

Redstone Rocket

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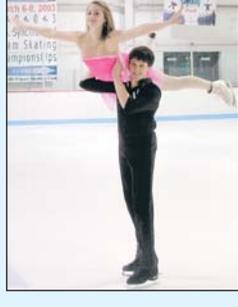
Around town

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At ease

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Over there



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Win or lose



Civilians take football final Page 18

Bearing gifts for military families

Community sends holiday love with help of stuffed toy for kids

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Packed safely away in boxes at the home of John and Brenda Perry are 500 soft and furry little bears that are waiting to be adopted by the children of North Alabama's military.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, children of active, Guard and Reserve families as well as deployed DoD civilians and contractors will be given the gift of a bear at the fifth annual Operation Christmas Bear at the Cahaba Shrine Temple on Pulaski Pike in Huntsville.

The holiday party, set for 1 to 4 p.m., will feature several activities, including face painting, magic shows, holiday crafts, a moon bounce and giant slides, a model train display, story time with Mrs. Claus, and lots of fun clowns and life-size characters, including Frosty the Snowman, Minnie Mouse and a Holiday Bear.

The centerpiece of the event is the visit each child has with Santa Claus and the gift of the cute and cuddly stuffed bear, whose neck is adorned with a military scarf.

"To see the looks on the kids' faces when they come to Operation Christmas Bear is so rewarding for all of the volunteers," event chairman John Perry said. "It's really a happy day. It's a big party and everything is free."

Spearheaded by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, Operation Christmas Bear is supported by numerous volunteers and local businesses eager to show their appreciation and support to the area's military and their families.

"It's a way for us to give something back to the families of Soldiers who have given us more than we could ever give in return," said Perry's wife, Brenda, who is one of the event's chief volunteers.

Families are asked to register for Operation Christmas Bear through Army Community Service. They should call 876-5397 or e-mail mary.breedan@us.army.mil.

Many local military families attend Operation Christ-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BEARS REPEATING— The home of John and Brenda Perry is the temporary residence of 500 holiday bears that will be given to the children of military and deployed DoD civilians and contractors at the fifth annual Operation Christmas Bear. The holiday party, made possible by donations from local businesses and organizations, will be Dec. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shrine Temple.

mas Bear every year. There are also a lot of first-timers who learn about the program through flyers sent out to military units throughout North Alabama.

One of those flyers was mailed to the Reserve's 326th Chemical Company headquarters on Patton Road. Operation Christmas Bear is on the unit's drill weekend, so the company's officers decided to make the holiday party a family activity for its 100 Soldiers and their families. The unit has signed up 40 children for Operation Christmas Bear.

"Normally, we have a pretty big family day," said Sgt. Gregory DeShawn Miller, the 326th's family readiness liaison.

"Instead we've decided to make Operation Christmas Bear part of our

drill weekend. Everyone's excited. It's something a little different than what we normally do. As long as our kids are having fun and their families are having fun it will be a great day for us."

Miller said those Soldiers who are single and who don't have children will also participate in the party by helping with Soldier families or with party activities, or by just enjoying the festivities themselves.

There will be something for children of all ages at Operation Christmas Bear. The fun will start with the arrival of Santa Claus by fire truck, with escorts provided by the Patriot Guard Riders. Once inside, kids will be entertained by amazing magician Russell Davis, as well as emcee Mojo from WZYP, costumed characters, Cahaba Shrine and Huntsville Hospital clowns and Mrs. Claus, who will have her own cozy area where she will read children's stories. There will also be a model train set on display and holiday music will be performed by the Charlie Lyle Band.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

HOME WANTED— Each holiday bear given away at Operation Christmas Bear will come with a military scarf tied around its neck. The scarves were donated by Army Community Service.



An open lane random survey

What are you most thankful for?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



David Sparks
AMCOM Integrated Materiel Manage-
ment Center
"America. And the freedoms that we
have, that America provides."

Ann Arwood

Officers and Civilians Club

"My family. God gave me two won-
derful sons and a good husband.
And we've been married for 40
years."



Spc. Eric Beard
Garrison

"My family, because they're the ones
that mean the most to me."

Sharon Strickland

Phoenix Service

"I'm thankful for being employed
with the economy going on today."



Quote of the week

'A heart is judged not by how much you
love, but by how much you are loved
by others.'

— The wizard in "The Wizard
of Oz" movie (1939)

Letters to the Editor

Taking pause during the holidays

Since we are coming up on the holiday season and with the econo-
my being the way it is, I would like to share this poem with fellow
citizens hoping that it will reach someone who's life is much bet-
ter than what they really know.

What If?

What if it was you wondering how to make ends meet?

When you don't even have food to eat.

What if it was you who was employed by GM, Chrysler or Ford?

And feel like you are being stabbed in the back with a sword.

Then you say, "Oh my Lord!"

What if it was you having to explain to your children why Santa
won't stop at our house this year?

When the end is not even near.

What if it was you losing your job this holiday season?

Due to greed being the main reason.

What if your Christmas falls short of being merry?

Creating a look of worry.

What if?

Just keep in mind... We are blessed by the best!

Happy holidays,

Connie R. Lindsey

A wedding vow to best friend

As I approach my second
wedding anniversary, and
since it's the time of year to
reflect on friends, loved ones and
to count our blessings, I thought
I'd share the wedding vow I made
to my best friend:

"In order for my vow to be
meaningful, I need to share some-
thing I never told you or anyone
else. It's about what I consider to
be the greatest moment of my life.
The greatest moment of my life
happened at the Sacramento Air-
port. I was on the escalator. I was
in my ninth month of a one-year
commitment to Iraq, but was given
the opportunity to come home for
two weeks. I was still in my
Desert Combat Uniform, and my
mind was filled with thoughts of
how shockingly different that
world is from this one. But then I

saw you.

"You were standing perfectly
still. The expression on your face
was one of both intense joy and
intense pain. Tears were rolling
down your cheeks. I got off the
escalator, dropped my backpack
and rushed into your arms. Hold-
ing each other, after nine hard
months, was the greatest moment
of my life. And every second, of
every moment, of every hour, of
every day of the next two weeks
was — paradise. I never knew I
could love someone so much.

"My vow to you is that I will
always honor that moment. And I
will always do all I can to nurture
and protect the love that expressed
itself at that moment.

"I love you, Lori."

Jim Debron

Help mail to deployed troops

S MDC/ARSTRAT is shipping pack-
ages to troops that are deployed but
has run into a snag with the ship-
ping cost. We have already shipped 33
boxes this month but have lots more to
send. Each box is a flat rate of \$10.80.
Any donation for shipping would be
greatly appreciated. We are trying to
make sure our troops have a Holiday
Care Package. I can be notified for addi-
tional information by calling 955-3352.
Let's give back a little to so many that
sacrifice a lot.

Sarah Trial

FRG leader SMDC/ARSTRAT

Reader appreciates POW article

I enjoyed reading the article about Viet-
nam POW Col. Leo Thorsness (Nov.
19 issue). It was full of information
and well organized. My late father —
retired Maj. Owen Pickle (also retired
from the former ATCOM in St. Louis,
Mo.) — was a Japanese POW during
World War II, and his experiences were
similar to Col. Thorsness'. These were
some very tough men.

It is amazing how many people sur-
vived what dad and Col. Thorsness lived
through.

Thanks for the good work.

Judy Stewart

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Name: Mark Germonprez

Job: Business operations officer, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Garrison

Where do you call home?

Topeka, Kan.

What do you like about your job?

Just taking care of Soldiers and people that take care of Soldiers.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

My hobbies are golf, fishing and hunting. I was the golf professional for 15 years at Fort Leavenworth before I came to Alabama. I still am a PGA member.

What are your goals?

Just to continue to help raise my son (Nicklaus, 14, named after golfer Jack Nicklaus), and really to just do the best job I can do here.

What's your favorite type of music?

I like lots of different types of music. But right now I'm listening to a lot of country and a lot of hard rock. I love both.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Nov. 13: An individual entered the Main Exchange, selected items valued at \$164 and left the store without paying. The subject was processed by Redstone Police, issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 14: A motorist was stopped for speeding on Vincent Drive and was found to have a suspended driver's license. He was issued two violation notices and released.

Nov. 14: When a motorist ran over traffic cones at Gate 10, he was driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was issued violation notices for driving under the influence, open container in vehicle and no driver's license. He was detained by Redstone Police until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

Nov. 14: A motorist near Gate 10 struck a concrete jersey barrier and fled on foot. He was located by Redstone Police after a foot chase and was placed under arrest. He was found to be operating his vehicle while under the influence. He was issued violation notices for driving under the influence, no driver's license, resisting arrest, and duty to act upon striking. His vehicle was impounded and he was detained by Redstone Police until his blood alcohol level reached an acceptable level. There were

no reported injuries.

Nov. 14: An unknown motorist struck the perimeter fence off Patton Road and fled the area on foot. Investigation continues by DES investigators and Huntsville Police.

Nov. 17: A motorist was found to be driving with a suspended driver's license when he stopped at Gate 3 to ask directions. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 17: While investigating a traffic accident, Redstone Police discovered that the motorist was driving with a suspended driver's license. She was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 17: A motorist who stopped at Gate 9 to ask for directions had a suspended driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 18: A subject entered the Main Exchange, selected items valued at \$59.95, and left without paying. The subject was processed by Redstone Police, issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 19: When a motorist was stopped for speeding on Rideout Road, he was found to be driving with a suspended driver's license. He was issued two violation notices and released.

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

Violation notices issued: 18 speeding, 3 driving under the influence, 4 suspended driver's license, 2 no driver's license, 1 duty to act upon striking.



Redstone artists win Armywide honors

Selected artists from Redstone Arsenal have been awarded certificates and cash prizes from the Family and Morale Welfare Recreation Command. These artists are among the many Redstone Arsenal finalists that were judged among all Army submissions — statewide, national and international.

Susan Foster, third place (novice) oil painting, \$100 award for "Country Music"; Ruth Parks, third place (novice) digital print, \$100 award for "More of

Me"; Stewart Ford, honorable mention (novice) drawing for "Twisted Trees"; Martha Montgomery, honorable mention (accomplished) watercolor for "Journey's End"; and Alison Levson, honorable mention (accomplished) oil painting for "Sunday Afternoon."

The winning entries may be viewed on the FMWR web site at <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/artsandcrafts/>.

Dunwoody credits family for her successes

First female four-star general leads Army Materiel Command

FORT BELVIOR, Va. — In this world it is hard enough to make history once, but Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody has done it twice in one day.

At 10 a.m. Nov. 14, Dunwoody became the first woman promoted to the rank of four-star general in U.S. armed forces history during a ceremony conducted at the Pentagon. At 2 p.m. Dunwoody officially became the 17th commander, and first female leader, of the Army Materiel Command during a change of command ceremony at Fort Belvoir, the location of AMC headquarters. The Army Materiel Command is moving to Redstone Arsenal under base realignment and closure.

The change of command was presided over by Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and included remarks by Gen. Benjamin Griffin, the outgoing commander of AMC, Casey

and Dunwoody; music by the AMC Band; a ceremonial color guard; and a 17-gun salute by the Salute Battery from the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) from Fort Myer, Va.

Casey lauded the tremendous accomplishments of Griffin and then welcomed Dunwoody to AMC.

“Ann is no stranger to the war on terror, having done a yeoman’s work in the Army’s G-4 in charge of logistics — our logistics — for three years before coming to AMC,” he said. “You have big shoes to fill, but I am confident you will fill them with the same professionalism, pride and expertise with which you have done everything else for the past 33-plus years.”

Casey also complimented the work of AMC’s Soldiers, civilians and contractors.

“Seldom in our history have our Soldiers faced greater challenges. We’ve served at a time when the stakes for our

See **Success** on page 5



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Legislative visit

Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby, deputy program executive officer for aviation, welcomes members of the Alabama State Legislature during their visit Saturday to Redstone Arsenal.

AMC’s new commander addresses work force

Gen. Dunwoody outlines goals, answers questions

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Gen. Ann Dunwoody held her first town hall meeting Friday as the new commander of the Army Materiel Command.

Redstone workers filled the 650-seat Bob Jones Auditorium to watch the telecast which was viewed throughout AMC.

“I am thrilled, delighted and honored to be a part of this huge organization,” said Dunwoody, the nation’s first female four-star general. “And I look forward to the journey we’ll have over the next few years.”

K.C. Bertling, special emphasis program manager in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, was among the attendees in the auditorium. She said she was impressed with the new leader of high-end headquarters.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SETTING PRIORITIES— Army Materiel Command’s Gen. Ann Dunwoody speaks to workers throughout AMC in a town hall meeting Friday, telecast in Bob Jones Auditorium.

“She’s really good. I look forward to it,” Bertling said. “I think she’s excited. She’s exciting for our community and especially in the women’s point of view. She has her views, strategy and (is) caring for people. She’s good. She’s dynamic, a dynamic leader.”

“Her briefing was very creative and she has great sense of humor.”



Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames

PROMOTION CEREMONY— Chief of staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. pins the fourth star on Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody during a ceremony at the Pentagon on Nov. 14. Casey is assisted by Dunwoody’s husband, Craig Brotchie.

Army Emergency Relief earns 4 star rating

WASHINGTON — Army Emergency Relief has earned its third consecutive 4 star rating from CharityNavigator, one of the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

This coveted rating reflects AER's sound fiscal management and program efficiency in providing financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. According to CharityNavigator, only 10 percent of the charities they rate have received at least

three consecutive 4 star evaluations.

AER is the Army's own military aid society founded in 1942 in response to the need for Soldiers and their families experiencing financial emergencies in World War II. Since its founding, AER has provided over \$1 billion of assistance to Soldiers and their families in the form of no-interest loans or outright grants.

This year AER is on track

for another record breaking year in supporting Soldiers and their families. Faced with the demands of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan along with the challenges of today's economy, total AER assistance is running 12 percent ahead of last year.

AER provides financial assistance for such needs as emergency travel, housing, car repair, food and utilities. With assistance provided in the form of no-

interest loans and grants, AER provides the Army a valuable resource in helping take care of its Army family.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their families wherever they are located and the amount of assistance approved is only limited by valid need. Soldiers and their family members requiring AER assistance need only contact their chain of command or local AER office. Redstone Arsenal's AER office is locat-

ed at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road; the phone number is 876-5397. Soldiers and families not near an AER office can still seek assistance from one of the other military aid societies or the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Full details on AER's assistance programs may be found by calling Army Community Service at 876-5397 or on the web at www.aerhq.org. (AER release)

■ 'I'm thrilled and honored ... to lead AMC'

Success

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nation are high and for our way of life are high, and the demand on our force is significant," he said. "Your mission at AMC is a matter of profound consequence and you continue to reflect the very best of our nation, even after seven years of war."

Dunwoody is now the Army's lead logistician, in charge of supplying everything Soldiers need to fight and win this nation's wars, from food and water to bullets and bombs to clothing, vehicles and every type of military equipment.

She will oversee more than 60,000 military and civilian employees — many with specialties in weapons development, manufacturing and logistics — who are located at 149 locations worldwide, including more than 40 states and 50 countries.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and honored to have been selected to lead AMC," she said. "I know that the team at AMC shares your (Casey's) and the Secretary's (of the Army Pete Geren) vision and your passion for this great Army. When Soldiers see the AMC patch, they know they will get help, they know they will get what they need. When they see our symbol they know AMC will respond with great urgency."

Dunwoody is now one of only 11 four-

star generals in the Army. With 33 years of service, Dunwoody has accomplished several other historical firsts — including being the first female assigned as deputy commanding general of AMC, the deputy chief of staff of Army logistics, and commander of the Army Combined Arms Support Command.

She was also the commander of the 407th Supply and Transportation Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; the 10th Mountain Division Support Command, Fort Drum, N.Y.; and the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg. She also deployed during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm with the 82nd as the division parachute officer.

She received a direct commission as a second lieutenant after graduating from

the State University of New York at Cortland in 1975. She has graduate degrees in national resource strategy and logistics management.

Dunwoody credits her family for her successes. During her promotion ceremony at the Pentagon she said, "I now know this Army profession I'm so proud to be a part of is a reflection of the very values I grew up with in the Dunwoody family."

At the Pentagon ceremony she also emphasized, "If anyone is worried about the next generation of warriors, fear not. The bench is filled with talented Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and while I may be the first woman to receive this honor, I know with certainty I won't be the last." (AMC release)

Contracting grows at Space and Missile Defense Command

SMDC business official addresses local group

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Local contracting professionals received a business overview Thursday of the Space and Missile Defense Command.

Garfield Boon, deputy director of contracting and acquisition management office at SMDC, spoke to the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

"We manage over \$15 billion in active contracts," Boon said. "That's growing. We obligate approximately \$2-3 billion in new work every year. But our total active con-

tracts that we manage across the board is about \$15 billion worth."

He dispelled a rumor that the SMDC and AMCOM contracting offices would merge. SMDC is also not part of the new Army Contracting Command.

More than 60 people attended the chapter's monthly luncheon at Trinity Methodist Church on Airport Road.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LUNCHEON GUEST— Garfield Boon, deputy director of contracting and acquisition management office at SMDC, speaks to the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

Community gets update on incoming Army organizations

Chamber of Commerce sponsors second BRAC to Future event

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
For the Rocket

Roads, schools and work force. Those were the top three priorities on the list as Redstone leaders addressed the Huntsville community on current and future base realignment and closure issues at the second BRAC to the Future event Nov. 12 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Ronnie Chronister, deputy to the post commander, and Col. Bob Pastorelli, Garrison commander, provided an overview of BRAC transformations.

"BRAC is here. It is alive," Chronister said during his opening remarks. More than 1,400 personnel of the 16,000 planned have already moved into

Huntsville with 500 more expected from Army Material Command headquarters by the end of the fiscal year. Personnel on Redstone will increase from 30,000 to 36,000, post-BRAC.

"This translates to economic growth," Chronister said.

With more people comes more demand for products and services, which spirals to entrepreneur growth and more small businesses. "It is the biggest economic event in the history of the state of Alabama," he said.

Redstone is the economic engine for Alabama, Pastorelli said. With an average of \$80,000 in annual salaries coming to Huntsville, total annual salaries post-BRAC are expected to increase from \$2.3 billion to \$3.15 billion. This translates to approximately \$226 million in work force tax contributions channeling throughout Alabama.

"However, we need the infrastructure,"

Pastorelli said. He shared slides detailing the impact of BRAC to the Huntsville community in terms of dollars and challenges. Among the benefits of BRAC are the eight incoming commands that include the Army Material Command headquarters, a four-star command that broke ground in September. However, Redstone will lose four organizations during the BRAC relocations.

"Working together is key and central to our success," Pastorelli said. He highlighted the top three BRAC challenges which include the expansion of roads, more schools, and recruiting a qualified work force. With the community's help by talking to their local and state leaders, BRAC will be a success.

"We have a BRAC support team and

office in place. We will meet our obligation to help them transition," Pastorelli said.

He thanked the community for its support and recognized its contributions to the Arsenal, particularly the General Officers' Quarters. "I have never seen it done anywhere in the Army," he said. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the opportunities to recruit nationwide and for promoting Huntsville.

"Today, only eight helicopters were down out of 600 for parts in Iraq," Chronister said. That kind of success is a reason why Redstone and Huntsville needs to have the infrastructure ready for the growth spurt.

"There is no better place in Alabama in terms of support to the military and to the community," Chronister said.

Operation Christmas Bear fun for all during holidays

Bears

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Children will be able to get their faces painted, make Christmas crafts, play on a moon bounce and giant slides set up outside the temple, and get their picture taken with Santa. There will also be lots of party food to enjoy.

Besides the holiday bears, each child will receive a small wooden toy, such as dump trucks, tractors, lady bugs and dragons, made by volunteers Paul Soracco and Seiford Schultz. There will also be a free giveaway of four large-sized airplanes made by the craftsmen.

Operation Christmas Bear was started five years ago by the late Bill Meiers in support of the children of deployed Soldiers. Since then, it has grown to include all military families and deployed DoD civilian families. Many volunteers have been with the event since its beginning.

"Operation Christmas Bear is special because of all the volunteers who find ways to create just the right atmosphere

for the children," Perry said. "The event gets bigger and bigger every year thanks to our sponsors. There are so many great people involved in this that I could go on and on."

Regions Bank is donating the supplies for arts and crafts. The Huntsville/Madison County YMCA purchased the train set for the party. Enchanted Masquerade donates character costumes, Marine Moms sponsors Mrs. Claus' area and the 19th Alabama provides safety for the event. Kroger is donating the holiday foods, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army has made a \$1,000 donation to the event, and the DuMidi Club, Warrant Officers Association and other organizations provide volunteers. There are many other donors as well, including the Cahaba Shrine, American Legion Post 229, Army Community Service, Berney Solutions and Huntsville Hospital.

"This is a great community get together that honors the families of our military and deployed servicemembers," Perry said.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

ON TRACK WITH BRAC— Garrison commander Col. Robert Pastorelli speaks on BRAC priorities to the Huntsville community Nov. 12 in the Von Braun Center.

Garrison commander applauds customer service

Pastorelli describes challenges as Redstone Arsenal evolves

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
For the Rocket

Culminating his first 100 days since taking command of the Garrison, Col. Bob Pastorelli held his first Town Hall forum with the work force Nov. 17 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Teamwork and cohesion, integrity, defining systems and standards, balanced working environment, coaching and mentoring, mitigating risk to ensure safety, and being positive were among Pastorelli's top priorities.

"We're all part of one team," he said, adding that the Town Halls will become a quarterly event, so that the command may have more opportunities to communicate more effectively to the work force.

One of the main focuses of the Town Hall is the pending changes coming to Redstone with the progress of the base realignment and closure.

Pastorelli highlighted the priorities for BRAC which are roads, schools and work force. The BRAC move will be a challenge, he said. The Garrison must focus on being able to quickly identify problems and issues in order to swiftly tackle them.

Good and big changes are coming to Redstone, he said, with the first female



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

RECOGNITION— From left are Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli, Kevin Nowin, Mary Breedon, Tom Norton, Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark and Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper. Nowin, Breedon and Norton were recognized at the Garrison Town Hall meeting Nov. 17 for having earned their green belts in the Lean Six Sigma program.

four-star general moving to Redstone, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, as commander of the Army Materiel Command.

The U.S. Army Security and Assistance Command move, Pastorelli said, as the focal point for Foreign Military Sales that supports 140 countries, will bring more non-traditional partners to Redstone and millions of dollars in contracts with U.S. allies, which will pump economic dollars back into the local community. Together, these new missions should bring interdependence and interoperability to

Team Redstone for future missions.

Pastorelli's larger goal is to make Redstone Arsenal the Community Center of Excellence. And that means making sure that the command relays its intent and goals properly and effectively to the work force so that everyone will fully understand the common mission and vision.

Compared to the past when funding was more readily available, changes in world events have led the command to apply Better Business Practices, a forward focus that identifies issues at the lowest level.

The process of Lean Six Sigma is one of the ways to apply BBP. Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark explained Lean Six Sigma as "just a new package on how we do business."

"It's a process improvement system in order to cut cost to be efficient and more effective," Clark said. "It fixes processes that aren't working well and helps you sort out the fluff to get efficiencies."

What does that mean to the Garrison folks? Bottom up process is intended to do what's best for everybody, Clark said. It is designed to increase job satisfaction whereby increasing customer satisfaction.

Redstone's Garrison leads the Southern Region in this initiative, according to Clark. "We have one black belt and seven green belts," he said. Mary Breedon of Army Community Service, Tom Norton of Directorate of Public Works, and Kevin Nowin of Directorate of Installation Management were among the green-belt recipients recognized at the Town hall.

If you have a good idea, go up through your chain of command, Clark advised. "I challenge you to get involved," he said.

Pastorelli encouraged Garrison workers to continue to lead with a positive attitude. "Nowhere else do I hear compliments about how well people are doing day in and day out than here at Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville," he said. "Customer support here is, without a doubt, the best."

Teen dances way to national ice competition

She and partner qualify for Lake Placid event

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

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Haley Leonard believes in love at first sight. She experienced it at 18 months old when her father walked her out onto an outdoor ice rink in Germany. A little over 11 years later, that love is leading her to the Junior National level competition for ice dancing next month.

"I wouldn't leave until my dad took me out there (on the ice)," she said. "I just loved it. We started going to shows and things here."

She began formal lessons at 5 — a birthday gift from her mother, Linda, and father, Bob Leonard, Cargo Project Office chief of staff. She began competing soon after. A little over a year and a half ago, the decision was made to move to couples ice dancing.

"Haley wanted to do something like this and my son, Jordan, was without a partner," skating coach Ginger Gober explained. "I was teaching them both at the time, so decided to try it."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

UP AND AWAY— Haley Leonard takes flight with the support of partner Jordan Gober.

Leonard and her partner, Jordan Gober, 15, compete at the junior level. They have just returned from the Midwestern Sectional competition in Sugarland, Texas, on Nov. 15. Even with a skate malfunction during competition, the teens managed to make the

cut. Placing in the top eight secured the pair a place at the junior national level in Lake Placid, N.Y., on Dec. 8-14. Top finishers there receive opportunities not available otherwise.

"If they place in the top four, they can go to training camps and developmental teams," Linda said.

A good finish can also help offset some of the costs associated with the sport, coach Gober said.

"A lot of the times monetary awards go with the top four finishers to help offset training costs," she said. "Sometimes the boot makers and blade manufacturers give big discounts and things. You don't always get it, but a lot of times it works out that way."

Regardless of how the scores end, the teen duo are happy to compete for skating's sake alone.

"We rank how we rank at the end of the day," Gober said.

However, a top finish wouldn't be bad, either.

"I think it would be really cool," Leonard added.

Ice dancing is a little different than the pair's figure skating most people are familiar with, Gober said. It doesn't have the side-by-side spins, jumps and throws that pair's

skating does. Instead, it focuses on intricate footwork and fast, close maneuvers.

Leonard has made a few tough choices to give the time necessary to compete at a national level. She has changed schools frequently over the years, trying to find one that would work with her travel and training schedule. In order to meet those requirements without sacrificing her education, Leonard is now being home schooled online through an accredited institution, according to her mother.

"It's called Laurel Springs out of California," Linda said. "In public school, she would have missed 13 days out of the first half of eighth grade. She can't miss that much school."

Otherwise, Leonard is an average teen. She enjoys the same things as her contemporaries, including text messaging her friends, spending lots of time on her computer and doing her part to support Huntsville's retail economy.

"I love shopping," she said. "I love going to hockey games, too."

As with many girls her age, Leonard doesn't look too far into the future. Whatever it holds, she knows that skating will factor in somewhere.

"I don't know if I'll do it forever," she said. "But I'll do it as long as I can."

Indiana patriot and his brothers bring parade floats

Participate in Huntsville event for Veterans Day

Gerry Stieglitz has been building patriotic floats for Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Bloomington, Ind., and the surrounding towns for the past several years with the theme of honoring "American heroes."

His floats gave tribute to all veterans – for their patriotism, duty, courage and sacrifice. The floats grew over the years from one vehicle and trailer, to three trailers and three little "monster" trucks with mini trailers.

This past summer, Gerry and his brother Dennis from Austin, Texas, knowing that their brother Jon, retired colonel of Huntsville, was helping to raise money to build a new Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial, decided to bring their floats to Huntsville for Veterans



Photo by Pam Stieglitz

BROTHERS IN ARMS— With their Veterans Day parade floats are, from left, Gerry, Roger, Jon and Dennis Stieglitz.

Day. They wanted to help honor veterans in the Tennessee Valley, pay tribute to those that sacrificed their lives in defense of this nation, and raise awareness of the Veterans Memorial. Brothers Gerry and Dennis worked all

summer and fall redesigning and upgrading their floats with four turning carousels and a rotating paddle wheel depicting all wars and emphasizing the Memorial's theme of Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty, which was this year's

parade theme. They also designed it to be transportable so that the entire framework, motors, parts, graphics, and CJ-5 jeep with its trailer could be loaded on a U-Haul truck for transporting to Huntsville.

Dry runs were performed in Bloomington before hitting the road. Upon arrival on Monday, Nov. 10, after a seven-hour drive, brothers Gerry, Dennis, Roger, from Chicago, and Jon, along with Gerry's son and daughter, Michael and Debbie, all helped unload and reassemble the floats on two 16-foot trailers provided locally (by Keith Nichols and Jim Archey, Woody Anderson Ford).

Final assembly was completed early Veterans Day morning, and by 11 a.m., three floats were ready to roll with 18 veterans riding on the lead trailer (including four World War II veterans). Retired Brig. Gen. Bill Fiorentino rode in a restored CJ-5 jeep driven by Michael Stieglitz, and

Gerry pulled the third float.

Along with three remotely-controlled mini-Monster Trucks operated by Jennifer Stieglitz, Debbie Stieglitz-Pillar, and Dennis Stieglitz, this parade entry from the Hoosier State made quite an impression on local veterans, active duty Soldiers, and the patriotic citizens who expressed their appreciation with applause and thanks.

As Gerry Stieglitz wrote upon returning home: "It was a great trip for a great cause and most importantly showing support for America's heroes... our veterans. The biggest satisfactions for me was helping my brother Jon be honored (a veteran but also his cause and his military friends) but also when our floats passed the active duty troops that were waiting to join the parade... their faces, reactions, and 'verbal' acknowledgment at seeing our tributes to past 'heroes' and current 'heroes' (them)."

Thanksgiving meal moves to today

Dining facility changes schedule to accommodate traveling troops

By SKIP VAUGHN

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

Today 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 Thursday for Thanksgiving.

"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 Ord-

nance 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."

Today 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 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 Thursday 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.

Company thanks Soldiers for their service

Scientific Research Corporation hosted five Soldiers from Redstone Arsenal for its annual Thanksgiving Day celebration Nov. 19 at its Huntsville location.

SRC employees and management took this opportunity to say thank you to Soldiers for their defense of this nation and in honor of their sacrifices. As part of SRC's 20th anniversary, the event consisted of a traditional Thanksgiving meal and a tour of SRC's facilities.

SRC is an advanced technology engineering company founded in 1988 that provides innovative products, services and solutions to the U.S. government, international market, and private industry. SRC's business activities encompass test and evaluation, instrumentation systems, networks, wireless communications, information technology, signal intelligence, digital and radar signal processing, and modeling and simulation. The Simulation, Test and Instrumentation is headquartered in Huntsville. (SRC release)

O'Reilly takes reins of Missile Defense Agency

Obering retires after 35 years

WASHINGTON — Deputy secretary of defense Gordon England officiated at the Missile Defense Agency change of responsibility ceremony Friday at the Air Force Memorial site in Arlington, Va., near the Pentagon. Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering turned over responsibility for the agency's operations to Army Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly as the eighth director of the Missile Defense Agency and its predecessor organizations, the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

Obering became the MDA director in July, 2004, and led the agency to numerous accomplishments for the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System during his tenure. These include the emplacement of more than two dozen interceptor missiles in Alaska and California to defend the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile attack from North Korea, as well as two successful intercept tests under operationally realistic conditions; a highly successful testing and deployment program for sea-based Aegis Ballistic Missile



Courtesy photo

LEADERSHIP CHANGE— Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, left, turns over responsibility for the agency's operation to Army Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, right, at the Missile Defense Agency change of responsibility ceremony held Friday. Deputy secretary of defense Gordon England officiates the ceremony.

Defense, including 10 successful test intercepts; continued development and testing of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, to include a perfect record of five consecutive test intercepts; execution of a global command, control, battle management and

communication network for integrated missile defense operations; continuing development of the Airborne Laser and Kinetic Energy Interceptor for boost-phase missile defense; construction and operation of the largest X-band radar in the world, the

Sea-based X-band; completion of upgrades and integration of early warning radars in Alaska, California and the United Kingdom; development and preparation for launch of two new missile tracking satellites, the Space Tracking and Surveillance System; and development and testing of the new Multiple Kill Vehicle system to provide for better capability against more advanced countermeasures that could be encountered in the future.

Obering was also instrumental in the planning and execution of the successful shutdown in February of a satellite containing toxic fuel that was falling from orbit.

Obering also played a leading role in greatly increasing the United States' missile defense partnerships with nearly two dozen countries, including Japan, United Kingdom, Israel, Australia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Netherlands and many others. He has been instrumental in planning for the establishment of proposed missile defense facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic to help defend Europe and the United States from a ballistic missile launched from the Middle East.

During his tenure as director, the Missile Defense Agency completed 17 successful "hit to kill" intercepts in tests against ballistic missile targets of all ranges with agency-managed land and sea-based missile defense elements.

At a ceremony later in the day, Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, officiated at a retirement ceremony honoring Obering's 35 years of active duty in the Air Force. He also presented Obering with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

O'Reilly has spent more than a decade in missile defense program management, testing and acquisition, including serving as project or program manager for the Patriot Advanced Capability-3, THAAD and the Ground-based Midcourse Defense programs. In 2007 he was named deputy director of the Missile Defense Agency. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and received master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College and Salve Regina College. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval College of Command and Staff; the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Command and Staff College. (MDA release)

Task Force Ramadi returns from Iraq deployment

NORFOLK, Va. — U.S. Joint Forces Command welcomed back Task Force Ramadi from their nine-month deployment on Nov. 16 where they supported Multi-National Forces-Iraq West in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Task Force Ramadi is a tailored task force made up of USJFCOM active duty and reserve military members as well as civilian personnel who forward deployed in February to Camp Ramadi in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. The task force, part of USJFCOM's Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (formerly Standing Joint Force Headquarters), was deployed to support operations in the

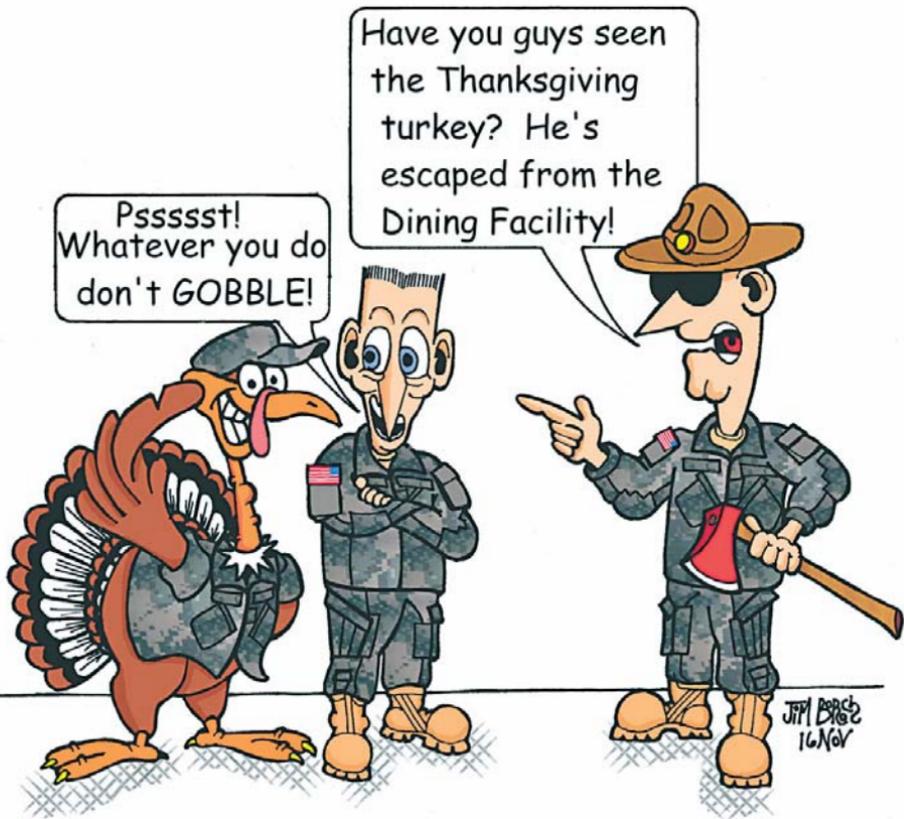
Multi National Force-West area of operations.

Task Force Ramadi provided combat service support, rear area and base security, movement control, terrain management and infrastructure development to Camp Ramadi and outlying areas. The capabilities provided by Task Force Ramadi enabled coalition forces, Provincial Reconstruction Teams and other agency elements resident on Camp Ramadi to conduct stability and reconstruction operations outside the camp.

In the past eight months, Task Force Ramadi facilitated \$3.5 million in force protection improvement projects,

managed \$36 million in contracts and leases, and improved communication capability by recovering and installing more than 45 miles of communication cables. They were active in the Al Anbar community in banking and economic development as well as electrical power generation, water and sewer improvements.

Al Anbar, Iraq's largest and western-most province, is the 11th of 18 provinces reverting to Iraqi control. Bordering Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, Al Anbar covers more than 138,500 square kilometers. (U.S. Joint Forces Command release)



Meeting the needs of wounded Soldiers

Warrior Transition Units help the healing process

By KARI HAWKINS

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It takes Kentucky National Guard Sgt. Mace Allen four hours to drive from his home to the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit at Redstone Arsenal.

Those trips can worsen the pain in his back.

Even so, he is thankful to be reporting to a squad sergeant and a case manager at the Arsenal-based CBWTU. The arrangement allows him to recuperate from his back injuries — caused by a rocket explosion in April 2007 in Iraq during his deployment with the 1st of the 149th — while living at home with his wife, also a Kentucky National Guard Soldier, and his two young sons.

And, besides, the trips to Redstone Arsenal are few and far between.

“There are two Army posts closer to my home than Redstone Arsenal,” he said. “But when I was transferred to Fort Campbell (Ky.) and then to Fort Knox (Ky.) I had to stay on post and I had to ask for weekend leaves to see my family. With the CBWTU, I live at home and I can concentrate on getting better while still being a Soldier.”

There are about 100 National Guard and Reserve Soldiers living in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama who are part of the CBWTU. On most days, Allen reports to his squad sergeant over the phone. He also talks with his case manager periodically to review doctor’s appointments, therapy sessions and upcoming surgeries on his road to recovery. He’s visited the CBWTU at Redstone Arsenal three times since being assigned to it eight months ago.

Allen was among about 50 Soldiers from the CBWTU and the Warrior Transition Unit at Fox Army Health Center who attended a Warrior Transition Unit Town Hall meeting on Nov. 17 at Bob Jones Auditorium. November has been designated by the Army as Wounded Warrior Month, and WTUs were asked to have town hall meetings with their Soldiers to discuss the work of WTUs, issues related to a Soldier’s healing process and the types of recovery support available to them through

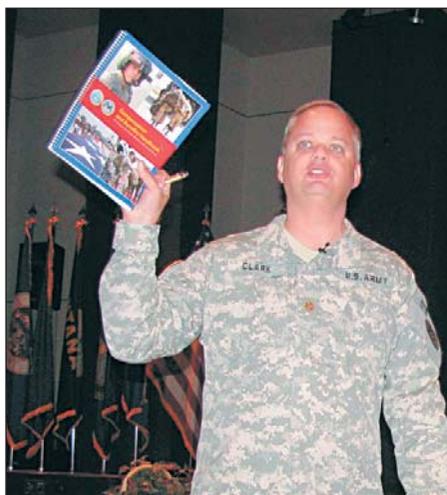


Photo by Kari Hawkins

BENEFITS HANDBOOK— Maj. Jim Clark, commander of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit on Redstone Arsenal, talks to wounded Soldiers about the importance of being informed concerning their military finances during the Warrior Transition Unit Town Hall Meeting on Nov. 17. He is holding a copy of the Army's Compensation and Benefits Handbook.

the Army.

While the CBWTU works with injured and ill National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, the Fox WTU has about 14 active duty Soldiers on its roster who are recovering from various combat-related injuries and illnesses. Currently, the Army is reviewing the WTUs that have been stood up throughout the nation and there is a possibility that the Fox WTU and the CBWTU will be merged in the near future. The CBWTU at Redstone Arsenal is the only organization of its kind located on an Army post and co-located with an Army medical facility.

Despite the drive from Kentucky, Allen was thankful for the opportunity to talk to and hear from the Arsenal’s officers as well as other Soldiers in the WTU program.

“It’s good to be able to come to Redstone Arsenal and talk with other Soldiers who are in situations similar to mine,” Allen said. “And it was good to hear the inspirational talk.”

Soldiers were greeted at the meeting by Col. Mark Smith, commander of Fox Army

Health Center, and Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli, who expressed to them the support they can count on from the commanding officers at Redstone Arsenal. They spoke on behalf of their organizations as well as for AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, who was out of town on assignment.

“Our thoughts and our prayers are with you and your families every day,” Pastorelli said. “We have responsibilities to make sure we take care of you. We are here to provide whatever source of support you and your families need.”

He said the Huntsville community also wants to support the wounded warriors assigned to Redstone Arsenal; and Army Community Service and the Army Wounded Warrior Program located at Fox can assist them if they are medically retired or if they decide to transition out of the Army and into the civilian world.

“There are a number of firms out there today who want to hire wounded warriors,” Pastorelli said. “They appreciate your service. In this area, there are great opportunities that can be beneficial to you and our staff will help you find those opportunities.”

Maj. Jim Clark, commander of the CBWTU, outlined for the Soldiers the warrior transition journey, and stressed to the Soldiers the need for them to get the medical care they need to recover from their injuries or illnesses.

“You are all veterans now and you deserve a lot of credit,” he said. “You joined during a time of war when bullets are flying. It’s a great feeling to know you and your family have stood up to the call of duty.”

But there are some things wounded Soldiers in a CBWTU should do to make sure they get the care they need and deserve. Clark specifically said wounded Soldiers need to provide complete health information to their case manager, make their healing process their number one priority, ensure they get to doctor’s appointments on time and follow doctor’s orders, reconnect with their families and their communities, let their employers know about their health status, concentrate on getting their finances in good order for a possible transition out of the military and be open to working with their CBWTU representatives to get the best care possible.

In return, CBWTU case manager and squad leaders “need to be there for you to

provide information so you can make the right decision about your health care,” he said.

“Some of you will get better and transition back to your unit or go back to your deployment. Others will be asked to leave the service. Regardless, we’ll treat you with the same dignity and respect.”

Clark acknowledged a wounded Soldier goes through a lot of stress caused by their transition, first, from combat duty to wounded warrior status, then from active duty into a Warrior Transition Unit, and, lastly, back to their regular unit or out of the Army.

“Every Soldier’s injury or illness is individual. Every injury is unique,” he said. “But no matter how you got hurt or what your injury, you got hurt and it’s a very significant moment in your life. Some of you were Medevaced out of theater. Others of you gutted out the injury until you got home ... You’re all heroes. You’re all veterans. You’ve all done your service to the call.”

Yet, being a hero doesn’t mean a wounded Soldier should be demanding or impatient with the health care system. Specifically, Clark said, if a doctor is running late because of an emergency or other issue, Soldiers should not demand first priority or leave a doctor’s office because they have to wait longer than expected.

“You’re all Soldiers. You all wear this uniform, and you represent yourselves and everyone else in this uniform,” he said.

During and after their treatment, wounded Soldiers and their families can take advantage of several programs at Fox Army Health Center, including healthy lifestyle classes, educational seminars and health management programs.

“We are encouraging you all to live a lifetime of wellness,” said Maj. Elizabeth Vinson, commander of the WTU at Fox. “It’s up to you now to take an active role in the management of your health care. And we’re here to help you do that. We want to be proactive to address your health care needs.”

Other services, such as Army Community Service and the JAG office, are available to help transitioning wounded Soldiers and their families.

“I thought it was a good meeting,” said Sgt. Michael Caldwell of the Tennessee National Guard’s 130th Military Police

Patterson family benefits from AW2 advocacy

By KARI HAWKINS
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Martin and Lauren Patterson have an extended family that promises to be there for them as long as they are needed – even if that means a lifetime.

And that extended family is the Army, specifically the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

Patterson, a former special operations staff sergeant, was participating in an airborne assault training exercise at Fort Benning, Ga., in August 2003 when he was struck in the chest by lightning. He immediately went into cardiac arrest and was saved, thanks to the quick thinking efforts of the airfield manager and two Air Force noncommissioned officers who performed CPR until medical help arrived.

The effects of that accident have remained with Patterson. In an ironic twist, the Soldier who survived seven deployments in the Global War on Terrorism without a life-threatening wound is now dealing daily with short-term memory loss, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, eye problems, joint problems and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

REVIEWING BENEFITS— Medically retired Staff Sgt. Martin and Lauren Patterson go over information with Army Wounded Warrior advocate Tonia Tyra that can help Patterson on his road to recovery and reintegration. He suffers from health related problems associated with multiple deployments and then exasperated when he was struck by lightning during a training exercise at Fort Benning, Ga. With the Pattersons is their son, Curtis, 2.

other health issues.

Some of those injuries originated from his deployments and were exasperated by the lightning strike. Others were a direct result of the lightning strike, which was considered combat related because it occurred while Patterson was involved in activities in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Patterson's injuries were

serious enough to lead to his separation from the military. But the Army Wounded Warrior Program hasn't left Patterson behind.

Established in 2004, AW2 is the official Army program that serves severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their families. The Soldiers it serves have an Army disability rating of 30 percent or greater in one or more categories or a combined rating of 50 percent or greater for conditions that are a result of combat or are combat related. The categories include blindness/vision loss, loss of a limb, PTSD, deafness or hearing loss, paralysis or spinal cord injury, severe burns, fatal diseases, permanent disfigurement and TBI.

AW2 advocates provide personal, local support for as long as a Soldier needs it, regardless of the Soldier's location or military status; assist with day-to-day issues in recovery and reintegration; and provide information about benefits, careers, educational opportunities, finances, community resources, employment opportunities and training; and other aspects of recovery and reintegration. There are more than 3,600 severely wounded Soldiers who are provided support through the AW2 program.

The Redstone Arsenal AW2 office opened about a year ago, around the same time the Pattersons moved to Madison. Besides the Arsenal, AW2 advo-

cate are located in Alabama at Fort Rucker and the Veterans Medical Center in Birmingham. Tonia Tyra, the first AW2 advocate serving North Alabama Soldiers, currently has about 50 Soldiers in the area's AW2 program.

"We help Soldiers become self-sufficient," Tyra said. "Some will be transitioning out of the Army and back into the civilian world. We can help them with federal, state and private benefits and support. We can be a link to help with financial, employment, legal, medical and educational issues. We are a referral source and advocate."

The Pattersons first got a call from the AW2 headquarters in Virginia and learned they had an advocate in the local AW2 office who would help them through the rough times of reintegration into civilian life.

"We were excited to get any kind of help," Lauren Patterson said. "It's been a big blessing for us. We get phone calls checking to see if we need anything, and checking on everything from making sure our bills get paid to our mental health. They keep us informed of resources and opportunities."

The AW2 office was able to straighten out issues related to Patterson's severance pay. They also provided him with information on programs that could help him overcome his health problems, including Project Victory in Houston, Sun Valley Adaptive Sports in California and the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham.

"It's hard to deal with this on a day-to-day basis and you can get bogged down in it," Patterson said. "Opportunities to experience things and forget about your problems and meet with other people who have similar problems really help you. They give you hope that you can do things, that you can recover, that you can contribute."

Although Patterson's short term memory loss and other issues will probably keep him from being able to perform in a normal work environment, the support from the Army has made him hopeful that he will be able to provide a good future for his family, which includes his son Curtis, 2, and a baby due in January.

Yet, the Pattersons haven't always felt that support.

"We had some problems when we got out of the mili-

tary," Lauren Patterson said. "Martin was medically separated from the Army in January 2006. But he was supposed to be medically retired. The process to change that status took us two years."

Patterson agreed, adding that it took a review by the office of the Secretary of the Army to straighten out his situation.

"My separation from the Army was horrible. We slipped through the cracks at the beginning. But once the right people found out, they definitely made things happen," he said. "And I think the Army is getting more and more programs in place as they learn about the effects of the war from the guys coming back."

The Army is also learning how to assist Soldiers with a variety of problems and situations.

"Our Soldiers are not in cookie cutter situations," Tyra said. "No situation is the same. They are all unique. But all Soldiers and their families need to know that we care for them and really want to support them."

A Soldier seeking assistance from the AW2 program must provide background information and details about their concerns.

"We have to have an understanding of what the Soldier needs to help them," Tyra said. "We need to have a holistic picture of the Soldier and their needs."

Severely wounded Soldiers are not required to participate in the AW2 program.

"We are here in case they need us," Tyra said. "There are many resources that can assist the Soldier in making a better transition, and we can put Soldiers in contact with those resources. We have a lot of success with helping Soldiers transition back into the civilian world."

The Pattersons look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with AW2.

"We are so blessed with all the support we've gotten from all the different organizations," Lauren Patterson said. "All the support we've gotten has definitely made up from what didn't happen in the beginning. The Army has definitely been taking care of us."

Editor's note: The AW2 program office at Fox can be reached at 955-888, ext. 1645. Or, for more information, call 1-800-237-1336 or check out the web site at www.aw2.army.mil.

Town Hall puts focus on support for wounded troops

Support

continued from page 14

Company out of Memphis. "They gave us a lot of information that will be useful to us and that will allow us to transition smoothly."

Caldwell is healing from a broken back and head injury he suffered from an accident in Kosovo. He's been in the CBWTU for about six months, about the same amount of time Mississippi National Guard Spc. Stephanie Davis of the 1387th Quartermaster has been with the CBWTU. She is being treated for knee and shoulder problems as well as fibroid tumors that became health issues while she was deployed to Iraq.

"This was an intense meeting. I am glad I was able to be here," she said. "I'm also going to check out Redstone Arsenal before I leave."

For many Soldiers, war wounds don't become evident until a deployment ends. Allen injured his back, foot, knee and left wrist and hand when he dove

to the ground as a rocket exploded less than 50 meters away from him in Baghdad. But he didn't realize the extent of his painful injuries until he returned home with his battle buddies.

"There was a little bit of aggravating pain, but I didn't think about it. I just kept going on," he said. "It wasn't until we demobilized at Camp Shelby (Miss.) that I began to realize I did have some back problems from the explosion."

Allen has three herniated disks and two blown disks in his back. He has about nine more months of treatment, during which he will have another surgery. Then, he will be medically retired from the Army and his focus will turn to civilian work as a natural gas technician.

"My employer hired me because of the military. I'm in touch with them a lot and they are holding my spot until I get back," Allen said. "Right now, my job is to get better so that I can go on and support my family."

Event dispels myths about Native Americans

Heritage month program features dance, stories

By KARI HAWKINS

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Little Big Mountain is on a mission to dispel the myths of

the “TV tribe” that has stereotyped Native Americans.

So, as he talked to school children and Team Redstone employees during the Nov. 19 recognition of National American Indian Heritage Month on Redstone Arsenal, Little Big Mountain mentioned those television myths – the “How” of greetings, the “slap mouth” war

cries and the jumping and yelling around camp fires, to name a few — and then showed his audience what is true about Native Americans.

“I want you to leave here with a better understanding of our American people,” Little Big Mountain said.

There are more than 500 nations within the Native Ameri-

can culture, explained Little Big Mountain, who is part Comanche and part Mohawk. The best way to learn the truth about those nations is to share in their traditions, he said, introducing the audience to Native Americans dressed in traditional dance costumes.

And as feathers flew, drums beat and the ceremonial sounds of Native Americans – the war calls and high-pitched “lulus” – filled Marshall Space Flight Center’s building 4316, the dancers and their dances did, indeed, tell the truth of their Native American culture.

Much of that truth was unveiled in the Native American war dance.

“There are so many stories and meanings behind the dances,” Little Big Mountain said. “The old style of war dancing is done to honor the warriors of our great nation ... For a long time, we were forbidden to do it because of the misconception of what it was.

“It is a dance of 500 warriors in face paint telling the story of battle. But, seeing it at a distance, it was believed we were preparing for war. They (U.S. officials of the 1800s) took our feathers. They took our clubs. They took our shields. We weren’t allowed to do that dance any longer.”

See **Heritage** on page 17



Photo by Kari Hawkins

IN THE SPIRIT— A group of Native Americans, dressed in traditional ceremonial and dance garb, sing for the audience of school children and Redstone Arsenal employees who attended the National American Indian Heritage Month recognition event Nov. 19. In the middle at the drums is Little Big Mountain.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ON TRACK— Native American Jimmy White Wolf Big Mountain performs a Southern Traditional Dance, which includes a symbolic tracking of an animal during a hunt.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

DANCE OF ACROBATICS— The Native American Ruffle Dance combines big, flashy costumes, fast footwork and acrobatics.

Community members invited to council meetings

Quarterly events provide info on PX, Commissary and MWR

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

There's a new way to get updates about the Post Exchange, Commissary and Morale Welfare and Recreation activities.

Members of the Redstone community are invited to quarterly PX/Commissary/MWR Council meetings. The first meeting was held Nov. 18 at the Challenger building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road.

"It's a command information program to get information out to the troops, and really to everybody," Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper said.

The next meeting is Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Challenger building. "Anybody that can use the Commissary, PX and MWR is invited," Cooper said.

Post Exchange general manager Carl Carpenter, Commissary director Robin Daniel and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director Derrick Gould discussed their programs and answered questions.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COUNCIL SESSION— From left are Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director Derrick Gould, Post Exchange general manager Carl Carpenter and Commissary director Robin Daniel.

■ Redstone celebrates Native American heritage

Heritage

continued from page 16

While Native Americans refused to change the dance itself, they did make concessions about other things. Feathers were replaced by porcupine hair. Shields were replaced by fans. War clubs were replaced by sticks.

"But we continued to use the moves of war and did the dance anyway to honor our warriors," Little Big Mountain said.

The audience also enjoyed seeing the showy Southern Traditional Dance and Fancy Dance.

"The Fancy Dance originated in Oklahoma at the time of Buffalo Bill," Little

Big Mountain said. "The bigger you were and the brighter you were the better chance of being employed in the Buffalo Bill show. Today, this is the fastest, more vigorous competitive dance. You have to dance fast enough so the bells on your legs stay in beat with the drums. The whole body has movement while dancing."

The Ruffle Dance and the women's dance were also highlighted as was the flute music of Native Americans as performed by Mark Barefoot. The audience also participated in Native American games. Educational displays that included a teepee, animal furs and Native American jewelry, and Native American foods — flat bread and buffalo stew — were part of the recognition event.

Through all the activities, the event

told the truth behind the stories, costumes and symbolism of Native Americans.

The event was part of the Army's "observance of the many different cultures that contribute to the fabric of America," said Col. Tom Newman, chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command.

"You don't have to look far to see the influence of Native Americans forbearers on our state," Newman added, mentioning the name "Alabama" is Native American.

"Today's program will give a glimpse of the contributions of the original members of our state."

Newman mentioned that Native American contributions go far beyond the early years of the United States, and includes their participation as code breakers during World War II and as Soldiers today. There are 35,000 Native Americans who currently wear a U.S. military uniform.

"We are who we are because of those who came before us," added Johnny Stevenson of Marshall Space Flight Center's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, who descended from Native Americans once living in Lawrence County. Those ancestors have taught him about survival, teamwork, appreciation and respect of the land, and exploration.

Prior to the Native American program, Team Redstone announced the winners of its display and essay contests. The winners of the Native American display contest were: first place, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; and second, NASA. The winners of the essay contest were: first, Dorman Chasteen of JLENS Project Office; and second, Cindy C. Bates of Garrison Directorate of Logistics.

Civilians tame Bulldogs in flag football final

William Kelly has big night in 38-8 win over Bravo

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

Civilian Welfare Fund quarterback William Kelly looked like his legendary self against Bravo Company in the flag football final.

Slowed by a left leg injury during the season, the retired sergeant first class delivered one of the stellar performances he was known for during his All-Army days. He completed 9-of-12 passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns. And he had six carries for 61 yards and two TDs.

CWF beat Bravo 38-8 in the postseason tournament championship game on Nov. 19 at the Patton Road field. Since CWF isn't eligible for Commander's Cup points, Bravo Company receives the first-

place tally and the military title. Headquarters & Alpha gets the second-place points.

But this year's best team on post wears CWF blue. And the best player is a 46-year-old who retired from the Army in November 2001 after more than 22 years service.

"It was fun, it was fun," Kelly said. He put some heat on his injured leg before the game and the remedy worked. "It felt pretty good last night," he said. "For the first time in a month, it felt better than it has."

Kelly played All-Army softball for the decade of 1990-2000. He was MVP in flag football for U.S. Army Europe in 1987, 1989, 1996 and 1997.

"We respected Bravo coming out there. Because coming out of the losers bracket, they came a long ways," he said. "We came out there early and we wanted to send a message. We'd all talked 'One game' and we wanted to make sure they knew we were there last night."

Off the playing field, Kelly is employed by T&W Operations as a senior logistic analyst at the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office.

CWF (10-1) opened the scoring at 12:06 in the first half on Kelly's 15-yard touchdown pass to David Benjamin. He added a two-point conversion run for an 8-0 lead.

Kelly's 2-yard run with 16 seconds left in the half, plus his two-point pass to Jacques Eckles, made it 16-0 at halftime.

He scored on a 10-yard run at 15:30 in the second half for a 22-0 cushion. Kelly's 5-yard pass to Brad Harris, plus his two-point toss to Derrick Cook, made it 30-0 with 8:36 left. Kelly was done for the night, and so was Bravo (8-5).

Backup quarterback Stacey Steele threw a 10-yard pass to Harris for the final touchdown with 39 seconds left. The pair then connected for two points.

Bravo scored with 4:44 left on quarterback Derrick Chandler's 17-yard pass to Herbert Smith, who sprinted to the end



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CWF SENDS MESSAGE— Civilian Welfare Fund players celebrate their victory over Bravo Company, the military champion.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PREGAME RITUAL— CWF quarterback William Kelly shakes hands with Bravo players before the game.

zone but left the game with an apparent pulled thigh muscle. Chandler passed to Matt Negrete for two points.

"We just came out flat," Bulldogs coach/running back John Sweeden said. "I think the two games last night got to us. We just couldn't put it together tonight."

CWF had a big advantage in the game's statistics. The civilians had 11 first downs to Bravo's five. They rushed nine times for 96 yards to Bravo's seven for 26. They had 152 passing yards to Bravo's 115. Steele completed 3-of-4 passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. Combined with Kelly's stats, CWF connected on 12-of-16 passes for 152 yards. Chandler completed 10-of-17 passes for 115 yards and one touchdown with one interception for the Bulldogs. The civilians had 248 total yards and gained an average of 9.9 yards per play. The Bulldogs had 141 total yards

and a 5.9 average.

"We had a great defensive game," said Harris, CWF's player/coach. "Our line had a great rush. Our secondary defended the receivers real well. And our offense executed to its ability."

"I think it was defensive effort," wide receiver/defensive back Eckles said. "We played a cover-2 defense the whole season. They couldn't stop it."

Here are last week's results from the postseason tournament:

Nov. 17: Civilian Welfare Fund def. Headquarters & Alpha 30-8; Bravo won by forfeit over HHC 59th; and 326th Chemical def. Marines 14-0.

Nov. 18: Bravo def. 326th Chemical 22-14 in overtime; and Bravo def. Headquarters & Alpha 30-18.

Nov. 19: CWF def. Bravo 38-8 in post championship.

Crimson Tide feasts on rival Auburn

Alabama stops streak of losses to Tigers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 399-151 for 73 percent after 13 weeks of college football. Here are this week's predictions:

Auburn at Alabama – **Bama**
 Kentucky at Tennessee – **Ky.**
 South Carolina at Clemson – **SC**
 Florida at Florida State – **UF**
 LSU at Arkansas – **LSU**
 Georgia Tech at Georgia – **Georgia**
 Tuskegee at Alabama State – **Tuskegee**
 Texas A&M at Texas – **UT**
 Central Michigan at Eastern Mich. – **Central**
 West Virginia at Pittsburgh – **Pitt**
 Mississippi State at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**
 Akron at Temple – **Akron**
 Texas-El Paso at East Carolina – **EC**
 Kent State at Buffalo – **Buffalo**
 Bowling Green at Toledo – **BG**
 Colorado at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
 Fresno State at Boise State – **Boise**
 UCLA at Arizona State – **ASU**
 Syracuse at Cincinnati – **Cincy**
 Kansas at Missouri – **Missouri**
 Arkansas State at North Texas – **Ark. St.**
 Grambling at Southern – **Grambling**



Tulane at Memphis – **Memphis**
 Nevada at Louisiana Tech – **Nevada**
 Houston at Rice – **Rice**
 Southern Mississippi at SMU – **So. Miss.**
 Tulsa at Marshall – **Tulsa**
 UAB at UCF – **UAB**
 Fla. International at Fla. Atlantic – **FA**
 Oregon at Oregon State – **Ore. State**
 Vanderbilt at Wake Forest – **Wake**
 Notre Dame at Southern California – **USC**
 Washington State at Hawaii – **Hawaii**
 Baylor at Texas Tech – **Tech**
 Maryland at Boston College – **BC**
 Miami (Fla.) at N.C. State – **Miami**
 North Carolina at Duke – **UNC**
 Oklahoma at Oklahoma State – **OU**
 Virginia at Virginia Tech – **Virginia**

Adult kickball league completes first season

Seven teams participated in Redstone's first year for adult kickball, which proved to be a learning experience.

"This was just let's get it going, let's see how it goes. So we learned a lot. Let's get better in the spring," league organizer Rick Stock said.

Participation slackened toward the end of the season. "It was hard getting people there," Stock said.

The top teams included Foot Action, led by Eric Tippit of the AMCOM Acquisition Center, which went 3-0, excluding a forfeit; CMDS Kegs & Legs, led by Kira Reed, which went 6-1; and New Kicks on

the Block, led by Brian Steinberg of Security Assistance, which went 3-1 after a loss to Kegs & Legs.

"We were mostly Acquisition," Tippit, a contract specialist, said of his team.

Stock hopes to start another season in the spring, with some rule changes. He said the league was successful in bringing out people who hadn't been involved in sports.

"There were a lot of people that didn't see this as (physically) threatening," Stock said.

He credited Redstone sports director Gaylene Wilson for her work in organizing the league and providing the fields.

Garrison puts priority on workplace safety

OSHA-certified course instructs office reps

By **SOPIA BLEDSOE**
For the Rocket

Did you know that lifting heavy objects with a back brace is unsafe because it increases your chances of developing a hernia? Or that inflating your tires without using a tire cage could result in a serious injury or even death?

There are alternative and safe ways of getting work done in the office or at home.

In a proactive effort to minimize injuries in the workplace and keep Redstone's work force safe, the Garrison Installation Safety Office taught its first OSHA certified safety course Nov. 17-19. Twenty-four students from Garrison, Directorate of Emergency Services, Directorate of Logistics, the fire department, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and Chugach Company participated in the course.

Employees who have been assigned as their organization's "safety officer" as part of their extra duties, also called collateral duty safety officers, are mandated to attend the course under federal law. The Garrison teaches the course not only to CDSOs but to any Redstone employee who wants to take it.

"I've learned things that I never knew before such as ladder training versus ladder safety, and that you need one to have the other," said Capt. Rob Dewberry, Headquarters & Headquarters Company commander for the Garrison.

Dewberry knew it was an important to take the course and volunteered to attend the first safety training course for the Garrison when he heard it was being offered.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

TEACHING CORRECT POSTURE— Safety instructor Melissa Bonds touches the back of student Reginald Williams' neck to show the class the importance of proper posture.

"Everybody in the Army is supposed to be a safety officer," he said.

Andrea Grisham, an environmental engineer from AMRDEC, said the course helped her be more alert of the small things in the lab and office she once never thought about. "It's really given me an awareness," she said. "Safety is relevant

everywhere."

The three-day course offers training in composite risk management, egress/fire prevention, ergonomics, machine guarding, electrical safety and hazard communication, among many others. Additionally, the students will learn Occupational Safety and Health Administration topics

and will earn a 10-hour OSHA course certificate from Department of Labor at the end of the course.

Dennis Kiplinger, safety instructor from Professional Safety Training and Consultation, said everyone shares the responsibility to practice the 3 Rs: recognize hazard, remove or reduce hazard, and report hazard. A 28-year veteran in Army safety, Kiplinger retired from the Army Safety Center this year. He took the job as a civilian safety instructor because he felt it was his responsibility to continue to teach people on how to reduce or even eliminate hazards in their environment.

Kiplinger gave an example of an employee who had been taking anti-inflammatory medication for her neck and shoulders for many years. Kiplinger discovered the only cause of her pain was due to an ergonomically incorrect posture while sitting at the computer screen all day. Correcting your posture can eliminate many visits to the doctor, Kiplinger said. "Composite risk management is really what the Army is talking about," he said.

"Anybody in a leadership or supervisory position would benefit from taking this class," Newberry said.

If everybody can take at least a portion of the class that is relevant to their workplace, it would really help minimize injuries such as a neck ache from sitting improperly, said Grisham. She added that she thought the three-day course might have been boring at first.

"They're very hands-on and bring it to a comfort level you can enjoy and understand," she said. As the classroom broke in laughter at one of the safety jokes, one could see that the students were learning while having a good time.

"They make learning safety fun," Grisham said.

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 dedicated 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 regu-

lar 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 Soldiers/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. 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.

Red ribbon symbolizes AIDS awareness

Annual observance scheduled Dec. 1

Started in 1988, World AIDS Day is observed Dec. 1 each year. It is not just about raising money but also about increasing awareness, education and fighting prejudice.

World Aids Day is designed to draw attention to the issue of HIV/AIDS and to give local leaders a rallying point around which to organize HIV/AIDS activities and programs. Around 95 percent of people with HIV/AIDS live in developing nations. To successfully combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is necessary to stimulate involvement on all levels — from indi-

viduals to groups and institutions.

AIDS is a true weapon of mass destruction having become a global epidemic since the first reports of the disease 27 years ago.

According to estimates there are 33.2 million people worldwide living with HIV, nearly half of them women and girls between the ages of 15 and 24, including 2.3 million children. In 2007, it is estimated that 2.7 million became newly infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before the age of 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. Some 25 million have died of AIDS since the epidemic began in 1981.

In facing AIDS, 2008, the theme for World AIDS Day is: "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." AIDS is a chronic, life threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus. By damaging or destroying the cells of your immune system, HIV interferes with your body's ability to effectively fight off viruses, bacteria and fungi that cause disease. This makes a person more susceptible to certain types of cancers and to opportunistic infections your body would normally resist, such as pneumonia and meningitis. The virus and the infection itself are known as HIV. The term acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is used to mean the later stages of an HIV infection.

Despite improved treatments and better access to care for people in the hardest-hit parts of the world, most experts agree that the pandemic is still in the early stages. With a vaccine probably decades away, the best hope for stemming the spread of HIV now lies in prevention, treatment and education.

To become infected with HIV, infected blood, semen or vaginal secretions must enter your body. You cannot become infected through ordinary contact — hugging, dancing or shaking hands with someone who has HIV or AIDS.

New recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (September 2006) encourages voluntary HIV testing as a rou-

tine part of medical care for all adolescents and adults ages 13-64. HIV is diagnosed by testing your blood or oral mucus for the presence of antibodies to the virus.

The red ribbon is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that is worn by people year round and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS, and to remind others of the need for their support and commitment.

For more information call Tamiriz Centeno, public health nurse at Fox Army Health Center, Preventive Medicine 955-8888 ext. 1444 or Rick Stock, health promotion educator at ext. 1443. (Fox Army Health Center release)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Education advice

University of Alabama-Huntsville admissions counselor Tim Carroll talks with Pvt. Laura Richardson of Bravo Company during the Education Center's 2008 American Education Week Open House on Nov. 19.

UAH sets record for research funding

Researchers at the University of Alabama-Huntsville set a record in fiscal 2008 by winning more than \$84.6 million in research contracts and grants, an increase of more than 16 percent over the previous record set in FY 2006.

"These numbers show that research is what UAH is known for. This is our nationally-ranked team," said Dr. John Christy, interim vice president for research at UAH. "It is a credit to our research faculty and staff, to the quality of the research we do at UAH and to the leadership provided by former vice president Ron Greenwood over the past 10 years."

UAH researchers won more than 1,400 contracts and grants during the fiscal year in areas ranging from English as a second language to cosmology, rocket propulsion, air pollution and computer programming.

Among the university's research organizations, the largest one-year increase was registered by UAH's Earth System Science Center, which saw awards more than double to \$14.8 million between fiscal 2007 and 2008. A large piece of that is a \$3 million contract for UAH to work with Lockheed-Martin to develop the Lightning Mapper satellite system.

Awards to the Systems Management and Production Center, which handles most of the university's research with the Army, increased by more than \$5 million to \$19.9 million, while the Rotorcraft Systems Engineering and Simulation Center recorded an increase of almost \$4 million to \$9.1 million in 2008.

"Not only will these awards enable the university to contribute valuable research to this community, the nation and the world," said Dr. David Williams, the university president, "but these contracts and grants will allow us to support additional graduate students while moving UAHuntsville that much closer to our goal of \$100 million a year in sponsored research within five years."

UAH has more than \$208 million in active research and service contracts. Many contracts and grants stretch over multiple years.

UAH has one of the nation's premier atmospheric science research programs, and the state's largest research programs in engineering and physical sciences. The university is consistently in the top 10 in the U.S. for NASA-funded research. (UAH release)

Logistics award winners express love for their job

Two honorees named in annual ceremony

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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More than 100 members of Team Redstone's logistics community gathered Nov. 17 for the 18th annual Ernest A. Young logistics achievement award luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club. The award's first recipient did more than present the plaques.

Ernie Young, the retired deputy to Redstone's commanding general, offered advice.

"Continue to do the best and continue to push the field of logistics because it's here to stay," he said. "It's not going away."

This year's winners are management/executive honoree Ron



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHARING EXPERIENCE— Logistics awards namesake Ernie Young, center, is flanked by this year's honorees Ron Smith, left, and Ronnie Golden.

Smith and professional/technical honoree Ronnie Golden.

"I'd like to thank my wife, Barbara," said Smith, logistics

division chief in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office. "She's the one who puts up with me all the time and allows me to

do what I love to do – and that is support the Soldier."

"This is a real honor for me," said Golden, lead for IMMC readiness, land combat, air defense artillery in the Aviation and Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center. "I really love my job. And I really appreciate everybody in this room."

With 44 years of government service, Smith is known as a proven leader and respected logistician. He has received Special Act/Service Awards, Performance Awards, a 2005 Global War on Terrorism Award, and a Superior Civilian Service Award. He and Barbara have two grown daughters, Sandra Smith and Tracy Loggins.

Golden has exhibited outstanding leadership and technical skills in support of the AMCOM logistics sustainment mission. His awards include three Army Ser-

vice Medals, four Army Commendation Medals and five Meritorious Service Medals, two of which were awarded by the U.S. Army Europe commander in consecutive years for achieving the highest score in military occupational skill level testing for the Lance and Sergeant missile systems. He enjoys spending time with his wife Liliana, children David and Eric, and grandson Raiko.

The other professional/technical nominees included Debra Brenner, Peter Ewing, Cynthia Fugate, Jayne Gold, Annette Hunt, John Kleyer, Wayne Stoops and Lynn Watts. The other management/executive nominees were Barry Beavers, Michael Boyajian, Patricia Durham and Michael Ragoza.

"Each of you can be proud that you were nominated," Eric Edwards, executive director of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center, said.

Claiming advice for lightning strikes, other oddities

Reimbursement depends on the individual case

By ERIKA McPHERSON
Claims Office chief

Claimants often wonder whether they can be compensated for certain types of losses which may seem "unusual." The Personnel Claims Act, as implemented by Army Regulation 27-20, Chapter 11, authorizes the payment of Soldiers' and civilian employees' claims for the fair market value for personal property lost, damaged or destroyed incident to service. Under the PCA, losses due to an "unusual occurrence" may be compensable when incident to service. Much depends on the specific facts of the case.

An unusual occurrence compensable under the PCA is defined as a hazard outside the normal risks of day-to-day living and work. An unusual occurrence takes place at a

particular time and location; it is not an accumulation of damage due to a continuing condition. Generally, two types of incidents may be considered unusual occurrences: those of an unusual nature, and those of a common nature that occur in an unexpected degree of severity.

For example, a lightning bolt that strikes and destroys a vehicle would be considered an unusual occurrence. A golf ball sized hailstone that strikes and dents a vehicle would be considered a common incident with an unexpected degree of severity. Other examples of unusual occurrences include: a large light fixture in government quarters suddenly breaks loose from the ceiling and falls, or a large, apparently healthy tree (or a significant portion of one) suddenly topples over. Note, however, that falling branches are not unusual.

Of course, many circumstances that cause damage to property are not considered unusual occurrences under the PCA. First, unusual occurrences do not normally result from

human error. For example, damage to a vehicle from a rock thrown by a lawn mower, or the tearing of one's clothing on the edge of a filing cabinet, ordinarily would not be compensable as unusual occurrences. Second, damages arising from the normal risks encountered in general living and working are not considered to be caused by unusual occurrences. For example, ice and snow sliding off a roof onto a vehicle, or collapsing the roof of a utility shed, are not unusual occurrences. Damage to moving vehicles caused by defects or foreign objects in the road is not considered an unusual occurrence. Collisions, including hit-and-run incidents and those involving shopping carts or animals, are not unusual occurrences. Storms, power surges and power outages ordinarily are not unusual occurrences. Damage by such incidents is normally not compensable under the PCA, unless lightning strikes a residence or an entire area experiences an unusually high power surge. Claims that electrical or electronic devices

were damaged by a power outage are not compensable. Claims that food was spoiled by a power outage may be considered if the outage is of unusual duration. What constitutes unusual duration is determined by how long it normally takes food to spoil under local climatic conditions. In tropical countries, it may take less than one full day; at Redstone Arsenal, ordinarily it would take somewhat longer.

When a claimant requests compensation under the PCA for an unusual occurrence, each case will be decided on an individual basis based upon the facts. For more information about compensable claims under the PCA or other claims matters, call James Friday at 876-9006, or visit the Installation Claims Office located at building 111 on Goss Road, inside the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Claims assistance is available on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Fitness center hours

Effective Sunday, Nov. 22, Redstone Fitness Center is 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.



Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

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

Bible studies

Protestant Women of the Chapel 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

Waller Avenue and Governors Drive. For more information, call Robert Davenport 679-3180.

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.

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 best support current and future aviation 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 ACO at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/kc/10955767> for current information and e-mail MPME Conference questions or concerns to 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.

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.

Engineer society

Newly-elected Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle is guest speaker for ASME's Dec. 3 meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Bevill Center on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. "As is traditional, our December meeting will be held jointly with the local ASCE, ASPE and SAME groups," a prepared release said. "This year ASME is in charge of the program." For reservations call James Denson 883-2531. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. The meeting is open to the public. One professional development hour will be awarded attendees.

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.

University women

American Association of University Women will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 2 at the Bevill Center (UAH campus), 550 Sparkman Drive. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 (\$20) and the program at 6:30. For information e-mail Lois at herb.guendel@knology.net.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

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

Civilian deployment

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

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Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Soldiers' breakfast

From left, Bob Devlin and Steve Taylor thank the Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper and commander Col. Bob Pastorelli for being the guest speakers at the AUSA Soldiers' Breakfast on Nov. 17 at the Officers and Civilians Club. More than 300 Soldiers attended. In their motivational speeches on teamwork, Pastorelli and Cooper both encouraged the Soldiers to take care of each other and always maintain a battle buddy.

Surplus sales

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

Computer classes

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

Motorcycle safety

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

Reserve unit

If you have several years invested in your military career, you do not want conflicts

between Reserve duty and civilian life to keep you from earning 20 qualifying years. The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay for and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King jwk108@yahoo.com or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

VA benefits

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

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an

opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call 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. 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

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

Army training

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

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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 and leave a comment. You can reach customer service officer Steve McFadden at 876-3294, e-mail steven.ray.mcfadden@us.army.mil or the ICE administrator Wendy Norris at wendy.norris1@us.army.mil.

Interactive feedback

Have you ever gotten "hot" over a situation and you wanted to tell someone? Take it to the source so you can "cool" down with ICE, the Interactive Customer Evaluation web site. You have direct access to all Redstone Arsenal service providers to let

them know how they are doing, tell them of shortcomings or offer a pat on the back for a job well done. Log onto the Internet at <http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil>; click on the ICE icon on right; and scroll down and find the service category you wish to rate or scroll to bottom and click "show all" to see the entire list for Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-3294.

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.

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.

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>.

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.

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.

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.

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 Red-eye 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 children 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

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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.

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.

Garrison holiday ball

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli and his wife, Anna, extend an invitation to the Garrison work force and their guests to attend the 2008 Garrison Holiday Ball. The event will be held Dec. 5 with the social and receiving line beginning at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The cost is \$35. For more information, call Sarah Brazzel 313-0546.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief offers "free" money for education. The 2009-10 Army Emergency Relief Scholarship Program instructions and timelines for applying for the scholarships are now available on the

AER website, www.aerhq.org. Applications will be available on the website Dec. 1. Assistance is available for spouses and children of active duty and retired Soldiers. All applications and supporting documents must be sent to AER headquarters and postmarked no later than March 1, 2009. For more information, call Army Community Service 876-5397.

Ballet military night

Community Ballet Association will honor military and their families with an invitational Nutcracker performance Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Accompanied by the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, this holiday classic features all new choreography and dancers from Huntsville Ballet Company and Huntsville Ballet School. Admission for active military, National Guard, Reserve, retired and families is by military ID at the door. For more information, call 539-0961 or 539-3379.

Ballet on ice

Skaters from the Huntsville Skating School and Training Academy are performing the Nutcracker on ice in celebration of the 2008 holiday season. Set to the traditional music of Tchaikovsky, the performance includes featured Huntsville area skaters "dancing" as the characters of this holiday favorite on ice. Performances are 7 p.m. Dec. 12-13 and 2 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Benton Wilcoxon Ice Complex on Leeman Ferry Road. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens and children under 12. For tickets call 883-3774.

Officer association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its winter party, "Christmas, an International Event," Dec. 12 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7. There will be music for after dinner dancing, door prizes and games. Dress is coat and tie or typical dress from another country. All active, retired and former officers; their spouses and widows, are invited. Reservations are required by Dec. 5. For more information, call Carrie Hightower 882-3992.

Christmas bazaar

New Shiloh Church Ministries will have a Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5101 Mastin Lake Road. For vendor booth rental and more information, call Vickie Owens 461-0045 or 656-7707.

Mail for wounded

If you'd like to mail holiday cards to wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed, the American Red Cross is accepting mail at: Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. All cards must be postmarked by Dec. 10. Cards should not be directly mailed or delivered to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, according to guidance from Army officials at Walter Reed. For more information, visit www.wramc.amedd.army.mil or

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www.redcross.org/holidaymail. Walter Reed is not accepting mail addressed to "A Recovering American Soldier."

General officer retires

A retirement ceremony for Brig. Gen. Richard McCabe, former commanding general, White Sands Missile Range, N.M., will be held Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The ceremony will be hosted by Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Fleet reserve party

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its annual Christmas luncheon in Decatur at Ryan's (formerly Fire Mountain) on the Beltline on Dec. 13 at noon. For details and to RSVP by Nov. 30, call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton at 650-5748.

Marketing seminar

The Small Business Development Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville is offering a free marketing class for entrepreneurs. "Marketing 101: A Practical Approach for Growing Your Business" will be offered Dec. 15 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the SBDC Training Room, BAB Room 126H, on the UAH campus. Registration is required. Call 824-6880 or e-mail jeff.smith@uah.edu.

Fox holiday hours

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. The health center is closed on Thursday afternoons, weekends and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or

1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. The health center does not have an emergency room or emergency medical services. Dial 911 in the event of an emergency. ... Fox will also be closed Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1 and 2 for the holidays.

Santa Run

The annual Sergeants Major Association Santa's Run will be held Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. The Santa Run is a tradition for the association to go out in the Redstone Arsenal housing area with Santa Claus and pass out candy to the children. The kids get a chance to sit with Santa and tell him what they would like for Christmas. The association will cover all the housing areas, trailer and mobile home parks on post. "When you hear the sirens you will know that Santa is in the neighborhood," a prepared release said.

PX news

The Post Exchange will operate with the following hours Thursday for Thanksgiving: Main Store, closed; Concessions, closed; and One-Stop, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours Friday are 4 a.m. to midnight; Saturday from 6 a.m. to midnight; and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Vehicle registration

Vehicle Registration, building 3423 on Gray Road, and the Visitor Center, building 4122 at Gate 9, will both be closed for the following holidays: Nov. 27-28 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 25-26 for Christmas and Jan. 1-2 for New Year's. "The staff at the Directorate of Emergency Services would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season," a prepared release said.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?																													
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U																		
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																																					
SCBK08995113D	Gen Engr; Civil Engr; Env Engr; Mech Engr; Elect Engr; Comp Engr; Industrial Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801; 0810; 0819; 0830; 0850; 0854; 0896	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08014076E	Interior Design Spec	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-1008	2	2	45,014 - 101,912																														
SCBK08995113	Gen Engr; Civil Engr; Env Engr; Mech Engr; Elect Engr; Comp Engr; Industrial Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801; 0810; 0819; 0830; 0850; 0854; 0896	2	2	45,457 - 101,912																														
SCBK08130273	General Supp Spec	26-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-2001	12	12	65,921 - 85,701	X																													
SCBK08130268	General Supp Spec	26-Nov-08	IMMC	GS-2001	12	12	65,921 - 85,701																														
SCBK08912731	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	26-Nov-08	AMCOM CONTRACTING CENTER	GS-1102	13	13	78,390 - 101,913																														
SCBK08116863D	Computer Engr	28-Nov-08	AMRDEC	DB-0854	3	3	65,921 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08122540	Enterprise Business Analyst	28-Nov-08	Lead AMC Integ Supp Ofc	GS-0301	14	14	92,633 - 120,421																														
WTST08110128	Security Asst	28-Nov-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GG-0086	6	6	33,442 - 43,476	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08127008D	IT Spec (Sys Analysis)	1-Dec-08	AMCOM, TMDE	GS-2210	11	11	56,815 - 73,860																														
SCBK08137213	Building Mngtr	1-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-1176	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X																												
SCBK08037154	Supv Prgm Analyst	1-Dec-08	USAASC	YA-0343	3	3	77,018 - 130,211	X	X																												
SCBK08037567	Logistics Mgmt Spec	2-Dec-08	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	68,625 - 89,217																														
SCBK08129753	Secretary (OA)	2-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0318	8	8	41,157 - 53,504	X																													
SCBK08099137	Secretary (OA)	2-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0138	7	7	37,164 - 48,308	X	X																												
SCBK08099009	Secretary (OA)	2-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0318	7	7	37,164 - 48,308																														
SCBK08078683	Mgmt Asst (OA)	2-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0344	8	8	41,157 - 53,504																														
SCBK08097454D	General Engr	2-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	65,315 - 100,976																														
SCBK08145957	Budget Analyst	2-Dec-08	SMDC	GS-0560	11	11	54,999 - 71,500	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08083695	Training Tech	2-Dec-08	USAOMEMS	GS-1702	9	9	45,458 - 59,100	X	X																												
SCBK08113770	Lead Logistics Mgmt Spec	2-Dec-08	LOGSA	GS-0346	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X																													
SCBK08139805	Staff Action Control Spec	2-Dec-08	AMCOM, TMDE	GS-0301	9	9	45,458 - 59,100	X	X																												
SCBK08113755	Logistics Mgmt Spec	2-Dec-08	LOGSA	GS-0346	12	12	65,921 - 85,701	X																													
SCBK08122204	Mgmt Asst (OA)	2-Dec-08	USAOMEMS	GS-0344	7	7	37,164 - 48,308	X	X																												
SCBK08050874	Lead IT Specialist (APPSW)	2-Dec-08	LOGSA	GS-2210	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X																													
SCBK08084451	Aerospace Engr	3-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X																												
SCBK08100806	Lead General Engr	3-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08083315	Data Spec (GS-9 Equiv)	3-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DE-0301	2	3	45,458 - 85,701	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08083315D	Data Spec (GS-9 Equiv)	3-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DE-0301	2	3	45,458 - 85,701	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08116977	Supv Mgmt Analyst	3-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	YC-0343	2	2	65,278 - 126,442	X																													
SCBK08128489	Physical Therapy Asst	3-Dec-08	MEDDAC	GS-0636	5	5	30,001 - 38,997	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08101617	Supv Product Mngtr (Deputy)	3-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	YA-0301	3	3	87,978 - 148,740	X	X																												
SCBK08073311	Human Resources Asst (Info Sys)	3-Dec-08	CHRA, CPOC	GS-0203	7	7	37,164 - 48,308																														
SCBK08127080	Quality Assurance Spec (Metrology)	4-Dec-08	AMCOM, Quality Assurance Ofc	GS-1910	11	12	54,999 - 85,701																														
SCBK08113694	Oper Research Analyst	4-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-1515	12	13	65,921 - 101,913																														
SCBK08124265	APM FOR CMDS	5-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0301	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X																												
SCBK08123736	Equip Spec (General)	5-Dec-08	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	57,709 - 85,701																														
SCBK08122349	General Engr	8-Dec-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421																														
SCBK08122349D	General Engr	8-Dec-08	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08112977	General Engr	8-Dec-08	PEO AVN	NH-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657																														
SCBK08125694	General Engr	12-Dec-08	PEO AVN	NH-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657																														
SCBK08112832	Lead Mech Engr	13-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0830	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X																													
SCBK08117729	Supv Aerospace Engr	15-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X																													
SCBK08117742	Supv Aerospace Engr	15-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X																													
SCBK08124214	Lead Aerospace Engr	19-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08124214D	Lead Aerospace Engr	19-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08064841	Lead Gen Engr; Lead Mech Engr; Lead Elect Engr; Lead Comp Engr	20-Dec-08	USADTC	GS-0801; 0830; 0850; 0854	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X																													
SCBK08064841D	Lead Gen Engr; Lead Mech Engr; Lead Elect Engr; Lead Comp Engr	20-Dec-08	USADTC	GS-0801; 0830; 0850; 0854	14	14	92,633 - 120,421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08692992OC	Fire Protection Inspector	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0081	8	8	41,157 - 53,504	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08692097OC	Human Resources Asst (Mil/OA)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0203	6	6	33,442 - 43,476																														
SCBK08692098OC1	Human Resources Asst (Mil/OA)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0203	5	5	30,001 - 38,997																														
SCBK08692996OC	Firefighter (HazMat Tech/Basic Life Supp)	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0081	7	7	37,164 - 48,308	X	X																												
SCBK08691939OC	Security Guard	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0085	5	5	30,001 - 38,997																														
SCBK08691953OC	Police Ofcr	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0083	6	6	33,442 - 43,476	X	X																												
SCBK08692984OC	Lead Police Ofcr	31-Dec-08	GARRISON	GS-0083	7	7	37,164 - 48,308	X	X																												
SCBK08781811OC	General Supp Spec	31-Dec-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GS-2001	11	11	54,999 - 71,500	X	X																												
SCBK08781800OC1	General Supp Spec	31-Dec-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GS-2001	9	9	45,458 - 59,100	X	X																												
SCBK08123736	Equip Spec (General)	20-Jan-09	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	57,709 - 85,701																														
SCBK08041001OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08041011OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	12	12	65,921 - 85,701	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08041018OC	Supv Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	YA-1102	3	3	87,998 - 148,740																														
THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOB.S. OPM.GOV																																					
SCBK08014076D	Interior Design Spec	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YA-1008	2	2	45,014 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Civil Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0810	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Comp Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0854	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Elect Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0850	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Env Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0819	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Gen Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0801	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Industrial Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0896	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08995113D	Mech Engr	26-Nov-08	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville, AL	YD-0830	2	2	45,457 - 101,912	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
WTST08110128	Security Asst	28-Nov-08	Installation Mgmt Cmd	GG-0086	6	6	33,442 - 43,476	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08127008D	IT Spec (Sys Analysis)	1-Dec-08	AMCOM, TMDE	GS-2210	11	11	56,815 - 73,860	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08078683D	Mgmt Asst (OA)	2-Dec-08	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0344	8	8	41,157 - 53,504	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08124214D	Lead Aerospace Engr	19-Dec-08	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	92,633 - 141,657	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
SCBK08064841D	Lead Gen Engr; Lead Mech Engr; Lead Elect Engr; Lead Comp Engr	20-Dec-08	USADTC	GS-0801; 0830; 0850;																																	