

# Redstone Rocket

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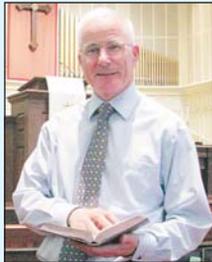
## Around town



*Veteran of Year leads vets tribute*  
**Page 4**

## Keep the faith

*State chaplain for the Guard*  
**Page 8**



## At ease



*Join the crowd at post gyms*  
**Page 10**

## Hail and farewell



*Lieutenant colonel joins product office*  
**Page 12**

## Win or lose



*Army showcases prep all-stars*  
**Page 17**

# Training troops on heavy equipment

*Redstone Landfill provides location*

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

Army reservists from Tennessee, Alabama, Pennsylvania and Texas spent last week training on heavy equipment at Redstone Arsenal.

Led by the 844th Engineer Battalion out of Knoxville, the training combined two military occupational specialties – 21 Echo (heavy construction equipment operator) and 21 Juliet (general construction equipment operator) – into one Super Echo specialty. The Army last October made the training mandatory for all Army Reserve units with Soldiers that carry a 21E or 21J specialty.

“The engineer transformation to modularity created a number of challenges for our battalion, one of which was the merging of the 21 Echo and 21 Juliet MOS’s into a single MOS, being the Super Echo, the 21 Echo,” 844th battalion commander Lt. Col. Adam Roth said. “The training that we’re conducting at



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**OVERVIEW—** Reserve units train on heavy equipment operations Jan. 5-11 at the Redstone Landfill.

Redstone Arsenal facilitates everybody’s transition to the new Super Echo MOS. The training includes over eight separate pieces of equipment, including both operations and maintenance of that equipment.

“The most important part of that training is that it is NCO planned, resourced and led. And we’re delighted to be partners with Redstone Arsenal in conducting this outstanding training opportunity. Soldiers conducting this training come from as far away as Pittsburgh, Pa., Houston, Texas and Gray, Tenn., as many will be deploying in support of the War on Terror in the coming months utilizing their newly-trained skills.”

This training was held Jan. 5-11 at the Redstone Landfill. The officer in charge was Sgt. 1st Class William Harper and his NCO was Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Addington. Both are members of the 702nd Engineer Company out of Gray, Tenn.

“The 844th right now is the first Army Reserve battalion to conduct this training,” Harper said. “As of Oct. 1st, 2008 the training became mandatory. Army Reserve units have until the end of the fiscal year 2009 (by Sept. 30) to complete the training.”

Other Reserve units that will deploy with the 844th also partic-

ipated in the training. There were 75 Soldiers from Pittsburgh, Houston, San Antonio, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Greenville (Tenn.), Knoxville, Gray and Huntsville.

“It gives a chance to get to know the units and the Soldiers prior to the actual mobilization,” Harper said.

They included five Soldiers from the 808th Engineer Company in Houston, five from the 655th Engineer Company in San Antonio, four from the 465th Engineer Company in Birmingham under the 926th Engineer Group, 25 students and 11 instructors from the 702nd Engineer Company, one student and one instructor from the HHC Engineer Battalion in Knoxville, three students and two instructors from the 733rd Engineer Company in Greenville, eight Soldiers from the Forward Support Company in Knoxville, six from the 390th Engineer Company in Chattanooga, three from the 375th Engineer Company in Huntsville, and two support



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TEST DRIVE—** Sgt. Jonathan Kyle of the Forward Support Company in Knoxville watches as Staff Sgt. Michael Moore of the 702nd Engineer Company in Gray, Tenn., operates a loader which was repaired by the FSC.

See Equipment on page 7

# An open lane random survey

### What do you think of the economy?

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



**Kenneth Gens**  
Retired Navy

**"I think it needs help. I think we should be concerned with our health care and our Social Security. For us old-timers, they're going to be collecting it in two years."**

**Christa Thomas**  
Post Exchange

**"It's a bit slow but we can make it through. With everybody working together, we can."**

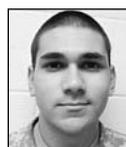


**Pvt. Dane Cave**  
Charlie Company

**"It's basically gone down to the Great Depression. And personally I think the only steady paycheck would be the military right now."**

**Pvt. Daniel Dabrowski**  
Charlie Company

**"I think the economy's going down. But it seems like it's getting better. And hopefully our new president can pull us out of it."**



## Quote of the week

**'M**y dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to 99 cents a can. That's almost \$7 in dog money.'

— Joe Weinstein

## Breast cancer awareness poem

The following poem was provided by Kathy Flowers, a human resources specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. It was written by her daughter, Jasika Williams. "She's 13 now. She was 12 when she wrote the poem," Flowers said.



**Jasika Williams**

*What do you do when your life's upside down?  
Do you help the cause to turn it all around?  
What do you do when you think you're dying?  
Never give up and keep on trying!  
All the illnesses in the world today  
Do you believe them or listen to what the doctors say?  
What do you do when you find out you have breast cancer?  
Are you scared or already aware?  
Make good choices to do right  
Breast cancer doesn't happen overnight.  
Hear what the women say who have it  
Cause all they did was fight, fight and fight!  
Fighting for power  
What the people have to do every hour.  
So many in the world  
It can even affect one healthy little girl.  
Making choices, doing right  
Is how I want to live my life.  
People being affected all across the nation  
And some ask is there really any explanation.  
Even a man can have breast cancer in his own era  
Now he's one of the affected people in all of America.*

## Tired of rushing to closed gate

Along the lines of the Dec. 10th request for longer hours at Gate 3, we contractors still have to work many days the government employees have the day off. This of course does not constitute a holiday for the contractors. Please leave Gate 3 open on these days. If you had ever driven all the way down South Parkway only to find Gate 3 closed, then have to drive north on the Parkway during rush hour traffic to Martin Road, then drive all the way south on Patton to Redstone Road again, you would leave the gate open on these government only holidays. I know for a fact that I am not the only one that has had to do this.

Also, since then I have asked the guards at the gate several times are you going to be open tomorrow;

I have even called the post police at 876-2222. Both the guards at the gate and the post police have responded with "As far as we know." That's not very helpful. At least clarify exactly which days are considered holidays with regard to the gate closure.

### Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Directorate of Emergency Services reviewed the hours for gate operations and determined current operational procedures are adequate. Hours of operation for all gates are posted on the AMCOM and Garrison homepages as follows: Gate 1 (Martin Road east), 5:30 a.m. to*

See Gate on page 3

## 2009 the year of NCO

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of "life as an NCO" are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do "whatever it takes" to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, Secretary of the Army established 2009 as "The Year of the NCO."

Throughout 2009, the Army honors NCOs through initiatives and events that:

- Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.
- Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

We invite you to join the celebration of one of America's greatest assets, the NCO Corps, the "backbone of the American Army."

### Department of Army release

## Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The Rocket will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@htimes.com or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the Rocket is noon Friday.



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National holiday  
slated Jan. 19

By Sgt. 1st Class NELSON E. BALLEW  
2nd Army Recruiting Brigade  
equal opportunity adviser

How do you write an article about a man of whom so much has already been written? What words can convey what that man has meant and continues to mean to so many culturally diverse people? How do you articulate the depth of a man who was both complex and simple in the way that he lived his life? How do you attempt a small glimpse at one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century and not state what other authors have already stated? If you were to sit and talk to 100 different people, you would get as many perspectives about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In writing this article, I sat down with Nathan Thomas, an instructor at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute in Cocoa Beach, Fla. As a young man, Thomas marched with King in Selma in 1963. This article shares some of Thomas' personal history relating to King. Additionally, it also highlights King's vision as well as his legacy.

Thomas stated that the key phrase used by King was "Yes we can." He used it to lift spirits and give confidence — that they didn't have a choice, they had to make these changes for the people. He went on to share that "Dr. King said that

it had to start with the community." The Montgomery bus boycott 1955-56 and the Birmingham campaign in 1963 are examples where businesses suffered financially and applied pressure to government leaders for change. They had started with the community and had found success. While a war was waged on foreign soil, racial inequalities here at home threatened the very fabric of society. He led with actions and words. He demonstrated resolve through his non-violent movement and delivered some of the most inspiring speeches ever made — whether he was speaking of "His Dream" or relating "that he had been to the mountaintop" and what he had seen. He was relating the same promise of America that Jefferson, Washington and Franklin had 165 years earlier.

I asked Thomas to share his personal perspective of King. What made such an extraordinary man human? He told me that King's favorite meal was pork chops, black-eyed peas and collard greens. He said that he was a jokester and he loved to laugh. He loved for other people to laugh. Until he started speaking nationally, he preferred to wear overalls as opposed to suits and ties. He said that he loved to play cards and that when he was traveling from location to location that in the evening they would sit in the hotel rooms and play spades and talk. Finally he shared that in that time pastors didn't have radios or televisions to get their messages out to the people so they had their sermons recorded and released on 78-records. He said that King had nine

sermons that had been released this way. One of the most famous was his "Knock at Midnight Sermon." My final question to Thomas was what he thought King's answer would be to me if I could ask him about how he feels about where we are at now as a nation. Thomas replied, "A giant step; where can we go now?"

King has been known by many names — son, husband, father, friend, pastor, to name a few. To many he became the leader that they would learn to follow. In 1870, the 15th Amendment had granted voting rights to all citizens without imposing limitations based on race, color or the condition of previously being a slave. This right was being circumvented by requiring literacy requirements prior to voter registration. Almost 100 years of implementation had effectively disenfranchised an entire race of people. Those people did not have a voice. King would provide the means to and the leadership to turn their voices into an effective choir.

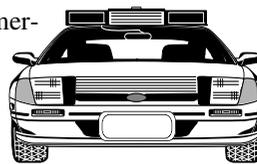
Selma in early 1963 was a turbulent time for our nation. Several marches had been organized in Selma to protest voting registration practices. One turned bloody when the local sheriff on horseback and his deputies attacked the marchers, inflicting physical harm. There was a national outcry due to the press that came from Selma. The end result was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which ended discriminatory voting requirements and

## Commentary

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Jan. 1:** An individual was driving while under the influence of alcohol and in possession of marijuana when he crashed into the concrete barricade at Gate 10. He was processed and transported to the station where he refused the breathalyzer test. He was detained until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level, then he received two court summons and was released.



**Jan. 2:** An individual entered the Post Exchange, selected a \$19.95 item and exited without paying. He was stopped and the police were called. He was processed and released to his unit.

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

**Violation notices issued:** 17 speeding, 1 no proof of insurance, 1 no driver's license, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving under the influence, 1 expired driver's license, 1 expired registration.

## Hours posted for Redstone Arsenal entrances

### Gate

continued from page 2

midnight, seven days a week; Gate 3 (Redstone Road), 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed weekends/holidays); Gate 7 (Martin Road west), 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed weekends/holidays); Gate 8 (Goss Road east), 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week; Gate 9

(Rideout Road), 24 hours daily, seven days a week; Gate 10 (Patton Road), 4:30 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

"Due to the large decrease in employee traffic on holidays, Redstone maintains four gates (1, 8, 9 and 10) at their normal hours and closes two gates (3 and 7). Gates 3 and 7 are only closed on weekends and federal holidays. During the recent holidays, Gates 3 and 7 were only closed on Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1."

By LEAH GARTON  
MDA Shield editor

**Name:** Art Tysen

**Job:** Assistant director of organizational security, Missile Defense Agency

**Where do you call home?**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**What do you like about your job?**  
Learning something new every day. No detail is too small.

**What is something unique that most people don't know about you?**

I am a pilot. I have been flying for 40 years. I have a commercial pilot license, with an instrument rating and multiengine rating. Performed acrobatics for a hobby. I have driven a jet car 406 mph. I would like to break the land speed record which is 763 mph. I play the alto, tenor and soprano saxophone. When I retire, I would like to teach music for free to disadvantaged kids. I would like to also speak to high school kids about goal setting. I have done this in the NCR (National Capital Region) on "Career Day" and it was a very rewarding experience.



**What's your favorite type of music?**  
Jazz and rhythm and blues

See **Legacy** on page 5

# Veteran holds to dream of local vets memorial

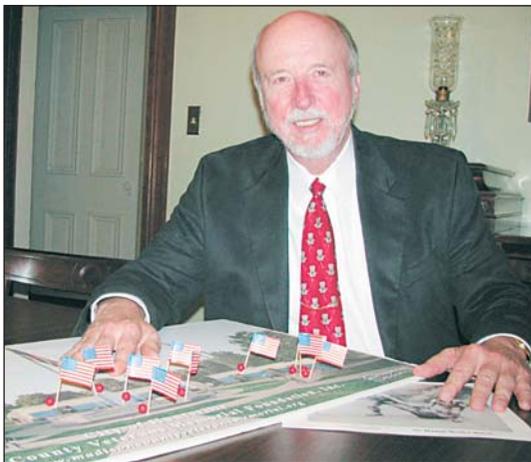


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**BRINGING MEMORIAL TO REALITY—** Vietnam veteran Bill Stender is always willing to talk about plans for the city's Veterans Memorial, which will be built downtown in Veterans Memorial Park. Stender, chairman of the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation, was named Veteran of the Year by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition for his efforts toward getting the memorial built.

## Foundation chairman named Veteran of Year

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

Bill Stender has held his vision of a dream since 2001.

That's the year he and two other veterans — retired generals Grayson Tate and Bob Drolet — committed themselves to seeing a veterans memorial built in Huntsville. Some eight years later, he and several volunteers still have that dream in sight.

Yet, the dream — although more concrete now than ever with the addition of an architectural drawing, a dedicated location and nearly \$1 million in the bank — still remains evasive.

"We've been a little bit disappointed in raising money. It's a little slower than we thought," Stender said, referring to the \$3 million to \$4 million needed to build the

memorial in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Huntsville.

"Money is tight. The volunteers we have on our board have had to strengthen their focus on their own work because of the economy and they don't have as much time to dedicate to this project. Everybody is refocused on their own businesses."

But, Stender hasn't lost the dream. It may take awhile longer, but Stender and the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation board will remain committed to the veterans memorial until its fountains flow with water, its marble slabs bear the names of the county's veterans killed in action and its U.S. flag flies high overhead.

It is that commitment to the memorial that garnered Stender the Veteran of the Year Award from the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition during Veterans Day 2008 activities in Huntsville.

The award, Stender said, recognizes all the people who have supported the efforts to have the veterans memorial built.

"It's an old speech that you hear. It's repeated by coaches all the time. And that speech is 'This has not been an individual effort by any means,'" Stender said. "This is really a team activity."

The dream for a veterans memorial in Huntsville/Madison County began back in late 2001 when the traveling Vietnam veterans memorial was in Huntsville for a three-day public viewing.

"The response to that event was much greater than anything we anticipated," Stender said. "We knew the Vietnam memorial was special to anyone who had served in Vietnam. But we were surprised at the reaction from the general public. We realized we needed to have our own memorial in Huntsville."

Surprisingly, for a city whose history is steeped in its contributions to the nation's defense, Huntsville does not have a veterans memorial. It does have a Civil War memorial and a memorial to a World War II unit. The state's Veterans Memorial Museum is located in Huntsville and the Madison County Historical Foundation does maintain a Hall of Heroes. But a memorial to all veterans of all wars is glaringly absent from Huntsville's cityscape.

In 2002, a committee to raise funds for a veterans memorial was formed with

Stender as its chairman. The City of Huntsville as well as the City of Madison and the Madison County Commission chartered the committee. But efforts to raise money were slow at first and then they came to a standstill while city leaders gave their full attention in 2003 and 2004 to supporting decisions of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

In fall 2006, efforts to build the memorial were restarted with the establishment of the memorial foundation, which teamed with Big Spring Partners to develop a fund-raising campaign and to plan the memorial. Since then, the foundation has been moving ahead on memorial plans with the help of Big Spring Partners and its employee Mary Jane Caylor, who is "an absolute motivating force behind everything that's happened," Stender said.

Stender, who is the foundation's chairman and who has donated the use of office space for the memorial volunteers in an historical home on Franklin Street, likes to talk about what the memorial represents for Madison County. He is proud of the design and symbolism — the Soldiers in its two statues representing courage, the names of veterans killed in action representing sacrifice and the flag flying high overhead representing duty — that came out of discussions between veterans and the architect, Martin Sisson of Chapman Sisson Architects.

The words "Courage, Sacrifice, Duty" will be emblazoned on the front of the memorial's fountain, and there will be a timeline of all the nation's wars along with flowing waterfalls and the center fountain.

"The charter for the memorial states we will recognize three different groups of veterans collectively," Stender said. "First, we will recognize all veterans of all wars. Second, we will recognize all veterans from Madison County who lost their lives in service to our country. And, third, we will recognize the three Madison County recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Stender is a veteran himself. He attended Georgia Tech on an ROTC scholarship and served in the Army for 10 years. His service in air defense artillery included a 15-month tour in Vietnam and a three-year assignment with the Patriot Project Office that brought him to Huntsville and

## ■ Stender steadfast in his vision of veterans tribute

# Memorial

continued from page 4

Redstone Arsenal. After leaving the Army, Stender stayed in Huntsville and worked for IBM before co-founding the local defense contractor CAS Inc.

“The Army changed my life,” he said. “I loved the people, the camaraderie, the friendships. Still to this day the best friends I have in the world I made in the Army.

“In the military, when you make a commitment to do something you do it.

There’s a very strong work ethic. That belief in commitment made a difference in my life.”

Now, Stender’s belief in commitment is making a difference for all veterans in Madison County and for North Alabama residents. But his military background is not the reason he is steadfast in his support for the veterans memorial.

“This has nothing to do with being in the military,” he said. “It is the recognition of something that absolutely needs to be done. All veterans should be told that we are thankful for what they’ve done.

“And we’re not doing this because the

military is part of Huntsville’s roots or because Huntsville is a defense town. We are doing it because of the 360 guys from Madison County who died in service to their country and because of all the guys and gals who have served in the uniform. These guys and gals willingly sacrificed for us. They said ‘I will go into battle on behalf of my country.’ As a nation, we don’t do enough to recognize our veterans.”

Besides recognition, the memorial is designed to also encourage people to serve in the armed forces and to educate people about the sacrifices that have been made to ensure their freedom.

“We want to teach proactively,” Stender said. “We want school children and adults

to know that veterans gave their lives so they could go to school, go to church and have the freedom to move around in this nation the way they want to.”

*Editor’s note: For more information on the Madison County Veterans Memorial or to make a donation, call 424-0020 or visit [www.madisoncountyveteransmemorial.org](http://www.madisoncountyveteransmemorial.org).*

## ■ Nation celebrates life of human rights pioneer

# Legacy

continued from page 3

practices. Unfortunately even noble causes often have casualties. On March 5, 2000 President Clinton acknowledged the death of “Jimmy Lee Jackson, Rev. James Reed, Viola Liuzzo and those others whose names we will never know” on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma as part of the 35th celebration of the Voting Rights March.

“Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!” That is the theme used each year to honor the man whose life work brought a nation closer to the framework of the words that it was built on. Two words come to mind when you talk

about King — legacy and vision. King’s legacy is two-fold. The people who he affected directly and indirectly are a who’s who in American history. To name one and not all would be an insult to any individual that was left off. Indirectly you have seen a people who were once disenfranchised and could not vote rise to some of the most prominent positions in local, state and federal governments.

In January as we celebrate not only the man but his vision, it will take on new meaning. Has King’s “Dream” been fulfilled “where all men are judged on the content of their character and not the color of their skin”? Only history will tell us the answer to that question in due time. However, I do believe that we will take a giant step toward realizing that goal as an

American people on Jan. 20. The day in which Barack Obama takes the oath of our highest office he will show that we finally live in a nation of its entire people. And for the first time, my friend can tell his young son he can grow up to be anything that he wants to be, and truly believe it. I can’t help but think that somewhere King is looking down at the fruits of what was his life’s work and smiling.

# ACS keeps focus on Soldiers and families

*Army Community Service plans new, enhanced programs in '09*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Redstone Arsenal families – whether they live on post or not, whether they include a Soldier or Army civilian, or whether they are transferring in or out of the area – are the top priority of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Army Community Service.

As the ACS staff and volunteers prepare for the opportunities and challenges of 2009, they are working with a growing number of families that span the entire spectrum from the young enlisted Soldier to the retiree.

"We feel confident that we have created a friendly environment at ACS and that people feel comfortable coming to us if they have any kind of problem or need information," ACS division chief Sue Paddock said. "We are available for anyone associated with the Arsenal. All of the ACS staff is dedicated to going the extra mile for families. If ACS can't help them, we know where to look in the community to get them the help they need. We have a lot of strong partnerships with agencies and organizations in the area who want to help Arsenal families."

The year 2008 was a banner year for ACS with the focal point being the Army Family Covenant, which re-emphasized the Army's commitment to providing military families with a strong, supportive environment both within their assigned military installation and within the communities where installations are located. In 2009, ACS will continue to reach out to address Soldier and family needs while also preparing for its fourth accreditation process.

"We've had a very productive year," Paddock said. "As a result of the Army Family Covenant, our efforts are even more vital to the well-being and readiness of our Soldiers and their families."

"There have been so many changes in ACS since I came here in 1987 because of standardizations in the organization, and now because of the family covenant and the deployments of Soldiers and civilians. The establishment of rules and regulations we work under have given ACS more credibility with military



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**PRIORITY CHECKLIST— Army Community Service volunteer Kim Anton and ACS division chief Sue Paddock look over a list of ACS activities being coordinated in support of all Redstone Arsenal families. Although the families of deployed Soldiers and civilians are often top priority with ACS, the organization offers family-oriented support programs for all families associated with the Arsenal. In 2009, ACS will grow and enhance its family-oriented programs.**

families while the family covenant has played a big part in taking ACS to a higher level of service and making what we do more visible."

Supporting families when there is a deployment – either of a Soldier or a civilian – is a key part of what ACS does every day. That support comes in the form of child care support, parenting support groups, family advocacy programs, financial assistance, equipment loan closet, computer classes, deployment and return ceremonies, and community resource information, among other services.

Yet, many of those services – including the loan closet, family advocacy programs, financial assistance, computer classes and community resource information – are also available to all Soldiers and civilians who are part of the Redstone Arsenal community. Those services are expanded or updated depending on comments ACS receives from its customers.

"Customer service is a big deal with us," Paddock said. "We use to do our own personal feedback survey. This year, the Garrison implemented ICE (Interac-

tive Customer Evaluation system that allows customers to provide feedback via a web page). When they did that, we started receiving a lot more feedback. The system allows us to track customer feedback, which, so far, has been very positive."

In 2009, ACS will continue to enhance its programs in support of families. One such program will be the new Community Redstone Arsenal Family Readiness Group.

"This post-wide group will meet quarterly. The intent is to get our arms around deployed families – military and civilian – from the Redstone Arsenal work force so that we can offer them support," Paddock said. "The group will include representatives from each organization on post who will receive training and who will help us identify who is deployed. We want to be able to reach out through this group and let them know we are available if they need anything."

Another new ACS program is a parent support group for military families.

"We've hired a nurse who does actual home visits to homes

where there are children under the age of 3," Paddock said. "For those families having babies, she delivers baby bundles and new presents to the parents. She also oversees our ChildWise play mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

In 2009, the Family Advocacy Program will increase its offerings of training classes, including marriage enrichment, parenting school-age children, preventing teen date violence and stress management.

"One of our Family Advocacy classes – the Sexual Assault Prevention Response Program – became more visible this past year, and we are seeing more tenant agencies and units participating in this program," Paddock said. "We are training more Soldier advocates within units who can work with Soldiers in preventing sexual assault and in assisting when there is a sexual assault."

ACS will also continue to introduce new Soldier family members to Army life and prepare them for possible deployments through its Army Family Team Building program. ACS also continues to manage the Arsenal's involvement in the Army Family Action Plan, and to assist families who are moving due to the base realignment and closure program.

"We've been sending welcome packages to families com-

ing to Huntsville because of BRAC and we continue to hold newcomer briefings," Paddock said. "This activity will increase in the new year."

During 2008, ACS's Army Emergency Relief program, which provides financial assistance to Soldiers and Soldier families experiencing financial difficulties, surpassed all goals in the amount of funds raised for the program. A total of \$292,120 was raised for AER assistance.

"It amazes me how much support we get with this effort in the Redstone Arsenal community. It's a total team effort," Paddock said.

That money will be used throughout 2009 to assist Soldiers and their families, she said. ACS continues to also offer financial management training and will host a series of lunchtime Financial Matters workshops with Regions Bank in 2009. Another program to assist with family finances will be the Job Fair in February that is geared toward military spouses and retirees.

Two of ACS's kid-friendly programs – its Space Camp Scholarship Program and its Special Olympics program – will also grow in 2009.

"We received 44 applicants in 2009 for the Space Camp Scholarship Program. We awarded

See Focus on page 7



Courtesy photo

## Office recognized

The Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space has received a 2008 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce Development Award. From left are Frank Anderson Jr., Defense Acquisition University president and director of AT&L Human Capital Initiatives; Mike Hartwell, the PEO's deputy for aviation and maneuver; and James I. Finley, deputy under secretary of defense for acquisition and technology. The program executive office received the Bronze Award in the small organization category.

## Focus

continued from page 6

only 15 Space Camp scholarships. We really want to be able to increase the number of scholarships in 2009," Paddock said.

"We also want to expand our Special Olympics bowling program on Redstone Arsenal to include more schools."

And ACS will continue to provide registration and staff support for Operation Christmas Bear, which is a holiday party for the children of deployed Soldiers and civilians.

"That program is a wonderful way for us to bring joy to the children of deployed Soldiers and civilians. It's also a wonderful way for us to identify family members of those who are deployed from our area so that we can add them to our waiting spouses list and provide them with the support they need," Paddock said. "It's a real challenge to identify those families."

A year at ACS wouldn't be complete without the organization recognizing Arsenal volunteers. In 2008, ACS changed the annual Redstone Arsenal volunteer luncheon by adopting a Helping Hands awards

## "All of us here like being able to take care of the total Army family. Helping families is what makes this job so special."

— Sue Paddock  
ACS division chief

program that recognizes many volunteers working in Arsenal organizations.

"Instead of the Volunteer of the Year award, we are now recognizing volunteers from throughout Redstone Arsenal," Paddock said. "This change gave us a chance to honor more volunteers who are making a difference on the Arsenal. Our volunteers are very important in helping us with our mission."

ACS also changed the date of its annual open house in 2008, moving it from the Soldier of the Year luncheon date during

Armed Forces Week to a day later in the week that had less planned activities.

"We will keep that change in 2009 because we had a lot more people this past year who had never come in to ACS before," Paddock said. "It really helped to increase awareness. We enlightened a lot of people for the first time about ACS services and we also highlighted our accomplishments of the year."

ACS programs are managed by 12 staff members with the assistance of about 20 volunteers.

"Volunteers are very important to our small staff," Paddock said. "They help with the front desk. They help program managers with day-to-day activities. They help us with special events. We couldn't do this mission without them."

One aspect of the ACS mission that both staff and volunteers will be involved with in 2009 will be the organization's fourth reaccreditation inspection. ACS is inspected every three years to ensure it complies with Army guidelines.

"It's a very lengthy process to make sure standards are being met," Paddock said. "We've passed all three times with commendation."

"We've always been proactive and done well with the accreditations. But

they do keep changing the standards and making it harder to pass. That's the challenge but I'm sure we will do well because accreditation is a day-to-day process. If you do everything regulations tell you to do every day, then every day you are living those regulations and you're running the organization the way it should be run."

No matter what is planned for 2009, Paddock said ACS is an organization that is continually evolving to meet the needs of the Arsenal's Soldiers and civilians, and their families.

"Every day is a challenge at ACS because you never know what additional issues or situations we will need to address," she said. "With everything going on in the world, there are a lot of ways ACS can provide support to Arsenal families. And there are a lot of changes and regulations we have to keep up with. But that's what makes this job interesting. All of us here like being able to take care of the total Army family. Helping families is what makes this job so special."

*Editor's note: For more information about ACS, visit its office in building 3338 on Redeye Road or call 876-5397. The ACS office is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

## ■ Reservist equipment operators prepare for deployment

## Equipment

continued from page 1

people (including maintenance and medical support) from Huntsville.

"They'll be a more vital asset to the Army because they'll be qualified on more pieces of equipment," Harper said, "to include dozer, scraper, grader, hydraulic excavator, loader and the backhoe."

The battalion contacted Redstone Arsenal in early December and got the training site through the help of Henry Millican of base support contractor Chugach.

"Redstone was very helpful in the process," Harper said. "They allowed us to train here. They provided support with the dining facility here on post. And they were more than willing to help us with anything else that was required."

Logistics issues represented the largest challenge. Besides having Soldiers from so many locations, there was the movement of heavy equipment. Equipment came from Gray, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Fort Gillem, Ga., and Huntsville. This included two hydraulic excavators, two backhoes, two dozers, two loaders, two scrapers, two graders, light sets and heaters, four 5-ton dump trucks, a wrecker, a fueler, a contact truck, a Light Maintenance Tactical Vehi-

cle and five rental vans.

"I think this is excellent training," Harper, 29, from Gray, said. "We have Soldiers from all over getting to work together in a real-world environment. The Soldiers are getting lots of one-on-one time with the instructors."

Huntsville resident Sgt. ReKeya Patterson, 28, was among the students. A Birmingham native, she is a member of the 375th Engineer Company in Huntsville.

"I think it's really good training," Patterson said. "It helps us. With every job, with more training you become better. Experience is the best teacher. We're getting more experience out here."

Sgt. Shawn Knauff, 25, of Mercer, Pa., belongs to the 655th Engineer Company in San Antonio.

"It's been pretty good so far," Knauff said of the training. "We've got quite a bit

of time on the equipment here."

Among the instructors was Staff Sgt. Mark White, 42, of Erwin, Tenn., who belongs to the 702nd Engineer Company in Gray.

"Aside from the wet weather we've had, it's pretty good training for the Soldiers," White said. "It's basically getting them familiar with how to run the equipment."

# Keep the faith

## Local minister reaches out to Guard as state chaplain

*Rev. Coy Hallmark's pastoral life enriched with military service*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

The Rev. Coy Hallmark carries a small black Gideon Bible in his jacket pocket that once belonged to World War II veteran an Capt. Hartsell Northington.

The Bible was given to Hallmark as a gift of gratitude by Lola Northington following her husband's death.

"His widow gave it to me on Veterans Day 2007. I was so touched by it because I had done his funeral," Hallmark said. "I told her I would put it somewhere safe. She said 'No, don't put it up and take care of it. Read it. Use it.'"

True to her instructions, Hallmark often takes the Bible out of his pocket to read or to share with others. The Bible, which includes a message from President Franklin Roosevelt and the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" along with the New Testament and Psalms and Proverbs, travels with Hallmark to every Alabama National Guard drill weekend, where he uses it to talk to Soldiers about their faith.

The Bible is bound to get a lot of use from Hallmark, especially now that he has been named the state chaplain for the Joint Forces Headquarters, Alabama Army and Air National Guard. In December 2008, Hallmark, who was promoted to colonel, assumed the chaplain's post from Col. James Reece, who has retired.

"I was happy as a lieutenant colonel. I was going to retire. I was at peace and thanked God for my service," said Hallmark, a pastor at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville.

But the Department of Defense had other ideas. Hallmark and two other Alabama National Guard chaplains were selected for promotion to colonel on the same day, which meant they were chosen to field a colonel slot in the National Guard. One of those chaplains needed a full-time position, so he went to the Reserves. Another, who is an Iraqi War veteran, took a colonel position as a chaplain with the Guard's Theater Support Command in Birmingham.

When the state chaplain position became available with the impending retirement of Reece, the 56-year-old Hallmark was the one tapped for the job.

"It was a whole lot about timing and being in the right place at the right time," he said.

This isn't the first time Hallmark has received a military calling to serve. He was a 30-year-old minister to congregations in Morgan and Cherokee counties in

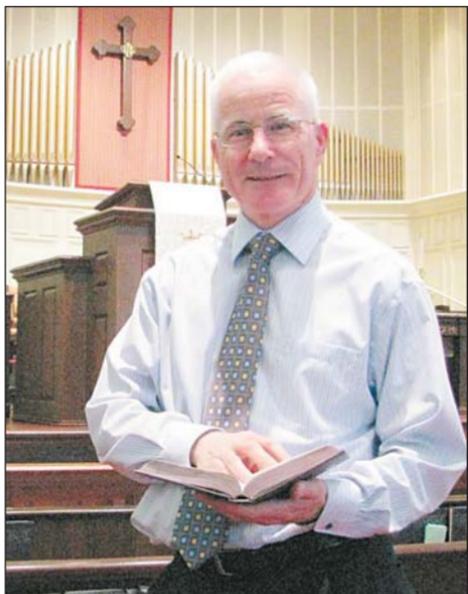


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**BRINGING SOLDIERS TO GOD—** The Rev. Coy Hallmark, executive pastor of First United Methodist Church, has been serving National Guard Soldiers in Alabama as a chaplain since 1983. He recently was promoted to colonel and took on the position as chaplain of the Joint Forces Headquarters, Alabama Army and Air National Guard, in Montgomery.

July 1983 when he received a calling to become a National Guard chaplain. In a way, the calling was in response to a need he felt to help and support veterans of Vietnam.

"My lottery number during the Vietnam War was number 210 and they drafted me up to 185. So, I wasn't drafted for Vietnam," Hallmark said. "But I lost a couple of close friends in Vietnam and my brother-in-law was both physically and mentally wounded by the war. He was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and he lost 16 of his friends on the first day in Vietnam.

"I felt like I should do something to make my contribution to these veterans. I needed to listen to their stories and minister to them if I could. A couple of district superintendants (in the Methodist church) presented the invitation to me. They told me I could be a National Guard chaplain and still serve my church."

Hallmark, who graduated from Emory University in 1979 with a master's of divinity, attended chaplains' basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., and chaplains' school at Fort Monmouth, N.J. During his chaplain career, he has served with the 279th Signal Battalion, 142nd Signal Brigade and the 1169th Engineer Group.

See **Chaplain** on page 9

# Chaplain

continued from page 8

“As a chaplain in the Guard you have the same responsibilities as in a church to provide religious support,” Hallmark said. “It’s every Soldier’s First Amendment right to freely be able to practice their faith. Chaplains guarantee Soldiers their free exercise of their faith. We bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers. It is a ministry of being present with Soldiers and families, and especially for being there in a time of crisis. The Soldier sees the chaplain as representing their connection to something greater than all.”

His duties have included providing and conducting religious services, counseling and praying with Soldiers, and calling in religious leaders of different faiths when requested by Soldiers. But Hallmark said his service as a Guard chaplain often went beyond the routine duties of a minister.

“In many ways it was what I expected. But in many ways it was far more meaningful as it relates to ministry with people as they experienced life and went through marriage, death, divorce and serious illness,” he said. “It became far more of a connecting thing than I expected. I got really, really close to a lot of Soldiers from the Vietnam era and even the Korean War era.”

Hallmark often likes to share the messages of the 23rd Psalms and Psalms 121,



Courtesy photo

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD— Alabama National Guard Col. James Reece, left, receives a gift of the popular print “They Were Always There” from Col. Roy Hallmark upon his retirement as the Guard’s state chaplain in December. Hallmark is now serving as the National Guard’s state chaplain. The print is a copy of an original Iraqi battlefield scene painted by retired Chaplain (Col.) Larry Selman that hangs in the Pentagon office of the chief of chaplains.**

verse 3 with Soldiers and veterans. “The scriptures tell us that God is going to take care of today, so don’t worry about today,” he said. “That goes for Soldiers, too.”

Military chaplains often mean different things to different Soldiers, depending on their personal backgrounds and their understanding of their faith.

“But all Soldiers know that the chaplain is there to listen to them, to pray with them and to make contact with home for them if they need that,” Hallmark said.

“When there’s trouble and the first sergeant and the commander can’t fix it, the JAG officer can’t fix it and the medical

corps can’t fix it, then it’s common to hear ‘You’ll just have to go see the chaplain. The chaplain will listen to you and pray with you.’”

In Hallmark’s office at First United Methodist Church there is a print of a painting titled “They Were Always There” by retired Chaplain (Col.) Larry Selman. The print depicts wounded Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division being ministered to by a chaplain during the southern approach into Baghdad, Operation Iraqi Freedom, in March 2003. A female chaplain assistant provides armed protection while the chaplain speaks to the wounded Soldiers. The print was given to Hallmark by his brother, Phillip, whose own son, West Point graduate Capt. Tyler Hallmark, is now serving in Baghdad.

“This print is very special to me and to all chaplains who are serving their country and the Soldiers who go into battle,” Hallmark said.

There are 38 chaplains (30 Army and eight Air) assigned to the Alabama Army and Air National Guard. But, currently, only 24 of those slots are filled, with 14 slots open in the Army Guard.

“We are getting the majority of our chaplains from the current military,” Hallmark said. “In those cases, they are Soldiers who understand the military and have a religious calling. But any minister with an ecclesiastical endorsement and a master’s of divinity can be a chaplain in the National Guard.”

In his role as the state’s Joint Forces National Guard chaplain, Hallmark will meet quarterly with chaplains from the Guard’s major commands – the Troop Command, Theater Sustainment Command, Chemical Brigade and Air National Guard — and then meet with the entire chaplain corps at their annual chaplains’ workshop in August.

“My responsibility is to provide direct religious support to the Joint

Forces Headquarters and to serve in a supervisory role with the major commands in the state and the 30 Army chaplains,” Hallmark said.

“I’m responsible for recruiting, training and supervising the state’s Army chaplains. My priority is to prepare chaplains for deployment and provide support to their families and welcome them back home.”

Hallmark said deployments of Alabama Army National Guard units are expected during the next two years.

“The deployment cycle continues to be very active over the next few years and our chaplains will continue to deploy with troops,” he said.

Whether in a deployment situation or just going through routine weekend drills, military chaplains need to be flexible and adaptable.

“Needs can change significantly and rapidly from conducting a worship to just listening to Soldiers en route to the next crisis or to sharing scripture and prayer one-on-one,” Hallmark said. “Sometimes chaplains are much more effective in those one-on-one situations than they are in worship.

“In a local civilian parish, church is somewhere you go to worship. In a military setting, church is on the go no matter where you are.”

Hallmark is looking forward to the challenges of serving as the state chaplain. He feels blessed to have three more years to serve the state’s Soldiers.

“I love being a National Guard chaplain. It’s one of the best things I’ve ever done,” he said. “It is a burning and boiling of my blood. I love Soldiers and veterans. If you give them your love, they will love you in return.”

*Editor’s note: For more information about joining the Alabama Army and Air National Guard’s chaplains corps, call 1st Lt. Scott Massey at (205) 337-4108.*

# Redstone gyms full at the start of each year

*New Year's resolution crowd tends to thin out within weeks*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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Loosing weight or beginning a workout program is probably the most popular of all New Year's resolutions. Every January, Redstone's fitness centers are filled with people who are determined to get in shape for the new year. The crowd is usually temporary, however.

"It happens every year," sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson said. "People come back to work and begin their New Year's resolutions. We get a new crowd and they're gone in a few weeks."

For the four weeks or so that make up resolution-season, each fitness center sees many new faces among the usual crowd. Wilson said she believes most people give up quickly because they unintentionally set themselves up for failure.

"They set a goal that is unrealistic. They decide that they're going to come work out so many days a week and lose this much weight in this much time," she said. "Don't overwhelm yourself."

Rather than trying to completely revolutionize their lifestyle instantly, Wilson said those who keep coming back to the gym make smaller, more manageable changes.

"The key is to just make a change. I encourage people to just set the goal that they're going to work out more," Wilson said. "Realistic goals keep them going."

They also have realistic expectations. When they don't see incredible results immediately, many newcomers take their slower progress as failure and quit.

"When it's not going as quickly as they

expected, they get discouraged," Wilson said.

It doesn't mean that resolving to get healthier and more active is a bad thing, Wilson is quick to add. She encourages those wanting to make a change to do it in a way that sets them up for success. The first step in beginning a successful exercise program is to change the resolution itself.

"Decide to just be healthier. Resolve to work out more," Wilson said. "Resolve to feel better, take care of yourself better and get more exercise."

She also encourages newcomers to take advantage of the free resources Redstone's fitness centers provide. A personally designed program from one of the gym's trainers can ensure that each person is getting the maximum benefit from their workout.

"We have five recreation specialists/trainers," Wilson said. "All that you have to do is make an appointment. If you want a personal program, they need a health screening that we provide."

It's also a great way to learn the proper way to use machinery and equipment, although any staff member will happily illustrate the basics of a machine whenever asked.

"At any time they can ask for assistance," Wilson said. "There is always somebody here to help."

Certain times of day are more crowded in the gym than others. Until they are more



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**GETTING LIFT— Gym regulars, like retiree Steve Crawley, are seeing a temporary influx of resolution-makers to Redstone's fitness facilities.**

comfortable in the facility, Wilson said those new to fitness might want to avoid those peak times.

"Peak times tend to be 10:45 to 12:45 when everybody is at lunch and after work from 3:30 until about 6," she said. "Early morning is a great time to come work out, take a shower and go to work."

If the weight machines, treadmills and elliptical trainers look too complicated for you, taking an aerobic or yoga class can be a fun way to ease into a fitter lifestyle. A variety of classes are available at both the Sparkman Center and Pagano Gym locations.

"Our class schedule is posted at the gyms and on our website," Wilson said.

Signup is under way for a popular program offered by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports and fitness. Movin'

and Losin' lets four-person teams compete against each other by setting and meeting their fitness goals for points over an eight-week period.

"It's a lot of fun," Wilson said. "People in different offices like to compete against each other. We usually have a lot of success. We normally have 20 to 25 teams. We've seen combined weight loss of 500 to 700 pounds."

Each team acts as a support system and motivation for its members.

"They have to be accountable," Wilson said. "They have to turn in a weekly exercise log. It gets them motivated. Having a partner or a team makes a huge difference. They call each other to make sure that they went to work out."

The program is so popular that many teams come back each time to continue their road to fitness. After registration and initial meetings, teams will choose a Redstone fitness facility for the scheduled weigh-ins. Their file will be kept at that location, so they must return there in order for their team to receive proper credit.

Movin' and Losin' registration begins today and goes through Jan. 23. To sign up, call Phylissa Shannon at 313-1201. To schedule a session with a trainer, call the individual facility you wish to use. Hours of operation for the fitness centers vary by location. Pagano Gym is open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Redstone Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Sparkman Center Fitness Center is open Monday to Friday 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Wellness Center is open Monday to Friday 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. More information and class schedules are available on their website [www.redstonemwr.com/recreation/sports&fitness.html](http://www.redstonemwr.com/recreation/sports&fitness.html).

# Comedy Night makes encore at O' Club

*Return engagement scheduled Feb. 6*

FMWR RELEASE

Once again the Officers and Civilians Club is bringing the funny! On Feb. 6 at 6 p.m., we will have another great show featuring Frankie Paul, Todd Link and Michelle Thomas.

Headliner Frankie Paul is fast becoming a prominent force in the world of comedy. He hits upon a vast array of today's topics as well as everyday craziness like marriage, family and common human stupidity! Once you

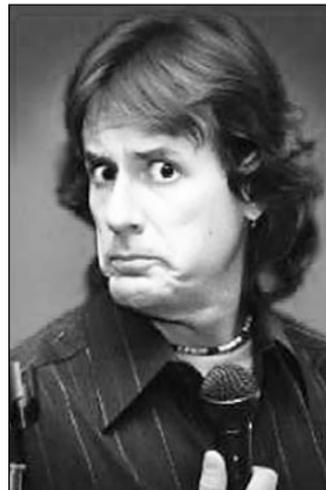
see him, you'll want to see him again. With a loveable animated appearance and inoffensive attitude, Frankie takes his crowd on a silly rollercoaster ride of uproarious laughter. After it's over, the crowd is drained but wants another ride. If laughter is truly medicine, then Frankie Paul should be Surgeon General. Don't miss him!

Feature act Todd Link is originally from Tennessee but now pays his dues in Los Angeles. Seen on a variety of television shows including "The Craig Ferguson Show," Todd is animated and a crowd favorite. Opening the show is Alabama's own extremely funny female, Michelle Thomas!

Advance tickets are \$10 without dinner and \$18 with dinner. Tickets at the door are \$14 without dinner and \$22 with dinner. Tickets at the door are subject to availability. Tickets will go fast, so call 830-2582 to get yours today.



**Todd Link**



**Frankie Paul**



**Michelle Thomas**

## NASA awards conferencing services contract

Verizon Business of Ashburn, Va., has been awarded a contract by Marshall Space Flight Center to provide conferencing services for the agency.

Verizon Business will provide video, audio and web conferencing services to all NASA centers and facilities and selected contractor locations as requested.

The contract began Jan. 5 with a two-year, three-month base period, followed

by three two-year options that may be exercised at NASA's discretion. It is a firm-fixed price contract with a value of approximately \$108 million, if all options are exercised.

The contract is a follow-on effort for agency-wide conferencing services awarded under the General Services Administration's Network Universal contract. (*Marshall Space Flight Center release*)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ARMY FAMILY**— New product manager Lt. Col. Russ Wygal and his wife, Amy, gather with their children, Emily, 3, Allison, 5, and Thomas, 8.

# Hail and farewell

## Wygal takes reins of aviation support team

*'Absolutely thrilled to be here,' he says*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

This product office may not be the most glamorous, but its importance to aviation units is evident.

Aviation Ground Support Equipment, under the Aviation Systems Project Office, manages 20 systems. Lt. Col. Russ Wygal became the AGSE product manager Jan. 7 in an assumption of charter ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"My goal is to support the requirements of the Soldiers and Army aviation units worldwide," Wygal said.

The 47-year-old San Diego native was commissioned an aviation officer in 1988 through ROTC at San Diego State University. He earned a master's in acquisition and procurement from Webster University in 2002.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be here," Wygal said. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Harvest with their three children: Thomas, 8, Allison, 5, and Emily, 3.

Deputy product manager Rod Bellows served as the product manager for the past seven months.

Aviation Systems project manager Col. Tony Potts officiated at the ceremony for AGSE Product Office.

"It's the one organization that I know of, in all that we do as product managers and program managers, that affects every single aviation unit in the United States Army," Potts said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GRAND FINALE**— Singing the "Army Song" at the end of the assumption of charter ceremony are, from left, Aviation Ground Support Equipment deputy product manager Rod Bellows, product manager Lt. Col. Russ Wygal and Aviation Systems project manager Col. Tony Potts.

# Air Force Band prepares for historic inaugural parade



Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo

**REHEARSAL—** The 99-piece U.S. Air Force band practices inside a hangar in preparation of its parade performance for the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. The practice took place Jan. 7 on Andrews Air Force Base.

By **DONNA MILES**  
*American Forces Press Service*

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — “Welcome to one of the greatest moments of your career.”

With those words, Air Force Col. Dennis Layendecker, commander, music director and conductor for the U.S. Air Force Band, impressed on his airmen the importance of their upcoming mission supporting the presidential inauguration.

“This is a historic moment for our country,” Layendecker told the musicians, assembled nine across and 11 deep in the 459th Air Refueling Wing’s Hangar 11 for a 6 a.m. Jan. 7 rehearsal session.

“It’s a great example to the world of what it means to have a peaceful transition of power,” he said.

The Air Force Band will join the other military service bands to march from the

U.S. Capitol to the White House during President-elect Barack Obama’s inaugural parade Jan. 20, said Air Force Capt. Christopher Moore of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

The U.S. Army Band, known as “Pershing’s Own,” will go first along the 1.5-mile parade route as part of the presidential escort formation. The Army Field Band also will march in what organizers refer to as the first “division,” or segment, of the parade.

“The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Corps Band will be on stage at the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony, then march down Pennsylvania Avenue as part of the second parade division. The U.S. Navy Band will follow in the third division.

As the youngest of the premier military bands, with a heritage dating to 1941, the U.S. Air Force Band will march in the fourth division.

## Health insurance questions answered

The following questions and answers originally appeared in the *NARFE Magazine* and are reprinted with permission from the National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center confirmed the information for accuracy.

**Question:** Can you change the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program plan to choose the amount of coverage you want instead of electing the entire plan?

**Answer:** No. The FEHB plans are established as a package. And if you select a plan – for example, standard

option Blue Cross – then you cannot modify the coverage of that plan.

**Question:** What are the requirements for enrollment in the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program? I’m planning to retire next year. Do I have to sign up now, or can I sign up after I retire?

**Answer:** You may sign up for FED-VIP before or after you retire. The five-year rule – you must have carried federal employee health benefits for five years preceding retirement in order to continue enrollment in a FEHB plan — does not apply to that coverage.

# Poland native proud to attain U.S. citizenship

*Ceremony proves emotional event*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
 Staff writer  
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Danuta “Danka” Zaremba can finally enjoy the benefits of American citizenship. After two decades of residence, she formally became a citizen last spring.

Zaremba, a cashier at the Officers and Civilians Club, came to America almost 20 years ago. The turmoil of Communism in her native Poland made it necessary for her husband to seek political asylum in this country. Zaremba and her children followed two years later. The family relocated to Huntsville. Over the years, they moved several times around the nation, but always seemed to return to Alabama. Zaremba moved back permanently five years ago. Besides the economic, climate and municipal draws of the community, she said the people themselves made her want to be here.

“The people are so friendly here,” she said. “On the street, they smile and say hi to you when they don’t even know you.”



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**AMERICAN WAY— Officers and Civilians Club manager Robert Schumann presents a flag to new citizen and longtime club employee Danuta Zaremba.**

She has been active in the local Polish-American community for some time, even teaching a class on the Polish language at a local church. Having formed close friendships with students and community members, Zaremba discussed her plans for the future with others.

“We were talking for several years about the benefits and advantages of citi-

zenship,” Ed Morfenski, longtime friend and Polish-American, said. “Danuta had expressed an interest in working on the Arsenal.”

She was introduced to Bob Howell, the club manager at the time. He was looking for an employee with computer and administrative skills. Zaremba had just graduated with an administrative degree from an area college. A seemingly perfect fit, she began working at the club.

Although she now has a degree and the job she wanted, Zaremba wasn’t quite done. Friends and co-workers urged her to apply for citizenship. If she hoped to go further working for the Army, she would need to be eligible for security clearances. She would need to be a citizen. She also wanted to participate in one of the most precious privileges citizens had — she wanted to vote.

“I got to vote for the first time in the election,” she said. “I voted for a president.”

In addition to the forms and paperwork required in the process, Zaremba had to study for the citizenship exam. In April, she traveled to Atlanta to take the test.

“It was on American history, economy and government,” she said.

After passing her exam, she took the oath of citizenship with her fellow immigrants. The experience affected her deeply.

“There were about 250 people from 50

different countries there,” Zaremba said. “It was very emotional. I was crying.”

Her language students and friends threw a reception for her when she returned. At the party, they presented her with an American flag, her first as a citizen. Their congratulations meant a lot to her.

“It was very touching,” she said. “It was such a nice party.”

To lighten an emotional evening, Zaremba was presented with a playful framed oath for Alabama citizenship. With it, she swore to use the word “y’all” and eat cornbread, among other things. She jokes that she is still working on her Southern drawl.

“I already have one accent,” she quipped.

Since she now has her own citizenship, she is trying to encourage others to do the same. Her oldest son has received his citizenship as well. The younger is still a senior in high school. She is also helping co-workers prepare for the citizenship exam.

“I just want to help them,” she said.

She plans to take both of her sons back to Poland to visit soon. The youngest has no memory of their time there because he left at such a young age. Of course, they will have to get new passports now.

“It’s important to remember where you came from,” she said. “But I am proud to be American now.”

# East defeats West during All-American Bowl

Annual football game features nation's top high school players

By RICH LAMANCE  
Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO — In what has become the Army's premier showcase of both the nation's best talent of high school football athletes and its most courageous and decorated Soldier-Heroes, the All-American all-star high school football game made its ninth appearance Jan. 3.

In a contest that pitted the best players from the East and West, the East team had little trouble defeating the West, 30-17 in front of 32,732 fans and a live national audience at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

During pregame activities 85 Soldier-Heroes, representing the active duty, Reserve and National Guard, were each paired with a player from either the West or East team and recognized on the field prior to kickoff. All Soldier-Heroes received either the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star or Purple Heart.

This year's game registered a first with a husband and wife Soldier-Hero team from Fort Bragg, N.C., involved with pregame activities with their son, a starting player on the East team.

Pregame activities began with a precision display of rifle wizardry from the U.S. Army Drill Team, a specialty unit of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard). The Soldiers used bayonet-tipped 1903-style Springfield rifles to perform their routines. The 82nd Airborne Division Chorus, from Fort Bragg, provided the music during the pregame ceremony.

A group of more than 100 delayed entry program recruits from the San Antonio area took their oath of enlistment from the Army's vice chief of staff, Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli. Training and Doctrine Command commander Gen. Martin E. Dempsey administered the oath of office to two area ROTC cadets commissioned as second lieutenants. Cadet Barry Johnson-Rivera was pinned by his mother, Command Sgt. Maj. Frances Rivera; and Cadet Alexandra Brenner was pinned by Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commander of the U.S. Army



Photo by Benjamin Faske

**EARLY ACTION**— The West team (white jerseys) starts an offensive drive at the start of the Army-sponsored All-American Bowl football game pitting the top high school athletes in the nation. The East team won the contest 30-17.

Cadet Command.

Two Medal of Honor recipients, retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, from San Antonio, and Clarence Sasser of Rosharon, Texas, were also recognized during the ceremony. The pregame activities were capped by the game ball presented by a Special Forces team rappelling from the rafters onto the field. The coin toss was presented by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, along with Chiarelli, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and Staff Sgt. Jason Fetty, a Soldier-Hero from Fort Bragg.

Command Sgt. Major Kenneth E. Nixon Sr., a battalion command sergeant major with the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, currently deployed to Afghanistan, and his wife, Master Sgt. Fotini Nixon, the G-1 sergeant major with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, were both designated as Soldier-Heroes for the event, and both were on hand to see their son Xavier play as an offensive lineman for the East Team. Xavier, 18, played both offense and defensive tackle for Jack Britt High School in Fayetteville, N.C., and at 6-foot-7 and 270



Photo by Benjamin Faske

**PREGAME**— Staff Sgt. Jason T. Fetty flips the coin to start the 2009 All-American Bowl in the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Fetty is a civil affairs NCO at Fort Bragg, N.C., and was one of 85 Soldier-Heroes representing the Army during pre-game activities. Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, and Secretary of the Army Pete Geren assisted in the ceremonial toss.

pounds, is considered one of the premier linemen in the nation.

"It was really a great honor to have the opportunity to share this

special moment with my son," Command Sgt. Maj. Nixon said.

"This was the first game of his senior year that I had the chance

to physically see him play. He looks awesome!"

Xavier's mom had the opportunity to meet her son on the playing field before kickoff, as part of the pregame activities that introduced both players and Soldier-Heroes to the audience. "It was very exciting to be paired up with my son as his Soldier-Hero," Master Sgt. Nixon said. "This entire week has been exciting, especially having the opportunity to spend time with him and my husband during the week. It was also a great honor to be selected as a Soldier-Hero."

The Soldier-Heroes spent several days before the game interacting with their player counterparts in events ranging from a skills competition that included a challenge of push-ups, sit-ups and an eating competition, to a River Walk cruise, a barbecue and a special dinner honoring both heroes and players.

"I was able to meet a young high school all-star from LaGrange, Ga., about 60 miles from where I live," said Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Fambro, a human resources NCO with a Georgia-based Army Reserve unit, who earned the Bronze Star during tours in Balad, Iraq, from 2005-07. "The player, Chris Burnette, is a humble athlete who looks up to Soldiers and the military overall. As a Soldier-Hero, I hope that the players saw we exemplified all of the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage."

Another Soldier-Hero, Sgt. Brandon Hason, an infantryman with Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 51st Infantry, Fort Drum, N.Y., was wounded in Iraq by an improvised explosive device, receiving the Purple Heart during his last deployment. He said that many of the values he and his fellow Soldiers learn and develop in the Army can be used, not only on the gridiron, but throughout a person's life.

"I passed on to my player a true sense of personal courage and a sense of loyalty to his team, his family and most importantly to himself. Personal courage that gives him the knowledge that there's nothing that can stop him from achieving anything he wants to achieve, and that when his career is over in high school, college or the pros, he can make something out of whatever comes his way."

# Logistics Support Activity shares holiday cheer

*Workers contribute to needy children*

Logistics Support Activity provided a helping hand to some of the less fortunate in the local community during the holidays. LOGSA workers adopted 150 Angels from the Huntsville Chapter of the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program.

With their generosity, many children in the community were able to have presents under their tree on Christmas morning.

“Again this year, the generosity of the LOGSA team has amazed me and set the standard for all organizations to follow,” LOGSA commander Col. James Rentz said. “It is because of the sacrifices of patriots that we are able to live in freedom in this great country and help less fortunate families in our community have a wonderful holiday.”

Lt. Col. Phala Patton organized this effort.

“We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support that the LOGSA work force gave to our holiday charity,” Patton said. “They have made a significant impact in the lives of many children this holiday season. Without the support of the whole LOGSA team this event would not have been a success.”

Members of the LOGSA communi-



Photo by Melody Sandlin

**LOGSA HELPERS—** From left are Nathan Forbes, Lt. Col. Phala Patton, Sgt. 1st Class Mary Turkiewicz, Florence Walker, Reena Strong, Sara Lee and Sharon Gilbert. Committee members not shown include Melinda Rentz, Sgt. 1st Class Leslie McKennie, Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Fortenberry, Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Newsome and Sgt. 1st Class Dawood Muhammad.

ty were able to select the age and gender of the child they wanted to help. Included in the donations were many bikes, baby dolls, remote controlled vehicles, clothes and skateboards.

These donations were much appre-

ciated by the Salvation Army, especially in these tough economic times. With request for donations increased by as much as 25 percent in 2008, the LOGSA work force went above and beyond to help. *(LOGSA release)*

# Letterkenny invests in future civilian leaders

*Supervisors complete uplifting program*

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. – Fifteen Letterkenny Army Depot supervisors were recognized Dec. 12 for completing the Leader Investment for Tomorrow program.

LIFT members briefed team projects before an audience of senior management officials. Ronnie Chronister, Aviation and Missile Command deputy commander, and Dr. John Gray, deputy commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, presented LIFT graduates with certificates and depot coins. A reception followed the event.

LIFT is a component of the Aviation and Missile Command Leader Development Life Cycle and supports the Army vision for civilian leader development. Selection for this competitive leadership development program began in June. Participants were recruited from a pool of talented supervisors at all pay band levels.

Letterkenny commander Col. Steven Shapiro kicked off the 2008 LIFT program July 22. LIFT members participated in the six-month program that consisted of monthly classes, interactive workshops, leadership assessments, lectures, selected leadership readings, staff rides, and team projects. LIFT graduates will use their leadership skills to support change initiatives and improve business applications for Letterkenny Army Depot. The 2009 LEAD LIFT program opportunity is expected to begin in the spring.

# Army aviation working harder, smarter

Increased demand on units in theater

By DAVID VERGUN  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The days of sending pilots out of Fort Rucker's aviation flight school for a year of on-the-job-training are over, said the installation commander there.

"We're now sending many of them directly into theater. And feedback so far from commanders is that they're doing pretty well," said Maj. Gen. James O. Barclay III, commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker. He said the Army aviation community is experiencing a very high operating tempo.

"While the combat brigades are drawing down in Iraq, Army aviation is seeing a plus-up with shorter times away from the fight and less predictability in deployment cycles," Barclay said. "It's not an easy business right now and I don't see any changes in the near term."



Photo by Dave Vergun

**AVIATION FORUM—** Fort Rucker commander Maj. Gen. James O. Barclay III speaks at the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare Army Aviation Symposium and Exposition on Jan. 8 in Arlington, Va.

The general said that with forces thinning in Iraq, demand on remaining troops increases, requiring them to be in more places. That puts an increased demand on aviation units. He said Army aviation is increasing its presence in Afghanistan as well.

While focus on the combat mission is clear, Barclay said the lines are blurred between training and operations commands involving the aviation community.

"We quit separating the components and commands," he said, indicating the units train, fight

and talk to each other more than ever before. Organizations he was referring to include: Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command, Army Materiel Command, Fort Rucker and Installation Management Command, as well as Guard, Reserve and active components. "We're truly a combined force, tied at the hip. We have to be. It's about being more effective, not just more efficient," he said, citing the Army Enterprise best practices model as aviation's campaign plan.

Barclay said there's a continual and rapid movement of personnel and their equipment from training to deployment to reset, then looping back to training, with relevant and responsive feedback throughout the cycle. For example, he said, lessons learned in combat are immediately applied to training and to new aviation equipment design.

Although the aviation community is combat-oriented, planning and rollout of new manned and unmanned aircraft to meet current and future needs

is still a high priority, with design for crew survivability ranking at the top, he noted.

There is also an emphasis of empowering leaders from the bottom up and giving them more responsibility.

"There's an effort of decentralization of leadership; a push-down of tasks and decision-making designed to enfranchise the small-unit leaders," he said.

Although it is a busy time, he said the aviation community is not broken. Barclay noted that although dwell times in and out of theater are not good — about a 1:1 ratio for the aviation brigades — the enlistment and re-enlistment rate is "doing well, despite not only the time deployed, but also attractive job offers from the contracting community."

Barclay said that while improved technology is important, success still depends on good people. He said leaders "must keep the focus on our young men and women who voluntarily answer the call to duty and go in harm's way over and over again."

## Hard work pays off for LOGSA worker

Industrial engineer inducted into hall

By ANTHONY RICCHIAZZI  
Tobyhanna release

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — An industrial engineer here, who started as an analyst, has been inducted into the Military Packaging Hall of Fame.

Charlotte Lent works in the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center, which is part of the Army Materiel Command's Logistics Support Activity. She is the 12th PSCC person to enter the hall.

Lent was inducted at a ceremony last year by John Antal, acting dean of the School of Military Technology, for her accomplishments in the military packaging career field over the last 30 years.

The honor is recommended by fellow packaging professionals in recognition of her outstanding duty performance.

Lent also earned the 2008 Handling Achievement Award from the National Institute of Packaging, Handling and Logistics Engineers.

Lent began working at PSCC in 1978 as an operations research analyst. She switched to the industrial engineer field in 1988.



Photo by Rosy Poole

**HONOREE—** Richard Owen presents Charlotte Lent with the 2008 Handling Achievement Award from the National Institute of Packaging, Handling and Logistics Engineers. Owen is the executive director of NIPHE. The award coincides with Lent being inducted into the Military Packaging Hall of Fame.

## U.S. troops train Afghan security guards

By Sgt. CHARLES BRICE  
Special to American Forces Press Service

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — U.S. Soldiers are training new Afghan security guards in an effort that is bringing them more help at traffic checkpoints.

Soldiers from 1st Infantry Division's Company A, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, taught the specialized training at Forward Operating Base Fenty in northeast

Afghanistan. The training included tactics, techniques and procedures for working traffic control points and conducting body searches.

"What we teach in the class can carry over into their daily routine," Sgt. Prentice Rouse, from Company A, said. "In return for their participation, they can go back and train their peers."

During training, the Soldiers demonstrated techniques, which the Afghans followed.

"Each (Afghan security guard) will go through the same training over and over until they grasp the information and feel comfortable with teaching it to others," Rouse said. "We encourage them to participate and interact with our company and their fellow soldiers."

The security guards were taught a different skill set by the troops every week.

"Now that our forces are combined, we can run the checkpoints and gates more effectively along with the (Afghan security guards)," 1st Lt. Craig Gridelli, base defense and operations officer in charge, said. "The training that we leave behind will hopefully have built a little bit of institutional knowledge with the (Afghan security guards) so that they can do the job themselves."

*Editor's note: Sgt. Charles Brice serves in the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team public affairs office.*



Photo by Sgt. Charles Brice

**TRAFFIC TALK—** Sgt. Aaron Duncan, Company A, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, explains a traffic control point to Afghan security guards.

# Rocket Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Cycling benefit

Registration is now open for the second annual Tour de Cure in Huntsville. On Saturday, May 16, riders will depart from downtown Huntsville at the Convention and Visitors Center, and travel through the scenic countryside of the area. There will be four ride lengths to choose from — 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles. The 100-mile century ride will travel through Huntsville and all the way to Grant before returning to downtown Huntsville for the postride celebration. All proceeds from this ride benefit the American Diabetes Association. Riders in the Tour de Cure must raise a minimum of \$150 to participate. Those who register before Feb. 16 will receive an early-bird registration fee of \$15; after this date, the registration is \$25. For more information, contact Doris Lewis at [dlewis@diabetes.org](mailto:dlewis@diabetes.org) or call 539-4404.

### Boating class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 24-06, Redstone will offer a Boating Skills and Seamanship course. The course, taught in six two-hour sessions, will be Thursday nights from 6:30-9 at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687. The first course of the year is Feb. 12 through March 26. Cost is \$25 to defray the expense of the textbook. For more information, call Tom Kunhart 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell).

### Dance workshop

Youngsters age 10-18 are invited to join Child Youth and School Services for a dance workshop Jan. 23. The workshop will cover jazz, hip-hop and modern dance. Cost is \$12 per style of dance or \$30 for all three. Call 651-0470 or 603-5009.



## 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 842-7910.

### Young professionals

AIAA Young Professionals' Luncheon is Jan. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jacobs Conference Center, Galileo Conference Room (first floor). The scheduled speaker is Tim Pickens, CEO of Orion

Propulsion Inc. The Jacobs Conference Center is located at 1500 Perimeter Parkway. From Redstone Arsenal, drive north on Research Park Boulevard (Rideout Road), exit at U.S. 72 West toward Athens, turn right at the light onto Perimeter Parkway, and turn right after McAlisters. To RSVP for this chili lunch, e-mail [emmett.j.mcdonald@nasa.gov](mailto:emmett.j.mcdonald@nasa.gov).

### 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 Olsheski 489-0404. The contact for the lunchtime group is Mattie L. Jones 828-9890 or 508-7744.

### 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

### City residents

Huntsville City Councilman Bill Kling will hold a Town Meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A at the Huntsville Public Library on Monroe Street. Kling wants to hear your ideas on how to improve city government.

### Veterans group

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

### 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.

### Air/space/missile defense

The Air, Space and Missile Defense Association will hold its annual membership and awards luncheon Friday at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. Social begins at 11 a.m. and lunch at 11:30. Scheduled speaker is Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command. Individual seating is \$30; and a table of eight costs \$240. For more information, call Sigma Services 533-6986. Reservations can

### Fleet reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Jan. 24 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, Exit 3. For more information, call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

### Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will hold its monthly luncheon Jan. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. Rita Schwarz of Birmingham will speak on "How to Find Real Happiness and Purpose in Life." For reservations call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339 by Jan. 22.

### Genealogy society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, Main Branch. "Finding and Using Newspapers in Genealogy" will be presented by Howard Blood. For information call 883-5650.

### Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. Jan. 28 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Annette Ikstrums, supervisory program analyst of Fox Army Health Center pharmacy services. The informal monthly breakfast is Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 a.m. at Ryan's Family Steak House, 1808 University Drive (near Memorial Parkway). For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

### Condition based forum

The Redstone Chapter, the HUMS ITT, and the Product Support Committee of the American Helicopter Society International will sponsor a Technical Specialists' Meeting on Condition Based Maintenance on Feb. 10-11 at the Von Braun Center. Registration is available at <http://www.vtol.org>. The key topic areas will include Fatigue Life Management, Platforms, Metrics and Standardization. For more information, call Edwin Martin 313-9174.

### Civil air patrol

The Redstone Composite Civil Air Patrol Squadron has started meeting at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Aviation Challenge after outgrowing its facility at Redstone Airfield. Meetings are 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

### Contract managers

At its luncheon Thursday, the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association welcomes Barney Klehman, SES Missile Defense Agency/DAC, who will provide a discussion of "Recent Developments in MDA Acquisition." For more information or to register for this luncheon meeting, visit [www.ncmahsv.org](http://www.ncmahsv.org).

### Military engineers

The Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers meets for

lunch Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Dennis Bacon, of Shearer and Associates, is to speak on "Engineer Regimental Transformation." The cost of the buffet lunch is \$10. For reservations call Dan Foran 830-1031 or e-mail [dforan@shearerassociates.us](mailto:dforan@shearerassociates.us).

### Aviation products

The Army Aviation Association of America and the Tennessee Valley Chapter will hold the 35th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium Feb. 11-12 at the Von Braun Center. The symposium stimulates dialogue among industry executives, senior government officials and military leaders concerning support to the aviation war fighter. For more information, visit [www.cribbinsaps.com](http://www.cribbinsaps.com).



## 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 655-9435 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

### Civilian deployment

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

### Surplus sales

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

## Computer classes

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

## Motorcycle safety

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

## Veterans office

The local office for Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to veterans and their families in applying for benefits from the VA. These benefits include, but are not limited to, Service Connected Compensation Claims, Non-Service Connected Pensions, Appeals, Death Benefits for Widows, Education Applications, VA Insurance, and applications for VA Headstone/Markers. The office can also assist you in filing for state veteran benefits, for example the Alabama Dependent Scholarship Program and admittance to the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. "We are a full service office with accredited veteran service officers available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are

located at 115-B Washington St. off the Courthouse Square in downtown Huntsville," a prepared release said. "Service is based on a first come, first serve system. No appointment necessary." For more information, call 532-1662.

## 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.

## Thrift Shop grants

The Redstone Thrift Shop Welfare Committee announces its annual grant program. 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.

## Army training

Do you want to be on the cutting edge of Army training? The 1st Battle Command Training Group offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing your professional management, training and leadership skills. It has immediate openings for sergeant first class through lieutenant colonel – specialty and branch are immaterial — who want to transfer and make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 1st BCTG conducts continental U.S. pre- and post-mobilization computer simulation based Battle Command Staff Training exercises. It trains and validates Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the Southeast in wartime readiness. It offers CONUS mobilization opportunities training and preparing USAR and ARNG units for deployment. Unit benefits include

Fragmented Annual Training, and opportunity to travel throughout the Southeast. It encourages and supports attendance at Army professional development schools. For information call 1st Sgt. Larry King (205) 987-8443 ext. 4410, Capt. John Walker (205) 444-5208 or Lt. Col. Anthony Escott (205) 444-5163.

## Customer services

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

# Rocket Announcements

ICE administrator Wendy Norris at [wendy.norris1@us.army.mil](mailto:wendy.norris1@us.army.mil).

## Interactive feedback

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

## IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information and/or a scholarship application, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131. An application can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/iaaprsa/home.htm>.

See Announcements on page 22

### 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.

### 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 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.

### 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 puualoha@bellsouth.net. Forms are also available in the OCWC Southern Exposure Newsletter. All requests must con-

form 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.

### AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief offers "free" money for education. The 2009-10 Army Emergency Relief Scholarship Program instructions and applications are available on the AER website, www.aerhq.org. 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. For more information, call Army Community Service 876-5397.

### Student apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the

Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are United States citizens, with a Social Security card, and at least 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 1. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Both programs are fast-paced and require disciplined professional work habits. Junior and senior scientists and engineers gain additional experience by serving as mentors for first time students, and providing guidance through interactive research processes. The points of contact for application information are senior counselors

See Announcements on page 23

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

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				
<b>AS OF 08 JAN 09</b>																							
<b>THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL</b>																							
SCBK08157791	Secretary (OA)	14-Jan-09	PEO AVN	NK-0318	2	2	30,001 - 48,308												X				
SCBK08171007	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Jan-09	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	65,921 - 85,701		X														
SCBK08125371	Comp Engr	15-Jan-09	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	92,633 - 141,657		X														
SCBK08224516	Paralegal Spec	15-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0950	9	9	45,458 - 59,100		X	X								X	X				
SCBK08143354	General Engr	18-Jan-09	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08123736	Equip Spec (General)	20-Jan-09	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	57,709 - 85,701							X					X				
SCBK09159127	Budget Tech	20-Jan-09	Corp of Engr Huntsville	YB-0561	2	2	38,653 - 50,249		X														
SCBK09210200	Contract Spec	21-Jan-09	AMCOM Contracting Ctr	GS-1102	12	12	68,564 - 89,128		X														
SCBK09088961	Lead Engrng Tech	21-Jan-09	AMRDEC	DE-0802	4	4	81,532 - 125,254		X														
SCBK09190742	Supv Accountant	21-Jan-09	Corp of Engr Huntsville	YC-0510	2	2	67,129 - 101,913		X														
WTST09145483	Supv Sec Spec (Disclosure)	21-Jan-09	AMCOM, Intel & Tech Sec Actvty	GG-0080	13	14	81,532 - 125,254	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08181574	Supv Business Mngr	22-Jan-09	AMRDEC	DE-0301	5	5	108,964 - 141,657		X														
SCBK08204598	General Engr	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X					X	X	X	X				
SCBK08204598D	General Engr	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08147999	Lead General Engr	22-Jan-09	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	92,633 - 141,657		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK09005869R	Telecom Spec	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0391	7/9	11	38,653 - 74,360		X								X	X	X				
SCBK09005869D1	Telecom Spec	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0391	7/9	11	38,653 - 74,360	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK09072862	Secretary (OA)	22-Jan-09	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0318	8	8	42,807 - 55,651	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK09072862D	Secretary (OA)	22-Jan-09	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0318	8	8	42,807 - 55,651	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK09205247	Mgmt Asst	22-Jan-09	AMCOM, Ofc of Small Bus Prgms	GS-0344	7	7	38,653 - 50,249		X														
SCBK09196046	Supv Budget Analyst	23-Jan-09	Corp of Engr Huntsville	YC-0560	2	2	67,129 - 101,913		X														
SCBK08148027	General Engr	6-Feb-09	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	93,346 - 147,332		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08041001OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	13	13	78,390 - 101,913			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08041011OC	Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	GS-1102	12	12	65,921 - 85,701			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK08041018OC	Supv Contract Spec	30-Sep-09	AMCOM, Acq Ctr	YA-1102	3	3	87,998 - 148,740			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

<b>THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV</b>																			
SCBK08224516	Paralegal Spec	15-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0950	9	9	45,458 - 59,100		X	X								X	X
WTST09145483	Supv Sec Spec (Disclosure)	21-Jan-09	AMCOM, Intel & Tech Sec Actvty	GG-0080	13	14	81,532 - 125,254	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK08204598D	General Engr	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	78,390 - 101,913	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK09005869R	Telecom Spec	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0391	7/9	11	38,653 - 74,360		X									X	X
SCBK09005869D1	Telecom Spec	22-Jan-09	SMDC	GS-0391	7/9	11	38,653 - 74,360	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK09072862D	Secretary (OA)	22-Jan-09	ACQ SUPP CTR	GS-0318	8	8	42,807 - 55,651	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

<b>WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)</b>																			
<b>A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.</b>																			
<b>B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).</b>																			
<b>C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).</b>																			
<b>D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)</b>																			
<b>E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)</b>																			
<b>F - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)</b>																			
<b>H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)</b>																			
<b>I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)</b>																			
<b>R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)</b>																			
<b>T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)</b>																			
<b>V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).</b>																			
<b>U - All U.S. citizens</b>																			

**NOTE:** If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.

**NOTE:** The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e. Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender, etc. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com) or you may telephone 876-7772.

Resumes are now being accepted for AMC Fellows and Business Enterprise Solutions Trainee.. Visit [www.amccareers.com](http://www.amccareers.com) or [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil), search for Vacancy Announcement Numbers: NEAEJ04710482 &

at all public, private and parochial high schools and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at Redstone Arsenal include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for submission of applications is Jan. 30. If students are unsuccessful in receiving application information from high school senior counselors or college placement service, contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Tina BoClair, located in building 5308, phone 313-4834. Review application information at <http://www.gwseap.net> or <http://www.usaeop.com>.

### Unity breakfast

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. announces the 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast on Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall. The speaker is Dr. Randal Pinkett, an entrepreneur, speaker, author, scholar and community servant. Pinkett is a former Rhodes Scholar and college athlete who holds five academic degrees from Rutgers, Oxford and MIT, and was the season four winner of the hit series "The Apprentice." Proceeds from the Unity Breakfast are used solely by the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation to aid students in their pursuit of academic excellence through the awarding of scholarships, mentoring, tutoring and the administration of leadership training. Individual tickets are \$25, or a reserved table (seats eight) can be purchased for \$250. For ticket information, call Timothy Richmond 859-3964 or Herman Thornton 852-8428.

### Training seminar

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 14th annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," on Feb. 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. A luncheon, continental breakfast and snacks along with Office Expo booths will be provided to attendees. The course is in TIPS by the course number PPE and the vendor name is IAAP. Tuition fees are \$125 and student rates are \$50. You do not have to be in the administrative career field to attend the training event. For more information or to register, call Susan Douglas 313-2079.

### ASMC scholarships

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is accepting applications for its 2009 scholarship program. Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 28. The ASMC Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to aid ASMC members or their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. Applicants must be a current ASMC member or a high school senior, undergraduate or those working on graduate programs (immediately related to an ASMC member). Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 gpa. Applications may be submitted to the following: Judy Smith, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, building 5300 (third floor), 313-2379; Michelle Cobb, building 5300, 876-8361; Jackie Shaw, building 5300, 876-8932; Debbie O'Neal, building 5400, 876-2671; Dee Kowalik, building 5681, 313-4020; Jessica Dunaway, building 5308, 313-0533; Connie Atchley, 101 Wynn Drive, 313-8254; Cody Swinford, building 5309, 876-3363; Susan Zimmerly, building 5300, 876-5133; Lisa Lowry, building 5400, 876-7086; Dana Wilbanks, building 5400, 876-4283; April East, building 5300, 876-8857; and Cheryl Richmond, G3, 955-0066.

### Family focus group

Installation Management Command has established a Customer Management Services office at each Army installation. Customer Management Services utilizes a three-tiered feedback system established to determine the satisfaction of the Soldiers, family members, teens, retirees, veterans and civilians who work, play and live on Redstone Arsenal. The input mechanisms for feedback come from multiple sources such as online submission of comments, annual leadership and constituent assessments and community forums /town halls. These community forums or focus groups obtain issues or recommendations by the attendees or delegates that are worked and presented to the post leadership much like the annual AFAP conference. This program is called Community First. This is a call or invitation to all family members who would like to participate in the first family member (spouses/guardians) focus group held on Redstone Arsenal. This is a chance to voice issues that can be fixed on the installation or put on the Army Family Action

Plan agenda for next year. The meeting will be held Jan. 29 from 6-8 p.m. in the new Redstone Communities Clubhouse in building 302. Light refreshments will be served. This will be the time to share concerns, hear and possibly solve issues and communicate with each other. Anyone wishing to participate may call customer service officer Steve McFadden 876-3294 or email at [rsacms@conus.army.mil](mailto:rsacms@conus.army.mil).

### Aviation challenge

The Tennessee Valley Army Aviation Association of America has an offer for children or grandchildren of its chapter members. These youngsters, age 9-18, can win an Aviation Challenge scholarship at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Applications are due by Feb. 3. Three scholarships will be awarded, valued up to \$1,000 each. For more information, call Russ Dunford or Tonya Maurice at 457-5355 or 655-5122 or e-mail [aviation.challenge.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:aviation.challenge.scholarship@gmail.com).

### Housing allowance

Redstone Arsenal Soldiers will see an increase in their Basic Allowance for Housing in January. A Soldier with dependents will see an increase of between 5.38 percent and 16.03 percent depending on their rank. E1-E5 with dependents will see the biggest increases of more than 15 percent. Soldiers without dependents will see an increase of between 5.38 percent and 20.17 percent depending on their rank. You can see what your BAH increase is by visiting the Department of Defense Per Diem webpage <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. Select your rank and input your the zip code, and ensure the year is 2009. If you have any questions concerning your BAH or housing entitlements, call the Housing Service Office 876-6666.

### Book signings

Author Stewart Wakefield, an Army Materiel Command employee, will participate in two local book-signing events that will feature his book "The Grace of an Angel." The book is based on his experiences as a parent as he searched for meaning in the death of his young daughter, Janna Grace, who died of a brain tumor

when she was 13 months old. The book signings are scheduled Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at The Book Store, 2246 Winchester Road and Jan. 24 from 2-4 p.m. at Books-A-Million on the Beltline in Decatur. For more information, call Stewart 221-7504 or visit the online bookstore at [www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore](http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore).

### Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency, CIDC, has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the U.S. government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name — all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed. Thanks for watching out for our taxpayer dollars.

### Weight loss class

On Thursday from noon-1 p.m., the staff from the Wellness Center at Fox Army Health Center will host a guest speaker from the Center for Surgical Weight Loss in Huntsville who will discuss obesity, its causes, surgical weight loss options and different surgical procedures. You are invited to bring your lunch to the Wellness Center classroom and learn the newest information available. Call 955-8888, ext. 1430, to reserve your space in this class.

### Competition awards

The Competition Management Office will re-establish its Competition Awards Program beginning in fiscal 2009. This program will be divided into three categories as follows: Annual Competition Cup, Commercial Item Significant Acquisition Award, and Poster Campaign. "This is a great opportunity to show your competitive spirit, enhance your competition program and get the most 'bang for your

# Rocket Announcements

bucks' for the war fighters and the taxpayers," a prepared release said. For more information call Sharon Blackwell 876-1498, Cathy Richardson 876-1507 or Brenda Flora 876-1020.

## Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Day. On Jan. 16 the Primary Care Clinic, Pharmacy and the Tricare Service Center will be open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. The Central Appointments telephone line will be answered until 4:30 p.m. All other clinics, services and the Dental Clinic will be closed the entire day for a training 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. Fox does not have an emergency room or emergency medical services. In an emergency, dial 911.

## A&M alumni

January kicks off the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association Inc. annual membership drive. The alumni association and its committees advance the welfare of Alabama A&M University. "Your time, energy and participation are important in providing scholarships to Alabama A&M University students and expanding community service within Madison County," a prepared release said. "Take this time to renew your alumni membership with the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University, where your membership matters." Renew your alumni membership for 2009 by Jan. 30. Call Pam Thompson 851-9572 or C. Lamar Sterns 679-8961 for more information.

## Harvard tuition offer

If you know of a family earning less than \$60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free — no tuition and no student loans. In making the announcement, Harvard's president Lawrence H. Summers said, "When only 10 percent of the students in elite higher education come from families in the lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough. We are not doing enough in

bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution." To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$60,000 a year, call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581 or visit its financial aid website <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/>.

## Performing arts

Theatre Huntsville will present "Fences" by August Wilson at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16-17 and Jan. 22-24 and 2 p.m. Jan. 18 and Jan. 24 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. "Winner of every major award including the Tony and the Pulitzer, 'Fences' by August Wilson tells the story of Troy Maxson, a former star of the Negro baseball leagues," a prepared release said. "Maxson sees the world as composed mostly of fences which enclose him. Bitter that he was excluded from major league baseball during his prime, Maxson refuses to let his own son try his luck at professional sports. What he doesn't see is that not all the fences in his life are societal and that he is fencing in his family." Redstone Arsenal's Horace Wilson will co-star in this production, directed by Sam Marsh. Cost is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, students and active military. For tickets call 536-0807 or visit [www.theatrehuntsville.org](http://www.theatrehuntsville.org).

## Benefit concert

The Strength of the Hammer Fest, a benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity of Athens/Limestone County, is Saturday at 5 p.m. at Friendship Church in Athens. Seven bands will be playing.

"Fans of heavy music will surely not want to miss this event," a prepared release said. "All proceeds will go directly to Habitat to help build another home for a deserving family in our community." Admission is \$15 at the door (\$5 discount with military ID). For more information, e-mail [earshot-promo@gmail.com](mailto:earshot-promo@gmail.com).

## Contemporary dance

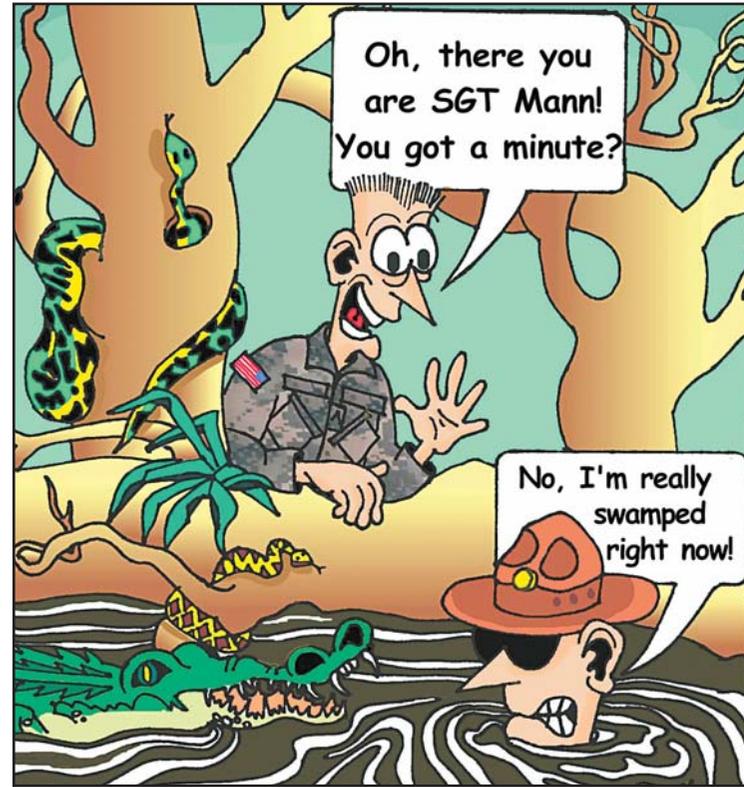
Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center will present the Complexions Contemporary Dance Company — winner of the New York Times Critics Choice Award — on Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$47.50 adults and \$40 students/seniors. Merrimack Hall is located at 3320 Triana Boulevard between Bob Wallace and Drake Avenues. For more information, call Merrimack Hall 534-6455 or visit [www.merrimackhall.com](http://www.merrimackhall.com).

## PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will have the following hours on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 19: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Concessions, closed. Furniture Store, closed. One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tire Store, closed. Burger King, closed. Military Clothing, closed. Barber Shop, building 3479, closed. Food Court — Anthony's, closed; Cinnabon, closed; Baskin-Robbins, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Robin Hood, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Churchs, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; American Eatery, closed.

## Stepfamilies class

Strengthening Stepfamilies is a three-session class offered Jan. 26-28 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The class and materials are free to the mil-



itary and civilian Redstone community. To register call Army Community Service 876-5397.

## Assistive technology

"Assistive Technology: Making a Difference in the Classroom" will be presented by assistive technology specialist Linda Rass today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe St. This free event is open to all.

## Gate advisory

At Gate 9, two rows of speed humps have been added on the south side of the gate across all six inbound traffic lanes. The

speed humps must be crossed by all vehicles as they leave the badge check area. Drivers are advised to use caution and slow down while crossing the humps. Expect some traffic delays particularly in the early morning and afternoon rush hours. Additional speed humps will be added to selected gates in the future, according to a Garrison release.

## Drumline benefit

The Bob Jones High School Drumline will hold a Yard Sale on Saturday from 6 a.m. to noon in the BJHS north parking lot. Donated items to sell in the yard sale can be brought to the high school Band Room on Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Friday from 4-8 p.m. For more information, call 325-0303. The award-winning Drumline will be competing again after achieving an eighth place national ranking last year.

## Latin party

Saborlatino invites you to bring in the new year with the "First Latin Party of 2009" on Saturday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. Cost is \$10. "DJ Ed will be mixing to the best Latin music in Huntsville," a prepared release said. To reserve your table, call hostess Yvonne 783-5756.

## Wild game cookout

The annual Wild Game Cookout is 5 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Sample exotic foods like bear, boar, beaver, alligator and more. Tickets are \$20 per person. Kids 10 and under are admitted free. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call 830-2582.



Courtesy photo

## Interns

Federal career interns and co-ops within the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space gather in front of building 5250. Program executive officer Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco has started a brown-bag luncheon with all the students as an opportunity to learn who they are and the work they do.