

# Redstone Rocket

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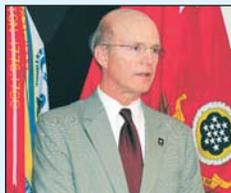
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# Life's work leads to hall of fame

Retired colonel inducted into officer candidate school shrine

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Mike Kehoe didn't serve his country with the idea of raking up a lot of recognition for himself.

In fact, he finds recognition somewhat embarrassing.

But this retired colonel has received his share of medals and awards for his service in Vietnam and throughout his military career. Recognition also followed him in a civilian career as a teacher.

And now, as he goes about his work as a veterans service officer in the Madison County office of the State of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, recognition has found him again. Kehoe has been inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame for 2008.

"A man from my track vehicle in Vietnam called me out of the blue and told me he had heard that if an OCS graduate ended up making full colonel, then that was one of the thresholds to be eligible for the Hall of Fame," Kehoe said.

"He thought that would be cool. I found it a little bit embarrassing."

But his war buddy wouldn't let it go. He filled out the paperwork and Kehoe was selected for the honor. Kehoe traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., earlier this year to be inducted in the OCS Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony was impressive. Kehoe had to admit that maybe, just maybe, recognition isn't a bad thing after all.

"It was blow away cool," he said of the ceremony. "I think even my wife went 'Wow, this is a big deal.' It made my son and daughter really proud. It was an opportunity for my family. It was more of an honor than I anticipated."

And now along with his Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Valor, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Parachutist Badge, and 2007 induction in the Madison County Hall of Heroes, Kehoe can add his OCS Hall of Fame status. He even has an OCS coin that is engraved with his name on one side.

Though he appreciates the recognition, Kehoe chooses to be low key about it.

"I'm not sure recognition is all about us (veterans)," Kehoe said. "I think it's important for the current generation to see what can happen in their careers. It's more impor-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**ALL IN DAY'S WORK**— Retired Col. Mike Kehoe, at his desk in the Madison County office of the State of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, is committed to excelling in his work with veterans and veteran widows. His lifelong commitment to excellence has brought plenty of opportunity and recognition to Kehoe, including being a 2008 inductee in the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

tant that current military serving see that our country puts a value on people who serve."

Kehoe comes from a family that proudly serves its nation. He is the son of a World War II veteran. His daughter, Kimberly, who is a major and a doctor in the Army, is a combat veteran now serving at Walter Reed

Army Hospital. Looking back, Kehoe knows he's come a long way from the day he was drafted as an enlisted Soldier.

"I was drafted in the Army in 1965. I didn't ask to do it. But then they needed officers

See **Work** on page 11

## An open lane random survey

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

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



Pvt. Jonathon Fox  
 Bravo Company

**"Just a good opportunity to represent what we're trying to uphold, giving us a chance to show we're fighting for the same reason. Trying to**

**make the people before us proud, make the veterans proud."**

Pvt. Julian Moore  
 Bravo Company



**"It's giving back to the community. But at the same time you're giving to yourself because you're making yourself feel good by knowing that you're joining when America needs you the most."**



Ken Knowles  
 Retired lieutenant colonel

**"It means a time to show tribute to those people that have permitted us to maintain our freedoms in this country."**

Audrey Dodson  
 Post Exchange vendor



**"I think of the men who died for my freedom. And I thank God there are brave men who'll go over there to fight for our freedom. And I appreciate them so much. And I try to give all the military discounts on my jewelry because I appreciate them so."**

## Quote of the week

**'T**he movies are the only business where you can go out front and applaud yourself.'

— Will Rogers (1879-1935)

## Satellite offices in the cards?

I want to know why on the Arsenal there is only one CAC issuance office, which is at the MILPO building. They have so many people trying to get their updated CAC cards, especially at the end of the calendar year when a lot of people have leave scheduled for the holidays and are trying to get their updated Common Access Cards. Could they not put satellite offices around the Arsenal to assist having so many people going to one office? There are several buildings that are issuing other ID cards to comply with new security regulations. These security offices could also be used to issue CAC cards.

**Miguel A. Rodriguez**

*Editor's note: The adjutant general provided the following response. "CAC policy and issue is controlled by Army through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System/Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System office. Issuance of the cards are controlled and done only by folks that are certified to do them. Additionally, it takes special equipment to do the cards. We are in the process to obtain another workstation to improve our services. Additionally, personnel can assist in this effort by making sure they do not wait until the last day to try and get their card renewed. Cards can be renewed up to 60 days prior to expiration which give ample time prior to any holiday vacations. CACs are entirely a different system."*

## Driver has close call with bicycle

I am writing to remind drivers on Redstone roads to please be extra vigilant for bicyclists. I came within a few seconds of killing one on post today, and it was my inattention that was to blame. Today is a Saturday, a day when many cyclists like to take advantage of the light traffic on post. I approached a traffic signal that goes green for a vehicle that approaches it, provided no other vehicles are. I've passed that light a hundred times, but always on a weekday. On the weekend, it becomes a flashing red light in my direction. I let my expectations of what I thought was going to happen override what was actually happening.

When I realized the error I had committed, it was too late to stop. Fortunately, I had looked for cars. However, the magnitude of my error became apparent when in the rear view mirror, I saw a bicyclist enter the intersection I just passed through. Another few seconds would have ruined my day, but ended his. I shudder to think what would have happened had the bicyclist not been paying better attention than I was. I bear the scars of someone else's mistake in a similar incident, and it pains me to think of how close I came to causing far worse injuries to someone else.

I was able to apologize to the gentleman, and he accepted it graciously. He would have been well within his rights to call me what I already felt like. To his credit, he did not.

I write this in the hopes that others will not make the same mistake I did. Do not become complacent and fool yourself into seeing what you expect to see. The lives of our two-wheeled friends depend on it.

**Name withheld by request**

## Leaving advantage to supervisors

The following excerpts from Management Employee Relations at Redstone CPAC was provided via e-mail to all employees of Redstone Arsenal: "supervisors may grant an amount of excused leave" and "the supervisor may grant excused absence."

I feel that the e-mail should have said: "supervisors will grant an amount of excused leave" and "the supervisor will grant excused absence."

I have observed where a supervisor has mandated that all would take annual leave to vote regardless of the employee's work hours. The guidance plays to the supervisors' advantage over the employee as he/she may or, as in this case, may not grant excused leave/excused absence to vote.

**Name withheld by request**

*Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "Management officials and supervisors have discretionary authority to grant excused absence to the extent that such time off does not interfere with agency operations. This can be interpreted to mean that while both the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense have set forth guidance pertaining to how agencies may grant excused absence for voting, this guidance is a recommendation that supervisors may or may not choose to utilize. Please keep in mind that this policy is not intended to be a mandate, and that mission requirements are always first and foremost.*

*"Typically, polling places throughout the United States are open for extended periods of time. Therefore, excused absence should rarely be needed. Generally, where the polls are not open at least three hours either before or after an employee's regular work hours, an agency may grant a limited amount of excused absence that will permit the employee to report for work three hours after the polls open or leave from work three hours before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time off from work. An employee's 'regular work hours' should be determined by reference to the time of day the employee normally arrives at and departs from work. For example, if an employee is scheduled to work*

**See Leave on page 3**

# Redstone Rocket

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# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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**Name:** Jeremy Braman

**Job:** Management trainee, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Redstone Arsenal Branch

**Where do you call home?**  
Daleville, Ala.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I like to coach employees in the right career path and to help them pursue the career they've like to have, and to help them get where they want to go. Help them achieve success.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** Spend time with my family (wife Beth and son Sam, 8 months). And fish – haven't done it lately but I like to do it when I can.

**What are your goals?**  
My goal is to be the best manager I can



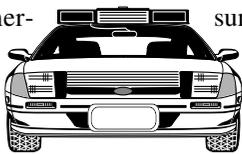
be, and I hope to be a great asset to the credit union.

**What's your favorite type of music?**  
I'd have to say country – I listen to it the most. I have a diversified selection, but country is what I listen to the most.

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Nov. 13:** An individual in the Post Exchange selected several items, concealed them and left without paying. She was stopped by PX Security, and the police were notified. She was processed, issued a court



summons and released.

**Traffic accidents reported:** seven without injury, none with injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 8 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no driver's license, 2 improper backing, 1 parked in a no parking zone, 1 parked in a handicapped space, 1 failure to use seatbelt.

## Feast for Thanksgiving shoppers

Military shoppers looking to dig in to tasty holiday shopping better bring a big appetite to the PX the weekend after Thanksgiving as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is serving up three days of great deals, gift card giveaways and scratch off cards.

The smorgasbord begins as early as 4 a.m. as the first 100 shoppers entering the Post Exchange on Nov. 28-30 will receive

a \$20 gift card. Those that aren't early risers won't miss out on the feast of savings as scratch off cards will be handed out throughout the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 4 p.m. until closing. Every scratch off ticket will be a winner with prizes including \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift cards, complimentary items at the food court, \$5 restaurant gift cards and more. (AAFES release)

# Thanksgiving meal moves to Wednesday, Nov. 26

*Dining facility changes schedule to accommodate traveling troops*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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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 one guest besides their spouse. Family members of deployed personnel are also authorized to attend.

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

Family members of Soldiers E-4 and below pay a discount rate of \$5.40. The standard rate of \$6.35 applies to all military personnel on BAS (separate ration), their family members and retirees.

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.

## ■ Guidance given on election day absences

### Leave

continued from page 2

from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the employee's polling place is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., the employee should not be granted excused absence for voting, since the employee would still have at least three hours after the end of his or her work schedule to vote. However, if an employee is scheduled to work from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the employee's polling place is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the employee may be granted a half-hour of excused absence from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., if requested. It is also important to be mindful that this portion of the policy is only applicable for employees who actually report for duty on election day.

"If an employee's voting place is beyond normal commuting distance and vote by absentee ballot is not permitted, the agency may grant excused absence (not to exceed one day) to allow the employee to make the trip to the voting place to cast a ballot. If more than one day is needed, the employee may request annual leave or leave without pay for the additional period of absence.

"It should be noted that supervisors have a responsibility to ensure that mission requirements are met in spite of special circumstances such as elections. Therefore, employees should always discuss their intentions to be absent from work due to voting with their supervisors prior to election day in order to gain a clear understanding of what will be available to them in terms of requesting leave and/or being granted excused absence."

# Infantry force will get precision munition

By Lt. Col. FREDERICK HUGHES  
For the Rocket

The Infantry Brigade Combat Team is about to get more lethal. With the Army's decision in June to transition Future Combat Systems technologies to the light infantry force, the Non-Line of Sight-Launch System is slated to join the IBCT's portfolio of weapon systems in 2011.

The NLOS-LS will provide the IBCT commander with an extended range, precision attack capability that enhances the lethality and responsiveness of the IBCT on the current and future battlefields. As an organic weapon system, the brigade commander will "own" the NLOS-LS, thus dramatically improving the ability to conduct precision fire missions, while reducing reliance on external strike assets.

The Infantry Brigade Combat Team is organized around dismounted infantry with the mission to conduct offensive operations against conventional and unconventional forces in restrictive terrain. The IBCT is also capable of executing airborne and air assault missions making it more suitable for restrictive terrain operations than other types of BCTs.

The NLOS-LS is capable of unattended/unmanned operations under all weather conditions and can be deployed via Humvee/FMTV truck, UH-60 sling load, or C-130 airdrop. Armed with 15 precision attack missiles, it is capable of engaging a variety of armored and unarmored targets, both moving and stationary, on current and future battlefields.

This capability will give the commander flexibility in engaging time-sensitive targets, as well as engagements that require precision to avoid collateral damage. It also extends the fire support range of the brigade commander.

In addition to the NLOS-LS system, the Army intends to spin out other selected FCS technologies to the IBCT force. The systems include Network Integration Kits, Small Unmanned Ground Vehicles, the Class I Unmanned Air Systems, and Unattended Ground Sensors. Together, these technologies will increase the situational awareness of the IBCT commander and ultimately improve the lethality and survivability of the IBCT on future battlefields.

The NLOS-LS is one of the FCS program's 14 core systems. Future Combat System is the Army's leading modernization program to develop manned and unmanned systems linked by a common network and equipped with leading edge technology.

The NLOS-LS Project Office is located at Redstone Arsenal within the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space. The NLOS-LS is under development by the NetFires LLC, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.



Courtesy photo

**UP AND AWAY**— The NLOS-LS is a rapidly deployable, networked, precision guided weapon system that will provide an extended range fires capability.

# Course provides Patriot missile system overview

The annual Patriot Staff Planners Course was held Nov. 3-7 at the Raytheon Warfighter Protection Center, 401 Jan Davis Drive in Huntsville. The guest speaker for opening day was Eric Edwards, executive director of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center.

Patriot Staff Planner's Course is a 40-hour course designed as an introduction to the Patriot missile system. The course is open to military, Army civilians, contractors and Foreign Military Sales customers. Attendees are new to the Patriot missile system and those who have worked on the system in some capacity for years and require an expanded view of the entire system. This year's course boasted the largest attendance yet, 51.

The course included a tour of the Software Engineering Directorate, which provides tactical and training software for the Patriot system.

The Staff Planners course is sponsored by the Patriot Lower Tier Project Office in conjunction with the IMMC Readiness Directorate. If you are interested in attending the 2009 Patriot Staff Planners Course, call Helen Branch at 876-5329 or Bruce Howard at 313-2446. (IMMC release)



Courtesy photo

**OPENING DAY—** Eric Edwards, executive director of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center, speaks at the annual Patriot Staff Planners Course.

# PEO Missiles and Space workers go Lean, not mean



Courtesy photo

**PROCESS IMPROVERS—** Debra Santos and Stefanie McCrary have joined the ranks of green belts at the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

The Program Executive Office for Missile and Space is committed to starting every day Lean.

Natalie De Luca, assistant program executive officer for information management/information assurance, is a prime example.

She submitted two of her employees,

Debra Santos and Stefanie McCrary, for two-week Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification. And the pair completed the certification requirements.

Santos worked to improve in-processing for new government hires at PEO MS; and McCrary conducted an evaluation of the number of printers in its staff offices.

# Great American Smokeout set Thursday

*Smokers encouraged to kick habit that day*

Every year smokers/tobacco users across the nation take part in the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout by smoking less or quitting for the day on the third Thursday of November. It is also a day of reflection for those of us who have quit and stayed quit and have reaped the healthy rewards.

The idea for the Great American Smokeout grew out of a 1974 event. Lynn R. Smith, editor of a newspaper in Minnesota, spearheaded the state's first D-Day, or Don't Smoke Day. The idea may have been inspired by Arthur P. Mullaney of Randolph, Mass., who three years earlier had asked people to give up cigarettes for a day and donate the money saved on cigarettes to a high school scholarship fund. The idea caught on; and on Nov. 18, 1976, the California Division of the American Cancer Society successfully prompted nearly 1 million smokers to quit for the day. That California event marked the first Smokeout, and the society took it nationwide in 1977.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. responsible for 20 percent of all deaths. Tobacco kills more Americans yearly than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fire and AIDS combined. Smoking is the chief avoidable cause of death in this society.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management supports and encourages agency authorized programs aimed at health pro-



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

**IT'S OFFICIAL— Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli and Fox Army Health Center commander Col. Mark Smith sign a proclamation for the Great American Smokeout.**

motion and disease prevention, including smoking cessation programs. In 2003, OPM initiated "HealthierFeds" as part of the broader Presidential initiative, "HealthierUS." One of the chief aims of the initiative is to encourage federal employees to make healthier lifestyle choices, including the cessation of tobacco use. Evidence indicates, according to the CDC, that tobacco cessation may also contribute to improved organizational performance and productivity.

A decision in 1989 by the comptroller general held that because smoking is a major contributing cause of illnesses

such as cancer, coronary disease and emphysema, agency smoking cessation programs are preventive in nature and authorized under 5 USC 7901(c)(4). Under 7901, federal agencies are authorized to establish health programs within available appropriations to promote and maintain physical and mental fitness of employees.

When you put down that tobacco product on Nov. 20, your heart rate will drop within 20 minutes and within 12 hours the carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal. Nicotine's half life is two hours. Unless replenished, the amount of nicotine remaining

in your bloodstream will be cut by one-half every two hours. Within 72 hours all nicotine and 90 percent of the chemical metabolites will be out of your system. There are more than 4,600 — with 60 proven to be carcinogenic — ingredients in a cigarette other than tobacco.

So just for the day put down your cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, pipe or cigars.

It is estimated that 70 percent of tobacco users wish to quit. Prior to Thursday, put down all of the cons of using and make a list of reasons (pros) to be tobacco free. Seek out a co-worker or a natural helper, friend or loved one for

personal encouragement and to be with you during the day. Change your smoking connections for the day. Bring your gym bag or walking shoes and a pedometer. Fill the four MWR gyms or Redstone fitness trails. Synergize your work team by helping any smoker/smokers/tobacco users make it successfully through the day.

Fox Army Health Center has pledge cards that can be transmitted to your organization. Fox will also be doing a Cold Turkey Trot and Adopt-a-Smoker program that day. Fox will also have a "Don't be a sucker" Trading Station where tobacco users can trade in their lethal products for suckers, chewing gum and bubble blowing bottles that you can now take with you on your former smoke breaks, instead.

For organizations wishing to model this concept, call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1443. Valerie Francis and Rick Stock are available to come to your organization that day for short presentations.

Research shows that your chances of success more than double if you talk to a trained smoking cessation facilitator/coach, involve yourself in a group smoking cessation program and utilize a nicotine replacement product and or medication.

Preventive Medicine/Health Promotion at Fox will assist anyone or group seeking assistance at any time. You will learn via interactive participation. For free class sessions (five) occurring every six weeks call Stock, health promotion educator, at 955-8888, ext. 1443, or call program coordinator Francis (ext. 1431) or Jackie Rice (ext.) 1026. (Fox Army Health Center release)

# Community's gift of admiration to veterans

*Downtown parade shows civilian, Soldier thanks*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
 Staff writer  
 karihawk@knology.net

The Huntsville/Madison County community gave the military its traditional gift of celebration, honor, respect and admiration on Veterans Day.

Amidst the Cahaba Shrine clowns, high school drum majors, dancing divas, Corvette and Mustang lovers, Cub Scouts, firefighters and antebellum ladies, the message was loud and clear – Huntsville loves its military and wants them to know it.

In return, the military came out in full force – from the Soldiers and Marines posted on Redstone Arsenal to the local college ROTC and high school JROTC cadets – to let the community know the military appreciates the support.

As Soldiers and civilians all marched together in the area's largest Veterans Day Parade (140 plus entries), they were greeted and cheered by hundreds of flag-waving, all-American parade lovers.

"Every year we reach deeper and deeper, and every year the community just responds more passionately than ever before," said retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drollet, who was chairman once again of the community's Veterans Day Committee and who serves as the state chairman for the Association of the U.S. Army.

"An army of volunteers all worked to pull this parade together. It just keeps getting better and better. As the community has grown, the parade has grown. It's been exciting."

The parade kicked off with a pre-parade ceremony at 10:45 that included a flag ceremony with the Huntsville Fire Department's color guard and the national anthem sung by retired Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight and followed by the invocation given by Rev. Charles Lee, a retired Naval aviator.

"We are proud to be Americans today and always," Lee prayed. "Thank you, Lord, for the freedoms we enjoy to pursue life, liberty, happiness and the highest goals of serving in the military ... May our military stand tall and strong as they fight valiantly against every enemy that tries to extinguish the flame of freedom. May we always live in the land of the free and the home of the brave."

With the firing of a cannon, the parade started promptly at 11 a.m. The first entry was a group of students from Legacy Elementary School, who carried the "Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty" parade banner. The school's students were chosen for the honor because they raised the most money for the building of the Veterans Memorial during the penny drop campaign conducted in local schools.

As in year's past, Alabama A&M's Maroon & White Marching Band set the pace for the parade, performing "God



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**MUSICAL TRIBUTE—** Members of the Alabama A&M Maroon & White Marching Band perform "God Bless America" at the beginning of the Veterans Day Parade. The parade included bands from Butler High School, Huntsville High School, Lee High School and Johnson High School.

Bless America" for the special guests seated on the reviewing stand. They were followed by a smorgasbord of entries that included the Madison County Hall of Hero's inductees, Lockheed Martin, Mt. Zion church, Sons of the Confederacy, Alabama Marine Moms, WDRM Radio, Butler Green & Gold Marching Band, an Avenger missile system and the Rocket Taekwondo.

Yet, throughout the parade route, the biggest cheers were for the veteran groups, Soldiers of the 59th Ordnance Brigade, the Marine Detachment, and the ROTC and JROTC programs.

"I like to watch the veterans," said 10-year-old Kelsi Wetzel, who attended the parade with her mom and 6-year-old brother. "My daddy (former Sgt. Patrick Wetzel) was in the Army."

Kids expressed their enthusiasm and excitement for the parade with cheers and dancing. Rachel Uithoven, 7, and Moriah Phillips, 11, each wearing their American Heritage Girls vest, waved signs that said "Thank



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**GRAND MARSHAL—** AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, in backseat with wife Alice, smiles at the crowd of spectators lining the parade route. Myles was the parade's grand marshal.

you for serving our country." Moriah's two brothers – Ethan, 9, and Owen, 8 — wore their Cub Scout uniforms and waved flags.

Cara Gresham, 10, was easy to spot along the parade route. Her red, white and blue top hat

decorated with stars and stripes sparkled despite the cloudy skies. Cara was all smiles when floats passed by her spot.

"I like seeing all the floats," she said.

See Parade on page 9



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**MARCHING IN HONOR—** Soldiers from the 59th Ordnance Brigade march along the parade route during the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Huntsville. Crowds cheered the loudest when the Soldiers marched by the reviewing stand.

■ Parade an outpouring of support for veterans

# Parade

continued from page 8

Her mom, Susan Gresham, enjoyed watching the parade with her youngest daughter and her 17-month-old grandson Landon Scarce, along with other family members.

“It’s important to let the Soldiers know we’re behind them,” Susan Gresham said. “We love to see all our military and honor our veterans.”

Army veteran William Lynch, who served in Operation Desert Storm/Shield, enjoyed watching the parade from the sidelines.

“I used to not come to the parade because there was so much pain for me,” he said. “But now I love it. We have so many young people involved in the military. We need to support our young folks and thank them for what they are doing. We’re free and young people are trying to serve in our footprints. We’re free!”

During the parade, Lynch struck up a friendship with Bob Taylor and his young cousin, Chandler Stockton, 7.

“We come to the parade every year,” Taylor said. “I didn’t serve. But my brother was killed in Vietnam. I have a lot of respect and admiration for the military.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**TAKING SPIN—** Parade crowds enjoyed the antics of Cahaba Shrine clowns, motorcycle riders and car drivers, such as this World War II veteran who is taking a spin in a yellow car representing the Marshall County Shriners. Several nearby counties had entries in Huntsville’s parade.



Courtesy photo

## End of era

Scott Huther, with former Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer during a Huntsville city briefing, concludes his service as the international military student officer with the International Military Student Office. Huther has accepted a position with U.S. Army Security Assistance Command.

# Local showman wins Liberace contest in Vegas

*Project worker's son wins piano competition*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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Lots of people can play the piano, but few can combine the skills and the flair to take a box of wood and strings beyond music into art. Not only does Christopher Joel Carter know exactly how to do it, he has a new trophy to prove it. Carter won the showmanship division of the 2008 Liberace Piano Competition.

"I didn't expect to win," Carter said. "But I didn't go there to lose, either."

Carter, 26, is the son of Christy Carter of the JAMS Project Office.

"He's just amazing," Christy Carter said. "I am so proud of him."

Carter began pecking out melodies by ear on the piano long before he ever had a lesson.

"When I was 3 or 4, I started playing by ear," he said. "I didn't start actual lessons until I was 5. It was great though. I learned to improvise before I learned anything else."

At 15 he began studying with Marjorie McDuffie Whatley, former associate music professor of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Somewhere along the way, he took up the organ as well. He works for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Tenn., as its accompanist.

Carter has been a Liberace



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**KEYS TO SUCCESS—** Christopher Joel Carter shows off the skills that won the 2008 Liberace Piano Competition's Showmanship Division.

fan for years, not only for his music and larger-than-life personal style, but also for who he was off the stage. Having received a music scholarship himself as a child, Liberace began his Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts in the mid-1970s to help

other aspiring musicians. The charity has given more than \$5 million in grants to students since its inception.

"He was good at what he did. He had a good time and he was just a good person," Carter said. "That's what everyone says and I believe it."

Carter also works with music students, although on a much smaller scale. He teaches a handful of students advanced techniques. He admits though that it really isn't his favorite thing to do.

"I do it when I have time," he said. "I'm just not a patient person."

The Liberace Piano Competition began 15 years ago as an impersonation competition. Since then it has evolved into a more serious classical music competition. Pianists compete in two children and one adult category in addition to the showmanship category. This is the first year that Carter had decided to enter.

On Sept. 21, he took to the stage in Las Vegas to dazzle the judges with a five-minute performance. He played two songs, "Un Sospiro" by Franz Liszt and "Alabama Jubilee." The choice of music was easy, according to Carter.

"You have to play a classical piece and a Liberace style piece," he said. "I played 'Un Sospiro' by Liszt (which) is my favorite classical piece that I have ever learned... I played my own arrangement of 'Alabama Jubilee' because I thought 'What is the flashiest thing I could play?' I added a lot."

For taking home top honors, he received a piano-shaped trophy, a \$1,000 cash prize and a gift certificate from a costume designer.

"I got a \$500 certificate to the costume place that designs professional costumes," he said. "The costume may be \$8,000 but it will help out."

Another unofficial prize is the opportunity to take things to the next level. Carter plans to return to Las Vegas next month to discuss a possible part in future shows there.

"It hasn't been confirmed yet," he said. "I'm hoping to go. It's exciting."

## ■ Accolades still follow accomplished Soldier

### Work

continued from page 1

for Vietnam and they asked me 'How would you like to go to Officer Candidate School?' If I went, that meant adding a couple years to my service," Kehoe said. "When I was in Vietnam, if I committed to one more year I would make captain. But then I got wounded and spent half of my time as captain in a hospital. So after I got out, I decided to keep serving."

In the '60s, there were three primary OCS locations – Fort Benning, for infantry, Fort Sill, Okla., for field artillery and Fort Knox, Ky., for armor and tanks (now OCS is located solely at Fort Benning). Kehoe chose Fort Knox for his OCS training.

After graduation in 1967, Kehoe's first assignment was as a battalion training officer for the Army's Training Center in Fort Lewis, Wash. In 1968, he was sent to Vietnam, where he spent seven months and 13 days serving as the third platoon leader for Alpha 36, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse). Thirteen days before he was to leave on R&R, Kehoe's life almost came to an end.

"I was wounded and left Vietnam unexpectedly," he said, recalling the fire-fight where he was shot in the left side of his face.

**H**is Army career has included serving as commander of three different companies – a basic training company, tank company and armored cavalry troop – as a lieutenant and a captain. He also served as an assistant professor of military science at North Carolina State University, was the first participant in the Army's Training with Industry Program at Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta, commanded the Armed Forces Radio and Television Network in Vicenza, Italy and served as the tank modernization coordinator for the Army's Forces Command in Atlanta. His last assignment was as the director of public affairs for the Army's Health Services Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

His military career accomplishments are reflected in his OCS Hall of Fame selection.

"They make the choice for the OCS Hall of Fame based on your body of work," Kehoe said. "If you graduate from OCS and stay in the Army, it's difficult to get promoted all the way to general because you are competing against the West Point graduates and the college graduates who were tops in their ROTC program.

"An enlisted Soldier who graduates from OCS and is lucky enough to make it 20 years normally gets out as a major. It's very unusual to make full colonel. It is so amazingly competitive."

Kehoe retired from the military in

1992, and went on to own a marketing business, and then to teach communications and speech classes on the high school level, where he was nominated "First Year Teacher of the Year." He came to Huntsville in 2005, where he first worked as a speech communication and career management teacher at Virginia College and earned "Teacher of the Quarter" before joining the Madison County VA office.

About six years ago, Kehoe took a trip back to Vietnam with his son and an old battle buddy.

"It ended up being a great trip," he said. "My son's observation was very meaningful to me. Michael said 'All of my life, my dad, my coaches, my teachers, my counselors and all the male role models in my life were Vietnam veterans. But when I watched the news on TV, my perception was that all Vietnam veterans are druggies.' He realized how poorly treated we were when we came back and how bad the media made us look."

Kehoe, who is the only Vietnam veteran now working in the Madison County VA office, enjoys his job assisting veterans and veteran widows, most of them associated with World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam.

"They are not any different than society as a whole. Some of them are down and out, and I'm here to help them. The pay-back to me is tenfold," he said.

"The cool thing about this job is I get to help veterans all day long. Many of them don't realize the benefits that are available to them."

**K**ehoe is grateful that veterans of today's Global War on Terrorism are being given the appreciation and respect they deserve.

"It makes me feel great for them because it's such a cool thing to see how communities are welcoming them back home. It's great the way we are doing as a country toward our veterans," he said. "But it also makes me realize all over again how badly Vietnam veterans were treated."

No matter his feelings about the outcome of the Vietnam War, Kehoe thinks all young people should consider military service.

"It's just a splendid opportunity," he said. "Even if you only do three years, it's such a broadening experience. It's very worthwhile. I was drafted and I didn't want to go. But because of the Army, my life has been a whole lot of opportunity."

Kehoe is already anticipating his next opportunity. He is the only employee of the state VA program who was recently chosen to participate in a six-week legal internship with the Board of Veteran Appeals in Washington, D.C.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from this job," Kehoe said.

And, recognition.

## Secretary of Army impressed by Redstone Arsenal, area

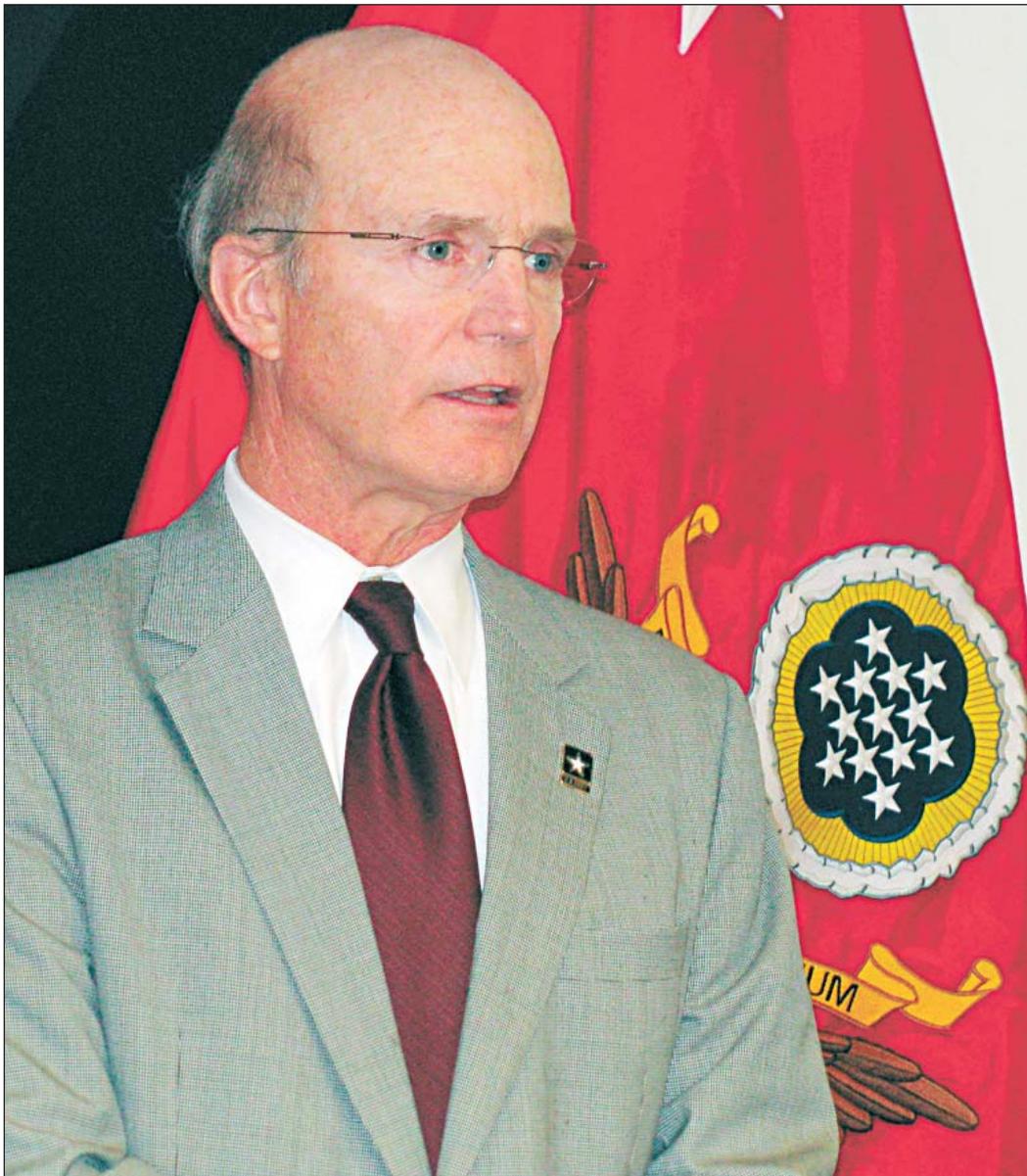


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TOP CIVILIAN**— Secretary of the Army Pete Geren answers a reporter's question Nov. 12 at Redstone Airfield.

### *Geren visits area for the first time*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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Secretary of the Army Pete Geren praised Redstone Arsenal during his first visit Nov. 12. "Redstone Arsenal is a remarkable facility," he told reporters before his departure from Redstone Airfield. "It is such an important part of the present of the Army and the future of the

Army. And they're playing a key role in fighting this war."

He mentioned the Prototype Integration Facility, which was among the stops during his half-day tour.

"They have been innovative, creative and have moved things to the war fighter almost to the speed of light," he said.

Geren also praised the Huntsville and north Alabama area and said he expects a higher than average number of people to move here with their jobs under base realignment and closure.

"This is a welcoming community with excellent schools, great quality of life," he said.

## AMC's Dunwoody the first female four-star general

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The Army Materiel Command is home to the first female four-star general in U.S. military history.

Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody was promoted Friday and assumed command of AMC. She succeeded Gen. Benjamin Griffin in a ceremony at the headquarters parade field.

Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. presided over the ceremony, which included a 17-gun salute, the AMC Band and the AMC ceremonial color guard.

The Army Materiel Command is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness — technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics, power projection and sustainment — to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it or eats it, AMC provides it. (AMC News Service)



Gen. Ann Dunwoody



Courtesy photo

## *Returning heroes*

**Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space, congratulates a Screaming Eagle band member at Fort Campbell, Ky. The PEO was on hand to welcome back a 101st Airborne Division unit returning from a tour of duty in the war on terror.**

# Soldiers wanted for visits to veterans home

The military community of Redstone Arsenal seeks military members in uniform to take approximately two hours per month, including driving time, to visit the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville.

It is a 150-bed skilled nursing facility providing health care to veterans. The facility is named in honor of Tut Fann, a veteran ded-

icated to serving the veteran community in Huntsville and Alabama. It has been the residence of hundreds of veterans since the facility opened in July 1995.

"It is an honor to wear the military uniform and by your contribution of your time and energy in these regular visits, you honor the men and women who were committed to duty to

country while enduring personal sacrifices so that we may continue to observe the freedoms we enjoy today," a prepared release said.

"With five wings and regularly scheduled visitation times and dates on a monthly basis, you will have the opportunity to 'pay it forward' just as these brave men and women have done.

"We are seeking two Sol-

diers/military members per wing so we would like to have 10 representatives monthly. It is so incredible to watch the looks on the faces of the veterans as they watch the Soldiers in uniform. They are full of admiration and you can see how much they want to talk and share stories."

Officials seek 10 volunteers for the following dates and times

each month: second Tuesday of every month from 10-11 a.m., Nov. 18 and Dec. 9.

Feel free to call 1st. Lt. Kenneth Washington, who visits frequently and can share his experiences, at 955-8888, ext. 1421.

For more information and directions, call Rick Stock at 955-8888, ext. 1443, or Jessica Merritt of Wiregrass Hospice at 519-8808.



Courtesy photo

## Bear hug for kids

From left, Pfc. David Perez, Paul Soracco and Pvt. Michael Hadley hold toy airplanes that will be used as door prizes at the fifth annual Operation Christmas Bear on Dec. 6 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shrine Temple, 6001 Pulaski Pike in Huntsville. Perez and Hadley are members of Bravo Company. In this event for the military community, Santa arrives by fire truck at 1 p.m.; and the free activities include moon bounce, face painting, crafts, a wall of honor, magic acts and more. It's sponsored by the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition. Invited are active duty, National Guard and Reserve families of North Alabama. Families of defense civilians deployed in a war zone are also invited this year. To register to attend, call Mary Breeden of Army Community Service at 876-5397. For more information, call Valerie Coffey at 313-0453.

## Logistics group explores data integrity

The Enterprise Data Integrity Group conducted a successful Data Integrity Summit Oct. 28-30 at the Sparkman Center.

The first quarter fiscal '09 Summit theme was "Shaping the Future Today."

Fifty-seven EDIG members and associated guests participated in six plenary sessions on the Single Army Logistics Enterprise. The EDIG uses technical enablers, training, policy and enforcement as a four-pronged contin-

gency approach to categorize and solve data integrity/quality issues.

The EDIG is chaired by Randall Kline, chief of the Enterprise Data Management Office, Enterprise Integration Center, Logistics Support Activity. The group has representatives from more than 40 Army commands/agencies. It continues to bridge the communication gaps within the Army and DoD logistics community. (LOGSA release)

# Eglin says goodbye to drill sergeants

## Army trainers convert to platoon sergeants

By Spc. RYAN STROUD  
59th Ordnance Brigade Public Affairs

EGLIN AFB, Fla. — Four drill sergeants entered the theater at Eglin Air Force Base, walking toward the stage where a ceremony was being held in their honor. These drill sergeants for Bravo Company were about to end their term as drill sergeants and begin their next job as platoon sergeants of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Battalion (Provisional). They, for the last time, recited the Drill Sergeant's Creed to the trainee Soldiers in attendance. They walked onstage and handed over their campaign hats, the visual staple of all drill sergeants.

On Nov. 3, the very last drill sergeants were removed from the Training and Doctrine Command.

"The reason why we removed drill sergeants out of AIT (Advanced Individual Training) is really quite simple," Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle, command sergeant major of 59th Ordnance Brigade, explained to the trainees in attendance. "The TRADOC commanding general realized that as the Army grows, we need drill sergeants in Basic Combat Training.

"Not everyone can be a drill sergeant, so his thought process was 'If I need these critical skills, let me first put them in Basic Combat Training. Instead, in AIT, I will use platoon sergeants so that we can slowly transition new Soldiers into our operational Army and they can slowly feel what our operational Army is like.'

"A few things go along with transitioning from drill sergeant to platoon sergeant," Battle continued. "One of them is the head gear. The duties and responsibilities of these non-commissioned officers will not change. The authority of these non-commissioned officers will not change. What will change is the distinctive head gear they wear and how they will slowly transition (the trainee Soldiers) into the operational Army."

"This ceremony is full of mixed emotions," Sgt. 1st Class Gary Carter, a drill sergeant from Bravo who participated in the ceremony, said. "You put a lot of heart and hard work into earning this hat, but if the Army says this is the new direction they want to travel then that's what we'll do. I'm all aboard with it. If (the Army) likes it then I love it."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

**END OF LINE—**The last drill sergeants for the U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Battalion (Provisional), stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., recite the "Drill Sergeant's Creed" for the final time in front of their trainee Soldiers.

"I'm a little bit (disappointed) because I have to take the hat off so soon, but the job's not going to change, I'm still going to be doing the same thing — leading Soldiers," Staff Sgt. Benjamin Merker, also of Bravo, said. "I'm still happy to be here, working with and leading Soldiers."

Carter reflected back to when he officially became a drill sergeant.

"It was an amazing feeling," Carter said about becoming a drill sergeant and placing his campaign hat on for the first time. "It was something I once never thought I would be able to accomplish but once I earned it and I look back on those nine weeks of hard work (toward earning the hat), all I can say is wow, I actually did it. All the time and effort was worth it and receiving the hat and earning the right to wear it, really was an amazing feeling."

"Being a drill sergeant is a goal of many (Soldiers) but very few can ever obtain that goal," Battle said to the trainee Soldiers. "Drill sergeants are, perhaps, our best trained trainers in the entire United States Army.

Not only do they train for peacetime training, but also for wartime operations.

"They mold a citizen into a Soldier," Battle continued. "I believe we are truly fortunate and truly blessed in the EOD Battalion (Provisional) that our highly-trained non-commissioned officers will stay in our fold. They've done a magnificent job, they will continue to do a magnificent job and we are fortunate to still have that nine weeks of intense training under their belt as they go about their business of taking care of Soldiers."

"The Non-Commissioned Officer's Creed says one thing that really stands out in my mind — 'All Soldiers are entitled to good leadership and non-commissioned officers will provide it,'" Battle said. "These (trainee Soldiers) will still get the same quality non-commissioned officer leadership out of these fine, distinguished NCOs. With that said, I'm glad (the trainee Soldiers) were here for this occasion, because it's history. This also gives us the opportunity to respectively honor these non-commissioned officers who have

obtained the goal that fewer of gets to obtain — to become a drill sergeant." 10 percent in our entire Army sergeant."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

**HAT TURN IN—** Sgt. 1st Class Gary Carter of Bravo Company, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Battalion (Provisional), hands his campaign hat to battalion Sgt. Maj. Randy Hefner, ending his term as drill sergeant and beginning his journey as platoon sergeant.

# Program executive office takes paperless step

## *Missiles and Space team changes quarterly review*

By **FRANK DELUCA**

*Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space*

In the early 1990s, the term “paperless environment” was commonly heard throughout Redstone Arsenal. The belief was that improving data processing technologies and capabilities would bring positive change in the workplace and eliminate the need for paper.

Just walk through any work center today and you will see the technological evidence; there are desktop and laptop computers, multifunction photocopiers, plasma screens and high-speed printers. You will also see stuffed file cabinets, bloated binders and cluttered desk tops with seemingly endless paper products. Obviously, we are still a long way from fulfilling the “paperless environment” we envisioned 20 years ago, but we are consistently moving in the right direction.

Over the past two decades, our new and improved technologies of networked computers, mass data storage and retrieval capabilities, interoffice communications tools such as e-mail and web based audio/video teleconferencing has indeed made a significant and positive impact on our workplace and culture.

While an entirely paperless workplace may not be right around the corner, a recent initiative by Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space has functionally moved our organization and culture one small step closer to the paperless environment. In March, program execu-

tive officer Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco instructed that all future PEO Quarterly System Program Reviews would be conducted as paperless reviews; eliminating the need for printing, collating, binding and distributing paper copies of existing digital data.

This QSPR initiative is a Lean Six Sigma Rapid Improvement Event action under Dellarocco’s “Starting Everyday Lean” initiative. In April, the QSPR was completely paperless and the Rapid Improvement Event provided \$10,000 immediate savings for the PEO.

We discovered that the cost savings from the reduction of materials alone, namely paper and ink, would be as high as 60 percent. Equally important is that the other 40 percent of improvements simply made the life better for the PEO employees who put all of the QSPR paper products together.

One of those employees was Don Gardner from the Precision Fires PMO. It was his idea that started the QSPR RIE, improving the workplace and changing the culture.

What is really amazing is that Lean Six Sigma process change is actually that simple to accomplish, with the leadership that encourages and fosters change among dedicated people with good ideas.

Perhaps the best part of this event is the ease and speed at which the Rapid Improvement Event eliminated non-value added steps and saved the Army money.

Redstone Arsenal may still be a long way from packing up and shipping off our printers and photocopiers, but PEO Missiles and Space is one small step closer to eliminating paper from our environment.

# Veterans from current, past wars receive tribute

## V-Day breakfast honors heroes

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

There was a long pause after the name of Marine Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Pcola was called out from the podium at the 10th annual Veterans Day Breakfast.

As he walked to the stage with the assistance of a cane in his left hand, Pcola called out "Pardon me. I'm a little bit slow.

But I'll get there."

The audience of more than 400 didn't mind waiting for the hero. They gave the Marine a standing ovation as he struggled up the stage steps.

Pcola, injured in a convoy explosion overseas, was the first of 17 Marines and two Soldiers, all wounded during the Global War on Terrorism, to be recognized by Redstone Arsenal commanders and community leaders during the breakfast.

Heroes of present and past conflicts took center stage at the breakfast at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Besides the

wounded veterans, three WW II Bronze Star recipients were recognized and Vietnam War POW Col. Leo Thorsness was the guest speaker. The event was one of several activities, including a more formal Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 10, held during the long weekend honoring veterans.

"The dinner and breakfast exceeded all our hopes and expectations," said retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, chairman of the Veterans Day activities.

"We were thrilled to be able to honor the wounded warriors on the same stage as World War II veterans and Vietnam War vet-

erans. Combining them all in one event was emotional and powerful."

National Guard Capt. Jeff Owen, who served in Iraq with the 128th Military Police Company, emceed the Veterans Day Breakfast.

"Today is the day we say 'thank you' to the brave men and women of our armed forces," he said.

Throughout the nation's military history and including World Wars I and II, the Korean War and Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom "brave patriots have protected our nation's ideals, rescued millions from tyranny and helped spread freedom around the globe," Owen said.

"America's veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal and ruthless tyrants, terrorists and militaries the world has ever known. They stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our nation to become the greatest force of freedom in human history. God bless all who serve."

With those words, Owen began calling to the podium several veterans who were part of the program or who were to be recognized, including retired Sgt Maj. Gregory Knight, who sang the national anthem; Chaplain

Jim Henderson of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, who gave the invocation; and National Guard Sgt. Curtis Lewis of the 128th Military Police Company, who led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

But instead of returning to his seat after the pledge, Owen asked Lewis to remain on the stage as he described to the audience how Lewis saved the life of his "battle buddy" Sgt. Hubble Hainline when they were serving together in Iraq in June 2007. Their story was retold in an article that appeared in the Nov. 12 issue of the *Rocket*. Lewis now uses his Iraq war experience to help train other Soldiers at Redstone Arsenal's Warrior Training Exercise facility.

"Our parade theme this year is 'Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty ... Sergeant Lewis demonstrated 'Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty' that day (in 2007) by maintaining his composure, utilizing his training and directing the actions of others to ensure the survival of Sergeant Hainline," Owen said.

And, with that Lewis and Hainline, who was also in the audience, received a standing ovation. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles and Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile

See Tribute on page 17



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SALUTING A WAR FIGHTER**— National Guard Capt. Jeff Owen, who emceed the Veterans Day Breakfast, tells the story of how National Guard Sgt. Curtis Lewis, right, saved the life of his "battle buddy," National Guard Sgt. Hubble Hainline, when they were attacked by sniper fire in Iraq. Lewis, now a Redstone Arsenal employee, was honored at the breakfast.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SINCERE THANKS**— Retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet shakes the hand of wounded warrior Marine Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Pcola during the 10th annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Von Braun Center North Hall on Nov. 11. Pcola was among 17 Marines and two Soldiers, all wounded in the Global War on Terrorism, who were thanked for their service during the event. Behind Pcola is AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles and SMDC commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, among other representatives from Redstone Arsenal. Helping him from the stage is National Guard Capt. Jeff Owen.

# Vietnam POW recalls moment of insight about captors

*'We are blessed as Americans,' he says*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

With the help of an old nail, Air Force Col. Leo Thorsness, a Vietnam prisoner of war captured in 1967, was able to make a peephole in the mortar of his cell wall.

That peephole not only provided Thorsness with a sense of the world outside his cell, but also gave him a new insight about his captors that sustained him through his torturous imprisonment.

Catching a glimpse of one of his guards through the peephole, Thorsness realized "With a flip of a coin, my parents were American. His were Vietnamese."

"If he lives to be 100, he won't experience half of what I had in my 35 years just because I was an American. He represents two-thirds of the people in the world that don't live in freedom ... When I was born I was handed a platter of rights and freedoms and opportunities that he will never experience. We are just very blessed as Americans."

With that thought, Thorsness was able to face his captors, and endure solitary confinement and torture.

"I was ahead of the game," he recalled. "It changed my attitude about



Leo Thorsness

my condition. I didn't like being in prison, but that realization made it more bearable."

Thorsness, who spent six years as a POW in the Hanoi Hilton in North Vietnam, shared some of his experiences with servicemembers, veterans and civilians as the guest speaker at the Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 11.

In April 1967, Thorsness was flying an F-105 Fighter on his 93rd mission when he was shot down by a Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 over North Vietnam. During his captivity, he was imprisoned with Sen. John McCain and Huntsville native Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mike Christian, who has since died. Christian is known for making an American flag out of bits and pieces of clothing that fellow POWs used when saying the pledge of allegiance. When the flag was discovered, Christian was beaten by his captors. But once he recovered from the beating, Christian immediately made another flag for his fellow POWs.

Referring to the military in his audience, Thorsness said anyone who has raised their hand and made an oath to serve their country "knows they might have to give their life ... understands the cost and value of freedom."

"I didn't really learn the ultimate value of freedom until I lost it ... It's hard to understand what happened to me. But it did."

During his first three years of captivity, Thorsness was brutally and repeatedly beaten, and left in the silence of solitary confinement. He spent a year in a 5-by-6 cell. He endured the Vietnamese "form of intimidation, degradation and humiliation."

The day he found the nail was a turning point for Thorsness.

"I was naked, but somehow I found a way to hide the rusty nail. There was a lot of value in that nail," he said. "With the nail and time, I bored a hole in the mortar between two bricks. I would spend hours at that little peephole. I hid the peephole by filling it with dirt."

Thorsness' last three years in captivity were better. He was kept in a cell with other POWs and they were allowed to talk to each other. In 1973, Thorsness was among 591 Americans released from Vietnamese prisoner of war camps. Injuries he sustained during his capture and as a POW caused him to be medically disqualified from further flying and he retired from the Air Force in October 1973.

Thorsness is the recipient of the Medal of Honor, two Silver Stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts and 16 Air Medals for his service in Vietnam. His post-military career has included service as a state senator from Washington and as vice chairman of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. He recently moved to Madison and was inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes at the 2008 Veterans Day Dinner.

Madison County has quickly become home to Thorsness.

"I've never lived in a community that's more patriotic and more appreciative of veterans, and that understands the cost of freedom," he told the audience at the Veterans Day Breakfast.

## ■ Past and present war fighters honored at breakfast

### Tribute

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Defense Command, then presented Lewis with the first commander's coins of the breakfast program.

The two generals were then joined by Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco of PEO-Missiles and Space, AUSA president retired Col. Mike Howell and Veterans Day chairman and AUSA state president Drolet.

The officials presented commander's coins to the wounded warriors who were hosted during the Veterans Day weekend by the Semper Fi Community Task Force. Besides Pcola, the wounded warriors included Marine Sgt. Jason Finch, Sgt. Keith Klein, Sgt. Neil Lowy, Sgt. David Aguirre, Sgt. Calvin Smith, Sgt. Christopher Filley, Cpl. George Hodak, Cpl. Daniel Hodak, Cpl. Albert Harper, Cpl. Mike Cole, Cpl. Aaron Castanon, Lance Cpl. Randy Mahaffey, Lance Cpl. Brian Vargas, Lance Cpl. Brent Callendar, Lance Cpl. Richard Caseltine, Lance Cpl. Stevel Legerlotz, and Army Sgt. Sean Lewis and Maj. Brian Brittain.

In addition, their spouses or significant others received a Blue Star Banner to display in the front window of their home to show their "family's pride in their loved one serving in the military and remind

others that preserving America's freedom demands much," said special presenter David Carney, president of the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

Myles also presented the Bronze Star to three World War II veterans – Pfc. John T. Moore Jr.; Technician 5th Grade Jack M. Carroll; and Sgt. Clyde W. Hooten. The Bronze Star is awarded for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. The Army has authorized the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star to Soldiers who received the combat infantry badge or the combat medical badge during WW II.

Other awards were given at the Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 10. Bill Stender was presented with the Veteran of the Year Award by the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition for his efforts to establish the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville's Veterans Park. Lifetime achievement awards were presented to retired 1st Sgt. Al Farrar and retired Chief Warrant Officer Ed Banville, and special awards were given to Joe Fitzgerald, president of Honor Flight. Four veterans – Leo Thorsness, Sidney Lyons, Peter Ritch and Vernon Collins – were inducted in the Madison County Hall of Heroes while 12 veterans received the Purple Heart from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



Photo by Sharee Miller

## Ice breaker

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles drops the puck at the Association of the U.S. Army Military Night hockey game with UAH vs. Bemidji State at the Von Braun Center Nov. 8. The hockey game was part of the weeklong Veterans Day celebrations.

# Postal Service sets holiday mailing guidelines

*Send to troops in Iraq by Dec. 4 deadline*

By SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — As the holidays approach and military families start thinking about what they're going to send loved ones serving overseas, there are a few dates to keep in mind.

"The earliest deadline is for troops that are serving in the Iraq (and) Afghanistan area," said Al DeSarro, spokesman for the western region of the U.S. Postal Service. "You want to send all your holiday mail and packages (to those areas) by Dec. 4."

Holiday mail, including packages and cards, going to military bases in other parts of the world should be shipped by Dec. 11.

"We do encourage people to closely follow these deadlines," DeSarro said. "Of course, we make every attempt, even if you miss the deadline, to deliver the mail to our troops."

Pseudo-Santas who can't beat those dates have another option to get holiday goodies to their destinations in time: Express Mail. But it will cost a bit more and it's not available for servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes are the best value when shipping to military members serving at home or anywhere overseas, DeSarro said. The largest flat-rate box costs \$10.95 to ship to an APO or FPO address. That's a \$2 discount, and the boxes are free.

The flat-rate boxes come with another bonus. If it will fit in the box, and weighs 70 pounds or less, it ships at the established rate.

"We also offer a special military package kit, ... and this applies even if you want to send to our troops here in the U.S.," DeSarro said. "If you call ... 1-800-610-8734, they'll send you a free kit of packaging materials — priority mail boxes, tape, labels and stuff that can make your holiday packing much easier."

When shipping any holiday package, there are some basic guidelines to take into consideration, he added. If a USPS-provided box isn't being used, senders should make sure the box they're using is sturdy. Don't use wrapping paper or string on the outside, and print both the shipping and return addresses clearly. Contents should be packaged securely and in leak-proof containers, and consider the customs of the country to ensure the items are appropriate and acceptable.

USPS also suggests including the mailing address, return address and the contents of the box on a slip of paper with the other contents, just in case something out of the ordinary should happen.

Following not only the shipping date guidelines, but also the general packing guidelines can help the USPS get packages where they're going during their busiest time of the year.

DeSarro urges people to mail as much as they want and as early as they can, noting that officials expect 20 million pounds of mail will be sent U.S. troops this holiday season.

# Advanced blood sugar meter arrives at Fox

All Department of Defense military treatment facilities have replaced the Accu-Chek Comfort blood sugar monitor with the Precision Xtra Advanced Diabetes Management System.

This advanced blood sugar meter is easy to use, requires less blood for testing and allows for alternate site sampling, in addition to the fingertips. The Precision Xtra monitor stores 450 test results, allowing patients to see the date, time, and day of the week and their 7, 14 and 28 day averages. Results take just five minutes with this machine.

The Fox Army Health Center Wellness Center and Pharmacy staff will issue the new Precision Xtra monitors and provide a short training session to beneficiaries on the following dates at the Wellness Center: Nov. 24 from 2:30-3 p.m.; Nov. 25 from 8:30-9 a.m.; Nov. 26 from 9-9:30 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m.; Dec. 1 from 3-3:30 p.m.; Dec. 2 from 4-4:30 p.m.; and Dec. 5 from 12-12:30 p.m.

The monitor training will take approximately 20 minutes. Prior to the training please eat, drink, and take the diabetic medication at your normal schedule. No blood sugar tests will be performed in class.

Call Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888, ext. 1430 to schedule a time for you to come and receive your new Precision Xtra Advanced Diabetes Management System blood sugar meter. This allows Fox staffers to have the new meter and testing supplies prescribed for you prior to the beginning of class so they can answer any questions you might have about using your new machine.

If you are unable to attend this training, schedule an appointment with your primary care provider to obtain a prescription for the new meter and test strips before you run out of your blood sugar monitoring supplies. *(Fox Army Health Center release)*



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

## *The graduates*

Graduating interns at the AMCOM Acquisition Center gather after their program from April through October.

# Bayji Depot control transitions to Iraqi Army

By MICHELLE HARLAN

Huntsville Engineering Center

When the U.S. Army handed over full control of the depot to the Iraqi Army in a ceremony Sept. 29, Bayji National Ammunition Depot became the location of an historic milestone for military operations in Iraq.

The Bayji Depot (formerly Arlington Depot), located 135 miles north of Baghdad, is the one operating depot for receiving, packaging and issuing ammunition to the new Iraqi Army.

The Huntsville Center Coalitions Munitions Clearance program has been active in the Global War on Terror mission since Aug. 23, 2003, when they first took control of six former Iraqi Ammunition Supply Points throughout Iraq. They have been responsible for destroying more than 670 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition. Over time, the smaller ASPs were closed and all ammunition saved for the new Iraqi Army was transferred to two remaining ASPs, including the largest location at Bayji.

Iraqi forces have now assumed control of operations at Bayji depot and have assigned 700 to 800 Iraqi Army personnel to the site. The Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq has an assistance team located at the site and the Huntsville Center has two contractors, Environmental Chemical Corporation and Parsons Engineering at the site. The Huntsville Center contractors are providing depot transition oversight and logistics support to the U.S. Army team. Kirk Baumann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager, oversees the Corps contractor operations at Bayji which are expected to remain onsite until July 31, 2009.

"We are here to document observations of the Iraqi Army ammunition program, give guidance to the Iraqi Army when required and to report back to MNSTC-I," Baumann said.

Brenda Hatley, Huntsville Center project manager for CMC, said the goal over the next eight months is to help the Iraqis become self-sufficient in operating and maintaining the depot. The Iraqi Army spent four weeks transitioning prior to the turnover. The four-week transition was twofold. Force protection was handed over to the Iraqi Army after sufficient onsite training on entry control point



Courtesy photo

**GAINING CONTROL**— Soldiers in the Iraqi Army celebrate after the U.S. Army handed over control of the Bayji National Ammunition depot to them during a ceremony Sept. 29.

and guard tower operations.

Their initial training on weapons qualification and ECP operations was conducted at Besmaya Combat Training Cen-

ter during the unit's training in August prior to movement to the depot. Depot specific standard operating procedures were done on site in September. The Iraqi

Army is learning how to maintain and run a depot and continues to get daily guidance on material handling equipment, wearing personal protective

equipment, storage considerations, and banding and moving pallets of ammunition.

A top priority for the Iraqi Army is to take ammunition that is currently staged in open storage revetments and exposed to the elements and get it secured in warehouses and bunkers. Also, there are ongoing planning efforts for depot improvements, such as repairing the electrical power grid for lighting and a water pipeline from Bayji. Baumann believes the transfer has been successful and will continue to be so, as long as the depot continues to receive timely support from the Iraq Minister of Defense for logistics, security of the installation is maintained and the Iraqi Army soldiers stay motivated.

"Bottom line, the depot is still in its infancy. Improvements are noticed daily. This is a large depot with a lot of potential. It has a long way to go, but progress is being made," Baumann said. "The Iraqis convey daily that they are comfortable with their American friends and glad that we're here helping and providing oversight. They feel safe at the depot and have a sense of accomplishment and pride in ownership."

## TMDE workers go to Idaho for training

Two members of TMDE Activity's Army Dosimetry Center participated in a field training exercise Sept. 27 to Oct. 3 at the Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

The exercise was designed for teams to locate, identify and quantify radioactive sources using field survey techniques and equipment.

The course concluded with a three-day field training exercise incorporating basic military skills and the team's technical skills. This course was developed in response to experiences gained by nuclear medical science officers during deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The ADC members were Gabriel Lockwood, a safety intern, and Gail Smith, an engineering technician.

ADC personnel were nominated for this training by the chief of the Health Physics Office, Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, in an effort to cross-level Army resources and personnel with other science-related specialties. CHPPM provided temporary duty funding for all participants. (TMDE release)



Gail Smith



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## *Jeopardy contest*

Valerie Brown of Integrated Air and Missile Defense keeps score Thursday during a Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space competition on Indian trivia for Native American Heritage Month. The winning team was Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office's Lloyd Olsen and Regina Williams. And the first runner-up was Lower Tier Project Office's David Cook.

# Flag football teams fight for playoff lives

Postseason tournament raises intensity level

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

Headquarters & Alpha running back/linebacker Draper Hollier described the magnitude of playoff games.

"There's no tomorrow," he said. "Do or die."

That's the difference between the flag football season and the postseason tournament, scheduled to conclude tonight at 6 with the championship final on the Patton Road field.

Right tackle Terek Myers was the difference as Headquarters & Alpha edged 326th Chemical Company 29-28 in a second-round thriller Nov. 12. He caught seven passes for 116 yards and a touchdown for the Gators.

"He basically carried us on his back and started walking," Hollier said.

As time expired in the first half, Myers caught a 45-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Darrell Thomas. The pass was deflected in the end zone and Myers made the catch as he fell. He then caught another deflected pass for two points and a 14-all halftime tie.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GOING FOR IT— Civilian Welfare Fund wide receiver David Benjamin fights for yardage in a 46-34 win over NCO Academy on Nov. 12.**

"They overplayed the running back and left the right tackle open all night," Thomas said.

Thomas completed 14-of-25 passes for 164 yards and the touchdown. He also had touchdown runs of 15 and 10 yards.

"Just executing on offense," he said, "and get our right tackle pass, march down the field with the option."

The 326th opened the scoring at 16:21 in the first half on quarterback Johnie Walker's 10-yard touchdown pass to

David Ali. Walker connected with Eddie Bryan for two points and an 8-0 lead.

The Gators (6-3) responded with an eight-play, 50-yard drive including two 10-yard catches by Myers. Thomas scored from 15 yards to close within 8-6 at 10:24.

Walker threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Carlos Hickenbotham to put the Dragons up 14-6 with two seconds left in the half. Thomas fielded the ensuing kickoff at his 35 and called timeout with one second left to give the Gators a chance to tie the score before intermission.

Myers took care of the rest.

"He had an outstanding night," Headquarters & Alpha player/coach Javier Cardoza said. "He was the main factor. When they tried to key on him, it opened up other guys."

"We wanted to win," Myers said. "That's it, we wanted to win. So we had to dig deep. They beat us last time (during the season), so we just had to make adjustments. And we just came out here and got it done."

Adam Goodwin put the Gators ahead to stay with his 35-yard interception return for a touchdown at 14:38 in the second half. Thomas then passed to Myers for two points and a 22-14 lead.

"I knew they were coming to my side," Goodwin said of his defensive gem. "When I saw the formation, I was kind of

ready for it. I read the quarterback's eyes and saw he was ready to pitch the ball. And I broke on the ball and caught it and ran to the end zone."

The 326th (6-3) answered with Walker's 17-yard touchdown pass to Hickenbotham at 11:06 to pull within 22-20.

Thomas' 10-yard run, followed by his two-point pass to Myers, pushed the lead to 29-20 with 5:20 left.

The Dragons ended the scoring at 3:04 on Walker's 32-yard pass to Hickenbotham and his two-point toss to Ali. They had a chance to regain possession on downs on their own 21, but they were whistled for roughing Gators quarterback Thomas on a pass attempt in the final minute. Headquarters & Alpha got a new set of downs and ran out the clock.

"We all worked together," Cardoza said. "If one slacked off, the other picked it up."

Here are postseason tournament results through last week:

**Nov. 6:** 326th Chemical def. Charlie 22-6; Headquarters & Alpha def. Bravo 14-8; and HHC 59th def. Marines 12-6.

**Nov. 12:** Civilian Welfare Fund def. NCO Academy 46-34; Headquarters & Alpha def. 326th Chemical 29-28; and Bravo def. Charlie 28-0.

**Nov. 13:** CWF def. HHC 59th 44-28; and Marines def. NCO Academy 22-15.

# Sooners should stymie Texas Tech

Oklahoma OK for showdown

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

Skip's Picks were 371-140 for 73 percent after 12 weeks of college football. Here are this week's predictions:

- Texas Tech at Oklahoma — **Okla.**
- Alabama A&M at Miss. Valley State — **A&M**
- Mississippi at LSU — **LSU**
- Tennessee at Vanderbilt — **Vandy**
- Ball State at Central Michigan — **Ball State**
- Miami (Fla.) at Georgia Tech — **Miami**
- Fresno State at San Jose State — **San Jose**
- Army at Rutgers — **Rutgers**
- Clemson at Virginia — **Virginia**
- Indiana at Purdue — **Purdue**
- Michigan at Ohio State — **OSU**
- N. C. State at North Carolina — **UNC**
- West Virginia at Louisville — **WV**
- The Citadel at Florida — **UF**
- Furman at Wofford — **Wofford**

- Colorado State at Wyoming — **CS**
- UCF at Memphis — **Memphis**
- Arkansas at Miss. State — **MSU**
- Syracuse at Notre Dame — **ND**
- Marshall at Rice — **Rice**
- Tulane at Tulsa — **Tulsa**
- Washington at Wash. State — **WS**
- Air Force at TCU — **TCU**
- Boston College at Wake Forest — **Wake**
- Iowa State at Kansas State — **KS**
- Illinois at Northwestern — **Northwestern**
- Michigan State at Penn State — **PSU**
- Stanford at California — **Cal**
- East Carolina at UAB — **East**
- Boise State at Nevada — **Boise**
- Texas-El Paso at Houston — **Houston**
- Duke at Virginia Tech — **VT**
- Brigham Young at Utah — **BYU**
- Iowa at Minnesota — **Iowa**
- Oregon State at Arizona — **OSU**
- Pittsburgh at Cincinnati — **Pitt**
- Florida State at Maryland — **FSU**
- Idaho at Hawaii — **Hawaii**
- Connecticut at South Florida — **SF**



# PX price surveys help ensure savings for families

With a value proposition like “We Save You Money...Everyday” and a mission to provide military shoppers with quality goods and services at competitively low prices, the Post Exchange has to work double-time to deliver savings troops have come to expect. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s assault on high prices actually begins with Ruby Downing, a market price coordinator whose main duty is to compare the prices of top sellers in key categories with the local competition at least once a month.

“Ruby is our eyes and ears outside the gate,” general manager Carl Carpenter said. “From gas to gum, she ensures the PX’s prices are comparable, if not lower, than the competition.”

As price coordinator, Downing conducts periodic checks at local convenience, liquor and big box stores, comparing prices on items in each department. The results are sent to the Sales Directorate Pricing Team at AAFES headquarters in Dallas, Texas. From there, pre-tax shelf prices are set to be comparable to the competition. Shelf prices are of primary concern because all products available at the PX, except for gasoline, are not subject to sales tax.

In addition to regular, local price surveys, AAFES offers a “We’ll Match It!” program that acts as a last line of defense to ensure shoppers at Redstone Arsenal always receive the lowest price possible when shopping the PX. If a shopper sees a price differential of less than \$10, they can simply tell the cashier who will match it on the spot. Anyone who reports a price difference of \$10 or more need only bring a current local competitor’s ad to receive the reduced price.

“AAFES is committed to having low prices,” Carpenter said. “From our market price coordinator to ‘We’ll Match It!,’ Redstone Arsenal families can shop comfortably knowing this command is dedicated to ‘saving them money every day.’” (AAFES release)



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

## *Giving thanks*

**Col. Dave Rice, left, project manager for Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems, welcomes his workers to a Thanksgiving buffet at their office in building 5250. Rice thanked them for all their hard work to support war fighters in 2008.**

# 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. 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. For more information, call 876-4868 or 876-6854.

### Fitness center hours

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 22, Redstone Fitness Center will be closed on Sundays. "We will continue serving your fitness needs at Pagano Gym, building 3474, during the same hours of 10-6," a prepared release said.

### Pancake breakfast

The Columbia High School baseball team invites the Redstone community to its Pancake Breakfast on Saturday from 7-9:30 a.m. at the Applebee's in Madison, at the corner of Old Madison Pike and Hughes Road. The meal will be pancakes and sausage with coffee, milk, or orange juice to drink. Tickets are being sold in advance for \$5 per person or at the door. Call Jay Gautreaux 313-8341 for more information and to purchase a ticket.

### Benefit walk

You can help fight childhood cancer "One Step at a Time." Participate in "GIVE THANKS, One Step at a Time," a walk to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, on Saturday at Madison Square Mall. Registration begins at 7 a.m., and the walk begins at 8. For more information and to preregister, visit [www.givethankswalk.org](http://www.givethankswalk.org).



## 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 Sergeant's 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 holds Bible study classes every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis for the 9:30 study. PWOC also provides adult supervision for home-schooled children at the chapel for the 9:30 study. "The lunchtime Bible

study meets from 11:30-12:30 so take an hour off from your busy workday to release, refresh and regroup while learning of the healing power of God's word," a prepared release said. For more information, call Laura Keegan 489-7686 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404. The contact for the lunchtime group is Mattie L. Jones 828-9890 or 508-7744.

### Computer users

The Huntsville PC User Group's Windows/Internet Special Interest Group will meet at 9:15 a.m. Dec. 13 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. At 10:45, Ron Schmitz, former HPCUG president and leader of the Hardware SIG, will present his annual review of the latest Intel motherboard and chip developments. The discussion will cover the features and performances of the various Intel chips and chipsets as measured by popular benchmark programs. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 534-4324.

### 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.



Courtesy photo

## Car upkeep

**Bill Woosley, manager of the Auto Skills Center, explains the different types of fluids to check in a car during a meeting of the Waiting Spouses. He invited the spouses of deployed military personnel to learn how to maintain their vehicles and save money by stopping at his facility at building 3617 on Entac Circle. The Relocation Assistance Program at Army Community Service coordinates the support group for families geographically separated from their servicemember due to hardship tours or deployments. The next meeting of the Waiting Spouses is Dec. 2 from noon to 1 at ChildWise, building 1413 on Nike St. Free child care is provided at the play-morning house while the spouses meet upstairs. For more information about Waiting Spouses, call Mary Breeden of ACS at 876-5397.**

## Rocket Association

Huntsville Forces Communications and Electronics Association will meet Thursday at the Holiday Inn-Research Park, near Madison Square Mall. The luncheon, co-sponsored by the Huntsville Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Chapter and the Air Force Association (AFA), will feature guest speaker Dr. Ken Fernandez of the Advanced Concepts Branch Science and Mission Systems Office NASA. His topic is "Opportunities for NASA/Department of Defense on Unmanned Systems." Sign-in begins at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30. Corporate tables (seating eight) are available, and individual reservations are welcome. Call Chris Downing 799-1520.

### Alcoholics anonymous

Al-Anon/Alateen is a 12-step program for those who have a loved one faced with a drinking problem. For more information, call 885-0323 or visit [www.alanon-alateen.org](http://www.alanon-alateen.org).

### Aviation maintainers

The Aviation and Missile Command is hosting the 2008 Maintenance Test Pilot/Maintenance Examiner Conference on Dec. 2-4 at Bob Jones Auditorium. The conference provides a forum for aviation maintainers to discuss tactical and strategic maintenance issues affecting aviation readiness and to determine solutions to

operations. The conference is open to military, Army civilians and contractors. Personnel and companies representing foreign nations are excluded from attending and exhibiting at the conference. Attendees and potential exhibitors are welcome to register at the following website: <https://www2.redstonemwr.com/conferences/MPME/welcome.html>. Please monitor AKO at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/kc/10955767f> or current information and e-mail MPME Conference questions or concerns to [redstone.mpme08@us.army.mil](mailto:redstone.mpme08@us.army.mil).

### 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.

### Contract managers

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will have a luncheon meeting Thursday at Trinity United Methodist Church. Garfield Boon, chief of Acquisition Management Division at the Space and Missile Defense Command, will provide an acquisition update. For more information, visit [www.ncmahsv.org](http://www.ncmahsv.org).

### 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.

### Officer association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Pamela McCue, director of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

### Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society chapter) will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. NASA physicist and author Les Johnson will speak about his co-authored and newly released "Solar Sails A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel." A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 506-3833.



## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or

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transfers from other Reserve/Part-time Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9436 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

### **Civilian deployment**

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

### **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

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/>.

### **Surplus sales**

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

### **Computer classes**

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

### **Motorcycle safety**

To permanently register a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal, the DoD requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. There are two programs offered free of charge to Army personnel and on a space available basis to others authorized access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Keith Coates at the Garrison Safety Office 876-

3383, e-mail [keith.coates@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.coates@us.army.mil) or e-mail MSF instructor Ralph Harris at [93hdstc@bellsouth.net](mailto:93hdstc@bellsouth.net).

### **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 Maj. Cyrus Russ 539-6511 or 539-6512.

### **Pilots wanted**

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking qualified applicants to apply for Warrant Officer Flight Training School.

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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 Maj. Cyrus Russ 539-6511 or 539-6512.

### **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 518-3972.

### **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

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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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:steven.ray.mcfadden@us.army.mil) or the ICE administrator Wendy Norris at [wendy.norris1@us.army.mil](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:alyson.mortier@us.army.mil).

## 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](mailto:jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com).

## 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.

## 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://artscrafts.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 today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 3222 on Snooper Road.

## 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](mailto:valerie.coffey@us.army.mil).

## Native American month

The Team Redstone event for Native American Heritage Month is today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at NASA building 4316. The program will include a traditional American Indian pow-wow, children's events and food samples.

## 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.

## Angel tree

CYSS will have an Angel Tree displayed in the mall area of the Post Exchange through Dec. 5. "Please come by and select an angel off 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.

## DRMO news

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office will be closed Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 during the holiday season. "We will be

observing the holidays and the day after," a prepared release said. The DRMO will reopen the following Monday after closures for normal business hours.

## Tour of homes

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club presents the "I'll Be Home for Christmas" Tour of Homes 2008 on Dec. 7 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Registration is from 1-1:30 p.m. The tour is 1:30-3:30, followed by a dessert reception 3:30-4:30. Tickets are \$10, paid RSVP only — mail checks to Karen Stanish, made out to RSA OCWC, 442 Simpson, Huntsville, AL 35808. Tickets are available to all military families and their guests. Children 10-plus years old are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Child care arrangements must be made for children under 10. Nursing infants are welcome. The paid reservation deadline is Dec. 3. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

## Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Civilian employees, contractors and spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

## Library story time

There's a special book place just for chil-

dren at the FMWR Post Library, and every Wednesday at 10 a.m. interactive stories are read to young children. After story time the children may stay to play in the children's room where Ling Ling the panda sits at the little red table. Children of any age may come — the story time is especially designed for babies and then on up through kindergarten. This is a casual drop-in small group experience, and the books are chosen to match the children present. The aim is to help children fall in love with books and libraries at a very young age. The library is building 3323 on Redeye Road. For more information, call the library 876-4741.

## Employment briefing

A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a Federal Employment Briefing on Dec. 4 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The information provided will help participants understand the federal application process. Topics will include recruitment sources, Resumix procedures, candidate evaluation and the referral process. This session is open to all military ID cardholders. Call ACS at 876-5397 to reserve a seat.

## Community grants

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club, which distributes money to non-profit groups each year, is now accepting applications for grants. To receive a copy of the application form, e-mail Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, at puaaloha@bellsouth.net. Forms are also available in the OCWC Southern Exposure Newsletter. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form. Deadline for submission is Feb. 28. Requests postmarked or received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information, call Robley 882-6064. OCWC is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

## Casseroles wanted

Redstone Arsenal MWR is holding the Salute to the Military Thanksgiving celebration Nov. 23 and needs casseroles for this event. "We want to provide these Soldiers and Marines with a home cooked meal, rest and relaxation but we're running short on a couple of things," a prepared release said. Anyone who would like to donate a casserole can take it to building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road or bring it to the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads, Friday through Sunday, Nov. 21-23. For more information, call 876-5232 or 876-4531.

## Parking advisory

The parking lots around building 112 will be expanded or repaved and restriped. In addition Cooper Road, starting at building 112 heading north around to Hankins Road, will be milled and resurfaced. This project began Nov. 3 and should conclude by Dec. 3. For questions call the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works 842-3289 or 755-1816.

## Holiday gala

The 100 Black Men holiday gala is Dec. 27 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Reception starts at 7 p.m. and the dinner at 8. Cost is \$50 per person, \$400 per table. For more information, call 536-8050.

## Crafts show

The Northeast Alabama Craftsmen's 36th annual Christmas show is Dec. 5-7 in the Von Braun Center South Hall. Hours to this free event are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. All profits are donated to local charities.

## Flu shots

Fox Army Health Center will give flu

shots to active duty family members and military retirees and their family members Thursday from 1-4 p.m. at the health center. After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given to this group on a walk-in basis in the Primary Care Clinic. Current DoD civilians may get their flu shots Thursday from 1-4 p.m. in the Occupational Health Clinic at Fox. After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given to DoD civilians on a walk-in basis in the Occupational Health Clinic. By regulation, retired DOD civilians and their family members and contractors are not eligible to receive the flu shot from Fox, unless they also fit into one of the beneficiary categories. For more information call Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1026.

## Marketplace

Delta Zeta Marketplace 2008 is Friday through Sunday at the Von Braun Center South Hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Proceeds go toward the Huntsville Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and other local charities. For information call 533-1953.

## Thanksgiving gifts

The Downtown Rescue Mission expects to break records for serving Thanksgiving dinners and the giving out of Thanksgiving Food Boxes to needy families, according to a prepared release. The food box contains a complete Thanksgiving family dinner that includes a turkey. Last year the Downtown Rescue Mission gave away 300 turkey dinner boxes and cooked and served another 200 turkey dinners for the

See **Announcements** on page 29

# Rocket Announcements

Great Thanksgiving Banquet 2008. This year they anticipate giving away more than 500 turkey dinner boxes and cooking another 200 turkey dinners for the Great Thanksgiving Banquet. The Thanksgiving Food Boxes will be handed out at the new Downtown Rescue Mission campus at 1400 Evangel Drive on Nov. 24. The event begins at 1:30 p.m. with a chapel service by Doc Overholt. At 2 the staff and volun-

teers will begin handing out the turkey dinner boxes. Many of the boxes are put directly into the trunks of cars because many of the recipients are elderly and disabled. The Downtown Rescue Mission is hopeful that donations will increase and enable it to meet the growing demand. For more information, call 713-4331. You can donate online at [www.downtownrescue-mission.org](http://www.downtownrescue-mission.org).

# POLLUTION

MAKES ME...

...SEA  
SICK!



Keep storm drains clean  
for those downstream!

For further information, contact the Garrison Environmental Office,  
Storm Water Program Manager at 955-8501.



