moving and stationary). Successful conduct of CFT-N1B provided critical data needed to increase PAM accuracy and lethality in the at-sea threat environment.

The next Navy CFT will be in early 2009 and will evaluate seeker performance against small-boat targets in a different water environment.



Courtesy photo

THUMB'S UP— Navy Capt. Mike Good, LCS Mission Modules program manager, gives the go-ahead sign prior to participating in overwater data collection at Eglin AFB, Fla.



Win or lose

HHC 59th works over Headquarters & Alpha

'Raise up' bunch
beats Gators

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

HHC 59th and unbeaten Headquarters & Alpha were tied midway into the first half of their flag football game on a cold night Oct. 27.

Jarvis Payton put the 59th ahead to stay.

Payton had a 5-yard touchdown run and a 63-yard interception return for another TD as the 59th beat Headquarters & Alpha 36-20 at the field off Patton Road. The 59th improved to 2-2 while the Gators fell to 3-1.

The postseason tournament is tentatively scheduled Nov. 6-19.

"It was short passes and being patient on offense," 59th coach/quarterback Travis Roop said. "We were playing solid defense and limited their big plays on defense."

The score was tied 6-all until Payton's run at 6:17 in the first half. His interception return at 2:34 put the 59th up 18-6. The 59th led 24-12 at halftime.

Headquarters & Alpha quarterback Darrell Thomas threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Terek Myers at 13:50 in the second half. He added a two-point conversion pass to Draper Hollier as the Gators

closed within 24-20.

But the 59th responded with two interception returns for touchdowns in the final minute and a half to end the scoring.

"We didn't play our game tonight," said Hollier, the Gators coach/running back/linebacker. "We lost focus. We didn't get the job done."

Roop completed 5-of-7 passes for 101 yards and two touchdowns with one interception for the 59th. His scoring tosses covered 53 and 10 yards.

Charlie Company 28, NCO Academy 8: Charlie quarterback Jose Perez threw two touchdown passes and had a two-point conversion run as the defending champion Wolfpack earned its first win.

"He came out and did his thing tonight," Charlie player/coach Johnnie Akins said. "And the defense is continually getting better."

The Wolfpack (1-4) opened the scoring at 8:44 in the first half when Perez passed to Tyler Roxbury. The catch-and-run covered 57 yards and Charlie led 6-0 at halftime.

Perez connected with Roxbury from 23 yards for a 12-0 lead at 14:36 in the second half. Michael Smith's 41-yard interception return and Perez's two-point run built the cushion to 20-0 with 9:35 left.

But the NCO Academy (0-5) answered at 6:48 when Andre Brantley caught a 35-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Shawn Jones. Norvin Smith caught a two-point conversion pass from Jones to close



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GATORS LINE— Headquarters & Alpha linemen include, from left, Javier Cardoza, Keith Bennett and Albert Simpson. The Gators fell to 3-1 with their loss Oct. 27 to HHC 59th.

within 20-8.

Charlie ended the scoring at 2:06. Perez threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Randy White and connected with Roxbury for two points.

"We work together more as a team now," White said. "Everybody knows what they've got to do. That's how you

win ballgames."

"It was a good game," NCO Academy player/coach Jones said. "They got started a little quicker than we did. We came together but we just didn't have enough at the end."

Flag football standings entering this week

	Won	Loss
Civilian Welfare Fund	5	1
326th Chemical Company	4	2
HHC 59th	4	2
Headquarters & Alpha	4	2
Marines	3	3
Bravo Company	3	3
Charlie Company	1	5
NCO Academy	0	6

Oct. 27: HHC 59th def. Headquarters & Alpha 36-20; Charlie def. NCO Academy 28-8; and Marines def. CWF 32-30.

Oct. 28: CWF def. Charlie 18-14; HHC 59th def. Bravo 20-8; and 326th Chemical def. Headquarters & Alpha 20-6.

Oct. 30: HHC 59th def. NCO Academy 20-8; Bravo won by forfeit over 326th Chemical; and Headquarters & Alpha def. Marines 33-28.

Alabama survives visit to Baton Rouge

Tide favored over Tigers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 311-113 for 73 percent after 10 weeks of college football. Here are this week's predictions:

Alabama at LSU — **Alabama**
Arkansas at South Carolina — **SC**
Florida at Vanderbilt — **Florida**
Georgia at Kentucky — **Georgia**
Prairie View A&M at Alabama A&M — **Ala.**
Tennessee-Martin at Auburn — **Auburn**
Wyoming at Tennessee — **Tenn.**
Maryland at Virginia Tech — **Tech**
TCU at Utah — **Utah**
Nevada at Fresno State — **Fresno**
Illinois at Western Michigan — **Ill.**
Jackson State at Alabama State — **Jax**
San Diego State at Brigham Young — **BYU**
Utah State at Boise State — **Boise**
Army at Rice — **Rice**
Memphis at Southern Methodist — **Memphis**
Marshall at East Carolina — **EC**
Southern Mississippi at UCF — **UCF**
Hawaii at New Mexico State — **Hawaii**
Tulane at Houston — **Houston**
Colorado State at Air Force — **AFA**
Texas-El Paso at La.-Lafayette — **El Paso**
California at Southern California — **USC**
Louisiana Tech at San Jose State — **San Jose**
Arizona at Washington State — **Ariz.**
Arizona State at Washington — **ASU**
Baylor at Texas — **Texas**
Cincinnati at West Virginia — **WV**
Clemson at Florida State — **FSU**
Georgia Tech at North Carolina — **Tech**
Iowa State at Colorado — **Colo.**

Kansas at Nebraska — **Neb.**
Kansas State at Missouri — **Mo.**
Louisville at Pittsburgh — **Louisville**
Michigan at Minnesota — **Minn.**
North Carolina State at Duke — **Duke**
Notre Dame at Boston College — **ND**
Ohio State at Northwestern — **OSU**
Oklahoma at Texas A&M — **Okla.**

Oklahoma State at Texas Tech — **State**
Oregon State at UCLA — **Oregon State**
Penn State at Iowa — **PSU**
Purdue at Michigan State — **State**
Stanford at Oregon — **Oregon**
Syracuse at Rutgers — **Rutgers**
Virginia at Wake Forest — **Virginia**
Wisconsin at Indiana — **Wis.**

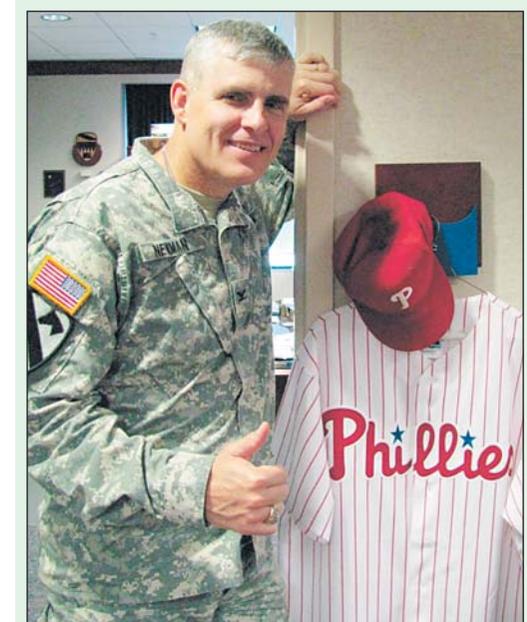
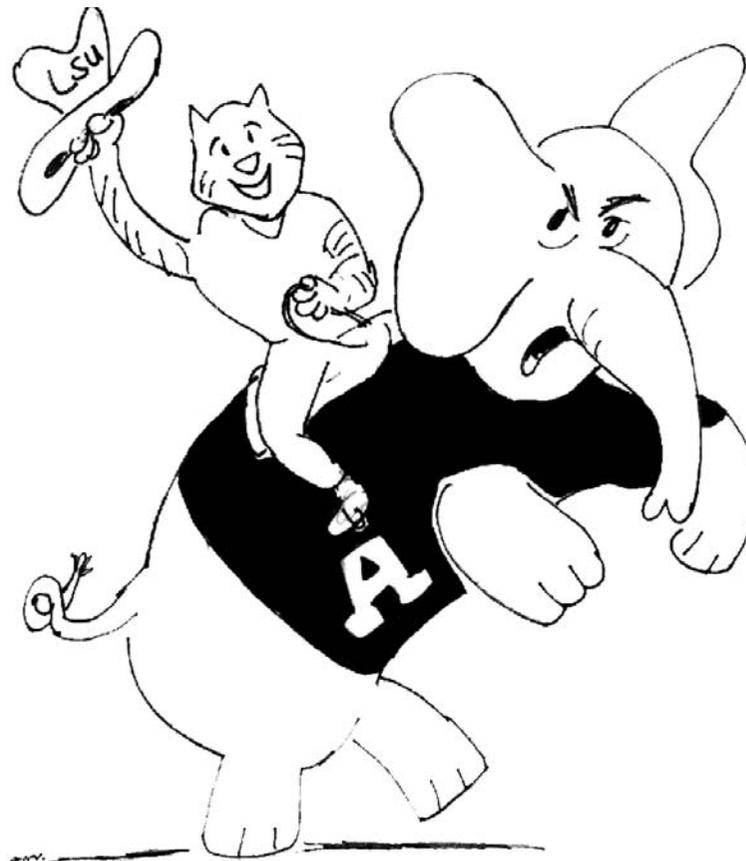


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Phillies fan

AMCOM chief of staff Col. Tom Newman, a Philadelphia native, celebrates his home team's World Series championship.



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Fit to be Tide

Building 5250's south parking lot became a Southeastern Conference tailgate party Thursday as PEO Missiles and Space workers touted their favorite teams in preparation for another football weekend. The Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office took first place honors for the best overall creativity display.

Logistics activity folks show their appreciation

By ROBERT SALINAS
For the Rocket

It was food fun and shivers for Logistics Support Activity workers Oct. 23 at LOGSA Employee Appreciation Day at the NASA picnic area. An unusual time to celebrate according to some, but LOGSA commander Col. James Rentz said "At least you're not sweating!"

There were more than a couple of changes at this year's appreciation day, and not everything had to do with the weather. The most obvious change was scheduling the event for later in the fall. Committee members took employees' suggestions that past outings had been scheduled for the heat of the summer making it a bit uncomfortable for the attendees. According to planners on the committee, and with the Rentz's suggestion, the decision was made to push the date back to the early fall. While the temperatures were unusually chilly as a cold front moved in, the warm spirits of the LOGSA workers were still evident.

One big change to this year's event was the appearance of a new catering service called J.C.'s Pit Crew. One of the principals of



Courtesy photo

GOOD EATING— Attendees enjoy barbecue during LOGSA Employee Appreciation Day on Oct. 23.

the business is LOGSA's Randy Bigler, whose reputation on the barbecue pit is well known to many LOGSA workers. The menu included smoked pork, chicken and beef ribs, along with

a few burgers and hot dogs for some of the kids that attended. Lots of side items like baked beans and corn pudding rounded out the festivities and no one claimed to have left hungry,

although the potato salad was the first item to sell out. All the yummy leftovers managed to make it back to the LOGSA break rooms to be enjoyed the following day.

Another intricate part of the day's activities, the LOGSA golf scramble, had to be scheduled on a separate day, and held Oct. 21. This not only allowed for those interested in golfing to set up and go directly to the course and play in the scramble, but it also did not hold up lunch for other workers who chose not to play golf. When it was all said and done, the tournament results of the LOGSA golf tournament looked like this: First place honors went to the team which included Tom Rees, Bob Gilliland and former LOGSA commander Jan Berry. The winners were followed by a three-way tie for second place and a two-way tie for fifth.

A new feature of this year's golf outing included the crowning of the first "Master Blaster" award won by Jeff Reed for successfully hitting out of the practice sand bunker and landing closest to the pin. The Master Blaster award will reside with Reed for the next couple of weeks before taking up residence in one of the LOGSA trophy cases in building 5307. Next year's master blaster will have their name added to the trophy and the ritual will continue for years to come.

Bravo to family readiness group



Photo by Capt. Jay Gavigan

FAMILY GATHERING— Bravo Company family members include, from left, Martina Gavigan, holding Madison Mazur; Mariah Wells, Laura Wells, Dominic Inchausti, Sierra Inchausti and family readiness group leader Michele Mazur.

The Soldiers of Bravo Company salute their family readiness group.

“The family readiness group is an integral part of every organization,” Bravo Company commander Capt. Jay Gavigan said. “The Bravo FRG did not even exist one year ago, but it has since come a long way and is making a positive impact in Bravo Company.

“With the leadership and experience of Michele Mazur it has become a place that family members can get together, make a positive impact, and provide the much needed support that our Soldiers

and families face on a daily basis.”

The family readiness group held a get-together to ensure children of Soldiers in Bravo received treats for Halloween.

“It’s just a good way to show the Soldiers that we care,” Michele Mazur, wife of 1st Sgt. Chris Mazur, said.

The group has also held dinners, barbecues, and Huntsville Stars baseball outings. The next Bravo Bulldog Family Readiness Group event will be Thanksgiving Leftovers at the Mazurs. This will include activities for the kids.

Family symposium addresses quality of life

About 40 delegates, 3 work groups participate in grassroots conference

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

Their mission was to help make Redstone Arsenal a better place to live, work and play.

About 40 members of the post community gathered Oct. 28-29 at the Officers and Civilians Club to address quality of life issues. This was Redstone's 20th Army Family Action Plan Conference.

"It's the 25th year for the Department of Army AFAP process," Cathy Hays, quality of life program manager at Army Community Service, said.

Delegates were assigned to one of three work groups to address issues from throughout the community: Medical/Dental, Entitlements, and Consumer Services.

"It's a grassroots process where different demographic groups from the installation – and that would be active duty Soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of Army civilians – come together for this two-day conference and brainstorm quality of life issues for local and Armywide," Hays said.

"It basically allows the constituents to tell the Army what's working and what's not working and how they would like to see the Army improve both locally and Department of Armywide," she said.

The issues that come out of this conference are looked at by Army leadership at the local level and at the Department of Army.

Patti Kurth, a logistics management specialist at Logis-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PANELISTS— Some members of the Medical/Dental work group at last week's AFAP conference include, from left, Chester Rogers, Staff Sgt. David Miron and Sgt. 1st Class Greg Murrin, all of the NCO Academy, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Meeker of Charlie Company.

tics Support Activity, served as a delegate for the second straight year. She was in the Medical/Dental work group.

"I think it's wonderful," Kurth said of the AFAP process. "It's productive. It gives the Redstone community the ability to address issues that will better serve the Soldiers, their families and civilians at Redstone. It's a wonderful process."

Sgt. 1st Class Danielle Bond, an instructor/writer with

the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Department in the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, was a delegate in the Entitlements work group. This was her first conference in her nearly two and a half years at Redstone.

"This is my first time experiencing it," Bond said, "but it looks like it's going to be a great way to bring up issues that are going on."

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.

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.

Heroes 5K

Huntsville Track Club and the Semper Fi Community Task Force will hold the second annual Heroes' Run 5K on Saturday. "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.

UAH hockey

The University of Alabama-Huntsville Chargers hockey game against Bemidji State at 7:05 p.m. Saturday 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.



Conferences & Meetings

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.

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.

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.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User Group will meet Saturday 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 Thursday 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.

Engineer section

North Ala. Section ASME will meet today at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Research Hall on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. Scheduled speaker is Lance Fulks, business team leader at Navistar. The luncheon cost is \$10. Engineering students pay \$5. For more information, call James Denson 883-2531.

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

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for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for 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.

Missile systems conference

DIA/MSIC and the AOC announce the Iranian Surface to Air Missile Systems Conference on Nov. 18-20 at the MSIC Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. "This conference is a must for all military and industry members who operate, plan or program in electronic warfare or operations within the full electronic spectrum, and/or defensive airborne systems," a prepared release said. To register go directly to the AOC website <https://www.myaoc.org>.

Stuhlinger symposium

Ernst Stuhlinger, a world-renowned space

posium 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.



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

Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

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

Rocket Announcements

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@bell-south.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/>.

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Photo by John McGowen

Clothing store

Jackie Stengel and Dee Johnson prepare for today's grand opening of the Fashion Square clothing store at the Post Exchange mall. It's operated by JMAC, the same contractor that runs the cleaners and barbershop at the Sparkman Center. "It'll be a nice shop," says project coordinator John McGowen.

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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.

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 Friday 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 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.

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Mr. Man pageant

The "Mr. Man Premiere" is Feb. 13 at the Westin (Bridge Street Town Centre). This premiere event will reveal each male 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 Friday. 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.

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.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will operate with the

following hours: Veterans Day, Nov. 11: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Concessions, closed; Furniture Store, closed; One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tire Store, closed; Burger King, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; Barber Shop, building 3479, closed; Food Court — Anthony's, closed; Cinnabon, closed; Baskin Robins, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Robin Hood, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Churches, closed; American Eatery, closed.

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 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://artsandcrafts.fmwrc.army.mil>.

Education open house

In celebration of the 2008 American Education Week, Nov. 17-21, the Education Center is sponsoring an open house Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 3222 on Snooper Road.

Scholarships

The 2009 Scholarships for Military Children Program opened Nov. 3 for military family members who are in high school or college. Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <https://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Christmas bears

Operation Christmas Bear is scheduled Dec. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shine Temple in Huntsville. Children of all active duty, Guard and Reserve families in North Alabama are eligible to participate in this free Christmas party. The party will include a visit with Santa Claus, a moon bounce, face painting, crafts and many other activities. To register, call Army Community Service, 876-5397. This annual event is sponsored by the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition. Those who would like to volunteer at this event, should call Valerie Coffey 313-0453 or e-mail valerie.coffey@us.army.mil.

Veterans concert

The third annual Concert for Veterans at the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center will begin at 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. The concert will feature popular music of the World War II era performed by the Senior Center Big Band. The Johnson High School JROTC will present the colors. Emcee is George Dickerson. The concert is free. For more information, call 852-2946 or e-mail cdickers@bellsouth.net.

Native American month

Native American Heritage Month will be celebrated Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Richard C. Shelby Auditorium, building 4544 on Fowler Road. Featured is motivational speaker D.J. Vanas, an Odawa Indian. The theme is "Living in Different Worlds." For more information or special accommodations, call Sharon Lee 313-7556.

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Warrant officer scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Warrant Officer Association offers the RSAWOA Annual Scholarship Program. RSAWOA will award a minimum of one \$1,000 scholarship. Application packets are due by April 1. Applications will be accepted from the children (natural and adopted), dependent stepchildren under age 21 (seniors in high school or currently enrolled college freshmen), and spouses of members of the active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military and DoD civilians/contractors in the Tennessee Valley. Completed application packets should be mailed to: RSAWOA Scholarship Program, c/o Richard Storie, 102 Trevor Circle, Toney, AL 35773-9651.

Teen education

Child, Youth and School Services and the Family Advocacy Program are offering a free class for teens Nov. 13 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center, build-

ing 3148, on Preventing Teen Dating Violence. For more information, call Virginia Dempsey of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Angel tree

CYSS will have an Angel Tree displayed in the mall area of the Post Exchange from today through Dec. 5. "Please come by and select an angel of the tree. This program helps deserving children have the best Christmas possible," a prepared release said. The entire Redstone community can access the tree in the mall area; you don't need to have a military ID card to get to the tree. The angels will have the child's age, clothing size, shoe size and the name of their favorite toy listed. All gifts should be wrapped with the angels attached to the outside of the gifts. Please turn in the presents to the PX or to the Youth Center, building 3148, by 12:30 p.m. Dec 5. For more information, call 876-5437.



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**ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?																										
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U															
AS OF 30 OCT 08																																		
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																																		
SCBK08079163	General Engr	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079163D	General Engr	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08076038	Accountant	5-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-0510	2	2	45,014 - 101,913			X																								
SCBK08095662	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08095662D	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079597D	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08979130R1	Prgm Analyst	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0343	11	11	54,999 - 71,500			X	X																							
WTS08069342	Security Ofcr	7-Nov-08	SMDC	GG-0080	13	13	78,390 - 101,913							X																				
SCBK08065868	Secretary (OA)	7-Nov-08	AMCOM, G8 (Resource Mgmt)	GS-0318	7	7	37,164 - 48,308							X																				
SCBK08083370	Mgmt & Prgm Analyst	7-Nov-08	USAOMEMS	GS-0343	9	9	45,458 - 59,100			X	X						X	X	X															
SCBK08074712	Logistics Mgmt Spec	7-Nov-08	Lead AMC Integ Supp Ofc	GS-0346	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X																								
SCBK08072083	Electronics Engr	7-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	65,921 - 101,913					X	X	X		X	X	X	X															
SCBK08072083D	Electronics Engr	7-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	65,921 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08037466	Mechanical Engr	7-Nov-08	AMCOM, TMDE	GS-0830	12	13	59,633 - 101,913	X	X																									
SCBK08064322	Lead General Engr	10-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08084833	Mgmt Serv Spec	10-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-0341	2	2	45,014 - 59,001			X																								
SCBK08062645	Logistics Mgmt Spec	10-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X							X		X															
SCBK08100012	Supv Prgm Analyst	10-Nov-08	Accessions Cmd	YC-0343	2	2	65,278 - 88,993			X				X			X	X	X															
SCBK08083347	Public Affairs Spec	10-Nov-08	Accessions Cmd	YA-1035	2	2	45,014 - 71,500			X						X	X	X	X															
SCBK08003051	Logistics Mgmt Spec	10-Nov-08	LOGSA	GS-0346	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X																								
SCBK08064473	Budget Analyst	11-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DE-0560	2	2	30,001 - 59,100			X																								
SCBK08075332	Logistics Mgmt Spec	12-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X																								
SCBK08072481	Logistics Mgmt Spec	12-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X																								
SCBK08062421	Logistics Mgmt Spec	12-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X							X		X															
SCBK08777100	Civil Engr, Env Engr, Geologist, Architect, Chem Engr, Elect Engr, Mech Engr, Landscape Architect, General Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0810, 0819, 1350, 0808, 0893, 0850, 0830, 0807, 0801	2	2	45,458 - 101,913			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Civil Engr, Env Engr, Geologist, Architect, Chem Engr, Elect Engr, Mech Engr, Landscape Architect, General Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0810, 0819, 1350, 0808, 0893, 0850, 0830, 0807, 0801	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08092769	General Engr	13-Nov-08	PEO AVN	NH-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657			X				X			X	X	X															
SCBK08117193	Secretary (OA)	14-Nov-08	PEO AVN	NK-0318	3	3	41,157 - 65,080							X			X	X	X															
SCBK08079404	General Engr	17-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079404D	General Engr	17-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08041018OC	Supv Contract Spec	18-Nov-08	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	YA-1102	3	3	87,998 - 148,740			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08041001OC	Contract Spec	19-Nov-08	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08041011OC	Contract Spec	19-Nov-08	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079417	General Engr	19-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079417D	General Engr	19-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08983546	Electrical Engr	20-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0850	3	3	87,977 - 148,740			X				X			X	X	X															
SCBK08983546D	Electrical Engr	20-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0850	3	3	87,977 - 148,740	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08083461	Supv Human Capital Mgmt Spec	23-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YC-0301	2	2	78,390 - 110,691			X																								
SCBK08086113	Lead Aerospace Engr	24-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657			X																								
SCBK08068333	Aerospace Engr	24-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657			X																								
SCBK08068313	Electronics Engr	24-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	92,633 - 141,657			X																								
SCBK08995113D	Gen Engr; Civil Engr; Env Engr; Mech Engr; Elect Engr; Comp Engr; Industrial Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801; 0810; 0819; 0830; 0850; 0854; 0896	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08014076	Interior Design Spec	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-1008	2	2	45,014 - 101,912			X																								
SCBK08014076D	Interior Design Spec	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-1008	2	2	45,014 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08995113	Gen Engr; Civil Engr; Env Engr; Mech Engr; Elect Engr; Comp Engr; Industrial Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801; 0810; 0819; 0830; 0850; 0854; 0896	2	2	45,457 - 101,912			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08037557	Logistics Mgmt Spec	2-Dec-08	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	68,625 - 89,217			X							X		X															
SCBK08692992OC	Fire Protection Inspector	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0081	8	8	41,157 - 53,504			X	X	X					X		X															
SCBK08692097OC	Human Resources Asst (Mil/OA)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0203	6	6	33,442 - 43,476							X																				
SCBK08692088OC1	Human Resources Asst (Mil/OA)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0203	5	5	30,001 - 38,997							X																				
SCBK08692996OC	Firefighter (HazMat Tech/Basic Life Supp)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0081	7	7	37,164 - 48,308			X	X			X			X		X															
SCBK08691939OC	Security Guard	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0085	5	5	30,001 - 38,997							X			X		X															
SCBK08691953OC	Police Ofcr	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0083	6	6	33,442 - 43,476			X	X			X			X		X															
SCBK08692984OC	Lead Police Ofcr	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0083	7	7	37,164 - 48,308			X	X			X			X		X															
SCBK08781811OC	General Supp Spec	31-Dec-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GS-2001	11	11	54,999 - 71,500			X	X						X		X															
SCBK08781800OC1	General Supp Spec	31-Dec-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GS-2001	9	9	45,458 - 59,100			X	X						X		X															
SCBK08041001OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08041011OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08041018OC	Supv Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	YA-1102	3	3	87,998 - 148,740			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOB.SOPM.GOV																																		
SCBK08095662D	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079597D	Military Analyst (Space Sys)	5-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
WTS08999759	General Engr	6-Nov-08	TSMO	GG-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08072083D	Electronics Engr	7-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	65,921 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Civil Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0810	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Env Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0819	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Geologist	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-1350	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Architect	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0808	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Chem Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0893	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Elect Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0850	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Mech Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0830	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	Landscape Architect	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0807	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08777100D	General Engr	13-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801	2	2	45,458 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079404D	General Engr	17-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK08079417D	General Engr	19-Nov-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14																													