

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 58 No. 4

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

January 28, 2009

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# Juggling priorities for post operations

Garrison commander  
appreciates employees

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Managing the day-to-day operations of the Garrison can be a juggling act with plenty of challenges and opportunities all vying for priority attention.

In one hand, there are all the new Arsenal programs involving BRAC and non-BRAC-related construction, the privatization of Army housing and the impending enhanced use leasing program. In the other hand, there are longstanding quality-of-life programs on post and the long-established partnerships within the community working for better roads, schools and other infrastructure affecting the Soldiers and civilian employees of Redstone Arsenal.

And, in the midst of all that, there are the Garrison employees who are focused on meeting the needs of a varied list of tenant customers and partners.

Redstone Arsenal's unique community of Soldiers and civilian employees is very much appreciated by Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli.

"Because of what I had heard and seen of Redstone Arsenal, I knew it was – and still is – a high performing organization consisting of a lot of dedicated professionals taking care of Soldiers, their families and the civilian work force each and every day. The Garrison here is very successful and has a great reputation throughout the Army," Pastorelli said.

"When I first got here, my job was to meet, listen and learn from both the staff and our partners. Never having worked in a Garrison environment was a new experience for someone who had always been a customer. This was a unique and different business opportunity within the Army for me."

Pastorelli assumed his position as Garrison commander in late July 2008, following his graduation from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University at Fort McNair, D.C.

His nearly 24 years in the Army have centered on a career that's included service in an array of command, staff and logistics assignments both within the Army and on the Joint Staff.

He knew before arriving at the Arsenal that his new job with the Garrison would be about working with experienced and accomplished professionals who consistently make a difference in the lives of Arsenal Soldiers and civilian employees.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**COMMAND TEAM**— Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli reviews goals for 2009 with his deputy, Curtis Clark. Pastorelli relies on a team of high performing professionals to provide Garrison services to a variety of Arsenal customers and partners.

"Everything about Redstone Arsenal has exceeded my expectations," Pastorelli said. "The bottom line is that the Garrison has the best employees who take pride in their work and they don't stop until the customer is completely satisfied. The level of support to our customers is absolutely phenomenal. Nowhere else is the level of employee involvement greater than what is in place here at Redstone."

The highlight of his first six months as the Garrison's commanding officer has been meeting its employees and customers, and getting familiar with the Garrison's working relationships – all the while making sure the Garrison maintained its high level of service.

"It's all about understanding what the dynamics and the culture is here," he said. "I know (former Garrison commander, now retired) Col. John Olshefski was truly dedicated to making sure this was a top-notch Garrison and we want to continue that."

Since his arrival at Redstone Arsenal, Pastorelli and the Garrison have been involved in several high-profile projects, including the opening of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade's new facility, the ground breaking for the AMC/USASAC headquarters, the visit of the Alabama legislature, the first quarterly Garrison prayer breakfast and the

start-up of an enlisted welcome basket program begun by Pastorelli's wife, Anna, and Mary Cooper, the wife of Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper. He has also seen Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation receive several awards and accolades for its programs, and has enjoyed participating in events such as the Christmas tree lighting and first Garrison sponsored holiday ball.

Now, Pastorelli and his deputy, Curtis Clark, are planning a strategy session with Garrison leadership in February to update the vision and goals for the Garrison.

"We want to continue to improve the quality of life for everyone on the Arsenal," Pastorelli said. "We want to have a clear vision, mission and strategy for both the near term and long term. We likewise want to solidify and expand relationships in addition to providing a better place to live and work for all our customers."

The Garrison touches the lives of Arsenal Soldiers and civilians in many ways, from facilities, maintenance, grounds beautification and construction to morale and welfare, information technology infrastructure, police and fire protection, child care and social services.

See Garrison on page 7

# An open lane random survey

## Who will win the Super Bowl between Pittsburgh and Arizona?

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



*Barbara Cummings*  
AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs  
"Pittsburgh. I want them to. (Steelers quarterback Ben) Roethlisberger is king."

*Dan O'Boyle*  
AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs  
"Arizona Cardinals. Kurt Warner brought home the bacon when he was in St. Louis and the Rams tradition will continue in Tampa under his expert field generalship."



*Pvt. Jorge Ledezma*  
Charlie Company  
"Cardinals. The reason why is Kurt Warner. He's got more experience than Ben Roethlisberger in playoffs and Super Bowls. When (receiver) Larry Fitzgerald is double-covered, Kurt Warner's got the second one which is Anquan Boldin. And that's why it's going to be hard for the defense to cover them."



*Pfc. Jazmyn Lockhart*  
Charlie Company  
"The Steelers because they're the best. Their defense is better because of (safety Troy) Polamalu."



## Quote of the week

'The challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America, they will be met.'

— President Obama

# Letters to the Editor

## Labor union membership benefits

As a longtime TVA employee, I can speak firsthand to the benefits that union membership provides. All across the country, families are dealing with job loss and economic insecurities. Fortunately, as a member of the Labor Council for Annual Employees of TVA, my family and I can rest assured knowing that our union representatives are looking out for our best interest. While upper management at TVA received massive

year-end bonuses, the TVA Labor Council was in negotiations with TVA making sure that we are also compensated for our hard work. I would like to thank our union leadership that works diligently to take care of its members and encourage others to support their local union or find one to join if you currently aren't a member.

**Freddy Hice**  
Killen, Ala.

## Unhappy with speed bumps

Regarding the speed bumps at Gate 9, can someone explain how these speed bumps help with security or what the purpose is? All I see is it tearing up my suspension, slowing down traffic in the morning, and moving all the cars closer to the end of the right lanes before trying to merge left. What could possibly be the benefit? If someone is going to run the gate, these little speed bumps are not going to slow them down a bit. I could possibly see an advantage of having them before the gates to slow down traffic entering the check point.

**Tony Thomas**  
CMDS Project Office

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

**Name:** Pvt. Ashley Brown

**Job:** 89 Bravo (Ammunition specialist), Charlie Company

**Where do you call home?**  
Detroit, Mich.

**What do you like about your job?**  
The suspense in it. The fact that we have to be very careful in what we do. And we have to be alert in everything we do.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Talk on the phone. And braid my battle buddies' hair.



**What are your goals?**  
To finish my term here. And I want to go back home and get my own (hair) salon.

**What's your favorite type of music?**  
Everything except country.

## Letter policy

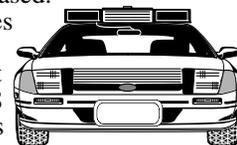
Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@htimes.com or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.



## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Jan. 15:** When a subject requested a visitor pass at Gate 9, a small amount of marijuana was found in his vehicle. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by DES investigators.



**Jan. 17:** A subject approached Gate 8 lost, when it was revealed that she was operating her vehicle with a canceled driver's license. She was issued a violation notice and released.

**Jan. 17:** A subject entered the Post Exchange, concealed property valued at \$159.85, and left the store without paying. The subject was detained by store security and Redstone Police were notified. The subject was processed by police and released.

**Jan. 20:** A subject approached Gate 10 lost, when it was revealed that he was operating his vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Traffic accidents reported:** 11 without injury (including four involving deer strikes), none with injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 14 speeding, 1 possession of marijuana, 2 suspended or canceled driver's license, 1 larceny of AAFES property, 3 illegal parking, 2 failure to judge distance.

# Redstone Rocket

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http://pao.redstone.army.mil

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The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in *The Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is The Huntsville Times, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by *The Huntsville Times* a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

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# Job Fair to help in search for local opportunities

*Spouses, retirees benefit from event*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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Redstone Arsenal would like to help you find a new job.

The eighth annual Job Fair, sponsored by Army Community Service, is set for Feb. 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The event is focused on providing job opportunities to military spouses and transitioning military personnel as well as

retirees and anyone who has access to Redstone Arsenal.

"A lot of times, military spouses don't feel comfortable going out and visiting companies when they are new in town," said Debra Jefferson, employment readiness program manager for ACS.

"We can provide them through the job fair with access to several companies all in one place. But this isn't just for military spouses or retirees. If you can get on Redstone Arsenal, you can attend the job fair."

So far about 20 employers have signed up to participate in the job fair. Jefferson expects that number to increase before Feb. 5. So far the following employers have made plans to participate in the job fair:

Alutiiq Security & Technology, Chamber of Commerce, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Cohesion Force Inc., Crestwood Medical Center, DRS Technologies, EG & G, EMC, Huntsville City Schools, Huntsville Hospital, Huntsville Police, Jacobs ESTS, Jacobs Technology, Nonappropriated Funds Civilian Personnel, Quantum Research International, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Science Applications International Corp., Sentar, System Studies & Simulation, TEK Systems, Weiser Security, and West Corporation.

Job openings will range from technical and clerical positions to security and service positions.

"There will be a wide range of positions for job seekers to look at," Jefferson said. "When they come to the job fair, I will have a listing of all the employers who are there and the positions they have available so that job seekers can decide who they want to talk to."

Even though they may be looking for a particular job in a specific field, job seekers should keep themselves open to all types of employment opportunities.

Job seekers should also present their best professional appearance at the job fair.

"They need to be ready to sell themselves. They will be meeting with potential employers, so they should be dressed professionally," Jefferson said. "They should be sure to have plenty of resumes

and they should be prepared to deliver a 30-second introduction of themselves – sort of like a commercial – that tells employers a little about their background and what they are looking for."

To help job seekers, ACS will assist them with preparing their resumes for the job fair during a resume workshop this Thursday beginning at 9 a.m. at ACS building 3338 on Redeye Road.

"If you already have a resume, bring it to the workshop and we can review it," Jefferson said. "If you don't, then try to at least bring a description of the kind of job you want so that we can help you write a resume that will show your skills for that job."

Most employers will not actually hire for jobs at a job fair. Rather, the event is primarily a way for recruiters to collect resumes and information for review in-house by company managers, who will then call prospective employees for on-site interviews.

"Job seekers shouldn't expect to be hired on the spot," Jefferson said. "The job fair, though, is an excellent networking opportunity. Most employers will bring business cards with them. Job seekers should pick up these business cards and use them to phone the company later to check on positions."

For more information on the resume workshop or job fair, call Jefferson at 876-5397.

## 'Miss Linda' retiring after more than 35 years

*Secretary of the general staff will be missed at AMCOM*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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She is a familiar face at AMCOM functions. She's one of the key people behind the scenes who get things done in the Aviation and Missile Command.

Secretary of the General Staff Linda Readus is retiring Feb. 3. And she will be missed.

"I still plan to serve Soldiers through volunteering wherever I'm needed and working with my church – Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church in Huntsville," Readus said.

Retiring with more than 35 years service, Readus became the secretary of the general staff in 1994 when the position was converted from military to civilian.

The Huntsville native is a 1970 graduate of Lee High School and a 1974 cum laude graduate of Alabama A&M University where she earned a bachelor's in business education.

She is married to Joe Readus. Her daughter, Erika, 29, works for the Department of Homeland Security in Virginia. Her son, Kurt, 33, works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the area conservationist of central Mississippi. Erika and her husband, Matthew Botts, a Soldier serving in Afghanistan, have a son, Matthew, 15 months.



Linda Readus

# AMCOM commander stands up for Soldiers

*Maj. Gen. Myles pushes support*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

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As a general officer, there is one duty that makes Maj. Gen. Jim Myles question his effectiveness as a military leader.

That duty: serving at the funeral of a young Soldier.

During a speech to members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association at its annual membership dinner Thursday night at the Huntsville Marriott, Myles spoke about the recent deaths of Pfc. Ricky Turner, 20, of Athens, who was killed in Iraq when an improvised explosive device struck a vehicle he was riding in, and Staff Sgt. Josh Rath, 22, of Decatur, who was killed when his dismounted patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device

in Afghanistan.

Representing the Army at funerals for heroes like these two Soldiers “is something you never forget,” Myles said. “You stand in front of the Soldier and their family and you wonder ‘Have I done enough?, Was there something I could have done?, Could I have stopped this? What can I do to keep it from happening again?’”

It’s those questions that drive Myles and the entire Army as it works to develop military systems to protect the nation’s “most valuable treasure” as they defend America’s freedoms.

“It’s about the Soldier. It’s about the families. It’s about making a difference,” Myles said. “It’s all about Soldiers whose actions make this country great, the United States of America.”

As the commander of Redstone Arsenal and the Aviation and Missile Command, Myles went on to tell NDIA members that Alabama’s legislature, its

community leaders and its residents understand the importance of the military and its Soldiers.

“I care a lot about what happens in Alabama,” he said. “But I, frankly, care more about Soldiers. This state cares for Soldiers. The team led by our elected officials here makes a difference for our Soldiers. How lucky, lucky we (Redstone Arsenal and its Soldiers and employees) are to be in a position here to enjoy the leadership of our local leaders. We’ve got continued superb leadership in this community.”

Myles likened Redstone Arsenal, AMCOM and the entire local military community as being as close as 35 miles to Baghdad, Iraq in its impact on war fighter effectiveness. He also praised the work the Space and Missile Defense Command in the use of missile defense systems to keep Soldiers and Americans safe against varied threats.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SPEAKING FOR TROOPS— Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of Redstone Arsenal and the Aviation and Missile Command, speaks about the importance industry and community support is to Soldiers and their families during the general membership meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association.**

See **Soldiers** on page 6

# NCOs appreciate Army's yearlong salute

*Noncommissioned officers focus of tribute in 2009*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone's top enlisted Soldiers are pleased at the Army's tribute this year to noncommissioned officers.

The Army has named 2009 as the year of the NCO.

"I think it's an outstanding move," the Aviation and Missile Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates said. "I think for the Army leadership – the chief of staff of the Army, the sergeant major of the Army and the secretary of the Army – to present this year as the year of the NCO is very pleasing for the noncommissioned officers and recognizes what they're doing for the Army."

He attended a conference Jan. 4-7 at Fort Bliss, Texas, where the Army's top leaders expressed their regard for the NCO Corps.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper agreed with Yates that the tribute by the service's

leadership is well-deserved.

"It's about time they put focus on where focus needs to be," Cooper said. "The NCO and the Soldier are always the muscle of it. It's the NCOs' ability to make stuff happen. That's the key thing. You give us the mission and we're going to execute the mission."

Yates, AMCOM's and Redstone's top enlisted Soldier, entered the Army in June 1977. He made sergeant after a year and a half.

Cooper, the Garrison's top enlisted Soldier, has been an NCO for 27 of his 29 years service.

Asked what sets NCOs apart, Yates said, "In my view, the training and the quality of the NCO leadership and the values and the ethics, from the time they enter the Army to the time they become NCOs. And the way they train and mentor Soldiers to become noncommissioned officers and officers.

"It's their values, their ethics, their drive to be the best of the best and to accomplish the mission no matter what the mission is – whether it's taking care of a



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TOP ENLISTED— AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, left, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper are among Redstone's 545 noncommissioned officers.**

Soldier on the battlefield or taking care of a Soldier at home in a

convalescent environment. To a noncommissioned officer, no

task is too hard. He will accomplish it."

Redstone Arsenal has 545 noncommissioned officers. They serve in a wide variety of positions in many organizations on post. These include teaching and mentoring advanced individual trainees, instructing the basic NCO and advanced NCO courses at the NCO Academy, fielding equipment and weapon systems to troops, and assuring Soldiers receive the right product and the support they need to sustain it.

"I just think it's a privilege for me to be a noncommissioned officer," Yates said. "I had to earn it. Along with it, I had to get the respect. It's been an honor for me and a privilege to be a noncommissioned officer for as many years as I've been it."

Said Cooper, "For me there's no other job I'd rather be doing actually."

Noncommissioned officers teach, mentor and coach young Soldiers to become the Army's future leaders as NCOs and officers.

"Behind every good officer," Cooper said, "there's a good NCO."

# Foot Soldiers worthy of enduring praise from U.S.

*Infantry museum founder praises 'anonymous patriots'*

By **JERRY A. WHITE**  
*Retired major general*

I resolve to honor the American infantry Soldier in 2009, and I hope you will join me.

It's a promise we hardly had to make 12 months ago when such admirable young people were all over the news. Indeed, every year is comprised of what journalists call "story arcs." Some topic becomes all the rage for a few months, dominating opinion pages, blogs, magazine covers and TV news programs.

In 2008, such arcs included home prices, the Tampa Bay Rays, economic stimulus checks, the iPhone, gasoline prices, Barack Obama and the financial crisis.

## Commentary

January 2008 was the first anniversary of President Bush's "surge," in which five additional combat brigades were sent to Iraq. That development helped make the American Soldier the first story arc of the New Year. There was reporting on combat missions, video of firefights, blog posts from the front and dozens of stories about tearful reunions with family and friends back in the States as tours of duty concluded. For a while, the nation was clearly attentive to the dedication and courage of the military men and women devoted to protecting and projecting American ideals.

Then the arc faded. It always does. The presidential primaries experienced their own surge, and the spotlight of national focus moved on to other things. But the Soldiers kept fighting and sacrificing in a manner that befits a long and proud tradition.

George Orwell wrote: "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

In spite of historical episodes of unfathomably resilient personal character, the valor of the Army infantryman often has been insufficiently recognized. Consider: 80 percent of the U.S. armed forces casualties have been from the infantry.

More than half of the 3,467 Medals of Honor awarded since the Civil War have gone to



**Jerry A. White**

infantrymen. No war in the history of the world has been won without infantry. Regardless of the remarkable advances in military hardware, armor, tactics, intelligence and weapons technology, the foot Soldier has endured as the simply indispensable element of every winning force.

There are individual war heroes, of course, but collectively perhaps the greatest hero is the infantry itself — the legions of anonymous patriots whom history does not record but whose commitment is crucial to the achievements of our country. We can all commit ourselves to acknowledge the contributions of these brave souls who have committed their youth, their intelligence, their devotion, and sometimes their very lives to the progress and propagation of America.

So this year, mount a flag in your yard, cook a meal for the family of a serving Soldier, thank a veteran in your neighborhood, be visibly appreciative and proud of our fighting forces.

Honoring Soldiers is not synonymous with glorifying war. These fine young people serve regardless of their own ideology and political predilections. They serve because they consider it their duty to do so. That rare ethos is worthy of praise because, regardless of all other considerations, they fight for you.

*Editor's note: Retired Maj. Gen. Jerry A. White is the chairman of the National Infantry Foundation and founder of the National Infantry Museum. The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center in Columbus, Ga., opening this summer, will be the first interactive museum honoring the Infantryman and those that fight alongside him.*

■ Myles addresses defense industrial association

## Soldiers

continued from page 4

"For me to be part of this team, I'm 'Hooah,' I'm flat 'Hooah' about that," he said.

Myles gave his audience a glimpse at the nation's military might throughout the world. There are 1.1 million Soldiers in the Army, of those 500,000 are active Army and 550,000 are Reserve and National Guard. He said 250,000 Soldiers are deployed throughout the world to maintain stability and promote democracy.

"When we put Soldiers on the ground — our most valuable asset — it's hard to pull them out," Myles said. "It's like Velcro ... They are doing the Lord's work ... When you put boots on the ground wonderful things happen. They instill peace and confidence."

The Army's ideal standard for deployments puts Soldiers on a three-year cycle — a year of training for deployment, a year of deployment, a year of recovery from deployment, and then it starts again.

But, with the war stretching the Army's manpower thin, "the deployment standard right now is one to one," he said. "Most of our Soldiers have deployed three times in the last six years. That's our uptempo. For an Army aviator, they spend 10 months back from deployment and then they are deployed again because this is a helicopter war in Iraq and Afghanistan."

**"Your Army is values based. Your Army is courageous. Your Army is fearless ... Your Army is stopping people who want to prevent us from our way of life. We're stressed. We're out of balance ... But you are helping us by giving Soldiers on the ground what they need for combat operations. You are lethal. You are making a difference. Your Army mission is to do one thing — to train and equip Soldiers to be ready to deploy."**

— *Maj. Gen. Jim Myles*  
*commander of Redstone Arsenal*  
*and the Aviation and Missile Command*

Currently, there is one aviation brigade in Afghanistan. That situation will increase to two brigades when the 82nd Aviation Brigade is deployed this spring, a deployment that has been moved up by about five months.

"The families are asking all the right questions: 'What about our summer vacation? What about graduation? What about the birth of our baby?' This is what's going on with our families," Myles said, explaining that deployments put numerous stresses on families, especially when a deployment is sped up.

There are some things, though, that have made deployments easier on Soldiers and their families. The Army, communities and Vietnam veterans have all found ways to support families in times of deployments. Myles also pointed out that technology — cell phones, Internet and web cams — have made deployments more manageable.

Providing support is needed at a time when Soldiers and families are asked to sacrifice greatly for their country. In addition, DoD civilians and

contractors are crucial in AMCOM's work to equip Soldiers to keep them safe and effective on the battlefield.

"Your Army is values based. Your Army is courageous. Your Army is fearless ... Your Army is stopping people who want to prevent us from our way of life," Myles said. "We're stressed. We're out of balance ... But you are helping us by giving Soldiers on the ground what they need for combat operations. You are lethal. You are making a difference. Your Army mission is to do one thing — to train and equip Soldiers to be ready to deploy."

In the field, Soldiers are the nation's tool to engage, deter, prevent and compel so that freedoms are protected around the world. To support the nation's "very best and most valued treasure," AMCOM and its contractors must sustain, prepare, reset and transform the missile systems and equipment needed by the Soldier.

"It costs \$1 million to take a Black Hawk (out of war) and reset it so that it is ready to go back into battle," Myles said. "I can say the same for an M1 tank and an MRAP (a new military vehicle that is highly effective in protecting Soldiers from IEDs)."

"At AMCOM, we develop the best equipment. The secretary of the Army has said this place called Redstone in the Tennessee Valley is a national treasure where magic happens. That's code for 'You love Soldiers and make things happen.'"

In fiscal 2008, Redstone Arsenal managed \$27 billion in contracts, up from \$13 billion the year before. Foreign military sales out of Redstone Arsenal reached \$3 billion in fiscal 2008, and will more than double in 2009.

"You have a 50-year reputation that started when the nation looked to Redstone Arsenal (to use its rockets to launch man into space) and you continue to deliver," Myles said.

There is a potential to reach \$58 billion in foreign military sales during the coming year if the U.S. can capitalize on opportunities. Nations throughout the world would like to purchase U.S.-made systems such as Patriot, CRAM, Avenger, Huey helicopters, Raven, Shadow, Sentinel, HIMARS and MLRS.

"The Iraqi army wants to buy lightweight helicopters to defend their country. They have an order in for 24 and want to increase that to 26 more. And we want them to have those helicopters so they can defend their own country," Myles said. "Those helicopters will be built and produced right here in this community."

Myles also talked to NDIA members about BRAC and the movements of such organizations as the Army Materiel Command and the Missile Defense Agency to Redstone Arsenal. Although all construction is on time, there are challenges concerning work force, schools, medical care and roads that must be addressed.

"This is the largest economic engine to hit the state of Alabama. And I didn't say that. The University of Alabama said that in a report they released," Myles said, adding it is the community's and industry's responsibility to educate its work force to take on the employment and leadership opportunities the Army is bringing to the area.

During the NDIA membership meeting, the organization's new officers were inducted for 2009. They are: Edward Stone, president; Robert Darnell, immediate past president; Terry Tipton, executive vice president and president-elect; Robert Wilkie, vice president for external operations; Ray Bouldin, vice president for membership; Tara Ragan Ward, vice president for programs; Cristina Hinkle, vice president for awards; Pam Caruso, vice president communications; Bob English, secretary; and Paul Freeman, treasurer.

# PX Shoppette in store for facelift

*Improvements begin throughout facility*

By SKIP VAUGHN

*Rocket editor*

*skip.vaughn@htimes.com*

Renovations are under way at the Shoppette, which opened in 1994.

"It's an image upgrade to bring the facility up to current AAFES standards," Post Exchange general manager Carl Carpenter said of the convenience store under Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

Work began Jan. 26 to replace the flooring by putting in ceramic tiles. The shoppette will also get new cash register stands, new lighting and shelving; and it will be repainted.

The renovations are funded through PX earnings, which also contribute to Morale Welfare and Recreation. In fiscal 2006, from February 2006 through January 2007, the exchange con-

tributed \$1.66 million to Redstone's MWR.

"Our earnings go to: A, Morale Welfare and Recreation; and B, to renovate our facilities," Carpenter said. "So everything goes back to the community in one way or another - every cent we earn."

The renovation contractor has 75 days to complete the project, but Carpenter expects it to be finished sooner.

"There will be no disruptions in service but we'll be moving things around as the contractor does his work throughout the store," he said. "So, things will be moved but they'll always be available."

The Shoppette, also called the One-Stop, is at the corner of Vincent Road and Goss Road. Its hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

"We're just making improvements to serve our customers better," Carpenter said.

■ Garrison's goal includes improving quality of life

## Garrison

continued from page 1

During 2009, Pastorelli has a few goals for the Garrison. They include completing the updating of force protection enhancements for the Arsenal, improving traffic flow into the Arsenal, keeping BRAC and non-BRAC construction on schedule, and expanding the Arsenal's family programs, which consists of the opening of the Arsenal's new school age services building and a new child development center. Finally, the Garrison looks to build upon and expand relationships with Team Redstone and Tennessee Valley leaders.

"Our challenges involve attracting, recruiting and sustaining a qualified work force; obtaining sufficient resources to continue to improve the quality of life and infrastructure for the Arsenal; maintaining a positive momentum so that BRAC and non-BRAC properties are completed on time, within budget and with the highest quality construction; as well as executing the senior commander's priorities in regards to area roads, schools, and medical care," Pastorelli said.

He also wants to increase

administrative facilities for tenants through the enhanced use leasing program, which will allow a private developer to lease underutilized Arsenal land on which to build facilities and pay that lease in the form of in-kind services. The developer will then be able to lease facilities to organizations vested in supporting the Soldier. Approval for this program is expected within the month.

In addition, Pastorelli wants to continue working closely with local officials to identify challenges and develop strategies that will make a positive difference in the lives of Arsenal Soldiers and employees.

The Garrison has an annual budget of more than \$200 million to support the Arsenal tenants, including AMCOM, PEO-Aviation, PEO-Missiles and Space, AMRDEC, SMDC, LOGSA, OMEMS, 2nd Recruiting Brigade, IMMC, Fox Army Health Center and the Missile Defense Agency.

"No Garrison ever has enough funding," Pastorelli said. "Our goal is to continue to work to secure funds to enhance operations, improve the quality of life and upgrade infrastructure."

By providing the best in facilities and services, the Garrison contributes to work force efforts to

support the Soldier on the battle-field. Without well equipped offices, good communication systems, safe environments and adequate support services, the Arsenal work force would have difficulty sustaining Soldier readiness.

"Everything we do is about taking care of our various tenants so they are postured to support the Soldier," Pastorelli said. "We want to enhance all the services we provide by listening to our customer needs and requirements. All our programs are centered and focused on providing the best support to Soldiers, and their family members and their units."

Personally, for Pastorelli, his job as Garrison commander is more than checking off a list of objectives and reaching goals.

"If we had a wish list, at the top of that list would be that Team Redstone remains healthy, strong, and focused in its support of the Soldier," he said.

"We would also wish for good weather for our many ongoing construction projects, that all our Soldiers and employees remain safe, and that everyone takes time out of their busy schedules to spend with families and friends throughout the year. From experience, a person who is happy at home is normally a content and productive employee when they come to work."

## Area school counselors learn needs of military children



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

**UNDERSTANDING MILITARY STUDENTS—** Susan Heiligman, one of the instructors for the Military Child Education Coalition training, shares information about grief, stress, and emotional challenges military children face during deployments and deaths. These were a few of many topics covered during the training session.

### *Military Child Education Coalition provides two-day training course*

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**  
*For the Rocket*

Military children are special and one-of-a-kind.

In a proactive effort to engage local and regional school counselors and give them a better understanding of the culture, lifestyle and dynamic challenges military children face during transitions, the Garrison's Child Youth and School Services offered a two-day training course that covered a variety of topics and issues pertaining to military families Jan. 21-22 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Almost 60 school counselors and teachers from across the Tennessee Valley — Athens, Morgan, Huntsville, Madison, and Cullman — attended the event. There were even some attendees that came from across the region and the Virgin Islands.

Dewayne Baldwin, Youth Education Support Services director for CYSS, spearheaded the event that has grown both in size and in scope over the past two years.

“New this year is the addition of Phase II, which focuses more on the socio-emotional challenges of the military child during transition,” he said.

Last year, CYSS held a one-day Phase I training only, which focused on military lifestyle and culture, school transition programs, understanding local transition

See **Schools** on page 10

# Vets coalition welcomes new leadership as impact grows

*Perry succeeds Carney  
as group's president*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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Among the review of 2008 highlights – including the Blue Star Service Banner Program, Flag Day ceremonies, Operation Christmas Bear and Veterans Day activities – members of the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition also said thank you during their annual membership meeting to a leader who has solidified the coalition as the community's leading military volunteer organization.

During the meeting Jan. 21 at the Alabama Veterans Museum, coalition president David Carney turned the responsibility of leadership over to incoming president John Perry and his new board members.

The coalition presented Carney, who has served two years as president and three years as secretary before that, with an Eagle trophy inscribed with the words “with heartfelt appreciation from those whose lives have been touched by your leadership and patriotism.”

“The past two years have been an extreme high point for me,” Carney said after the meeting. “I’ve gotten to know so many people working on so many projects. It’s just been incredible, a great opportunity, an incredible privilege.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**COALITION'S NEW OFFICERS – Madison County Circuit Judge Laura Jo Hamilton swears in the new officers for the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition during the coalition's annual meeting at the Alabama Veterans Museum. From foreground to background, the new officers are: secretary – Beverly Lowe; vice president for membership – retired Col. Bob Wilke; treasurer – retired Col. Joe Paddock; vice president for corporate/military affairs – retired Sgt. 1st Class Russell Kimball; vice president for finance – National Guard Capt. Jeff Owen; executive vice president – retired Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Mozian; and president – retired Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. John Perry.**

Carney said he knows the coalition and its 50 member organizations will go on to do even greater things for the area's military under its new leadership.

“In the military, you learn to lay the groundwork so that your organization can be better with each successive leader,” said Carney, a retired Alabama Army National Guard sergeant. “That’s what we’re trained to do. This is a great organization and it will continue to be better. John Perry will be an excellent leader for the coalition.”

Although his tenure as coalition president is over, Carney will continue to be involved in the community through his work with the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Spirit of America Festival in Decatur, and as a volunteer in support of the new coalition board. In addition, Carney will become the voice of a new radio show on 97.3 on Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. that will showcase the area's military and community heroes.

“I will remain very community involved because that’s where

my heart is at,” he said. “Service to others is everything. That’s what life is.”

Perry, a retired Reserve command sergeant major, and the new coalition board were sworn in during the meeting by Madison County Circuit Judge Laura Jo Hamilton. The other officers are: executive vice president – retired Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Mozian; vice president for finance – National Guard Capt. Jeff Owen; vice president for corporate/military affairs – retired Sgt. 1st Class Russell Kimball; vice president for membership – retired Col. Bob Wilke; treasurer – retired Col. Joe Paddock; and secretary – Beverly Lowe.

Bob Drolet, a retired brigadier general and the state president of AUSA, congratulated the coalition for its effectiveness as a group of local military-focused organizations.

“You are all gathered together for a common purpose ... This coalition has a great legacy. It’s getting stronger and is more involved than ever in the community,” he said.

“The coalition is raising awareness and public support of all veterans and veteran activities in this community. The public finally has got it, finally understands the importance of the military and the important role it plays.”

Drolet said on Jan. 20, when President Barack Obama was sworn in as president, the nation's military “turned on its heels and was under the control of a new commander in chief.

Where else can that happen? It’s one of the things that makes this country so powerful and makes this country so great.”

While the Iraqi War is going to come to an end under the new administration, Drolet predicted that strife in Afghanistan is going to rise and casualties will continue.

“Our support is crucial as we continue the Afghan war. Afghanistan is going to be tougher, harder and with more casualties,” he said. “We have to be as attentive in support of our military as we have been over the last six or seven years. We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us.”

During the meeting, the local AUSA chapter pledged \$15,000 to the building of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial. Mike Howell, president of the local chapter, said he hopes to obtain a pledge for another \$15,000 from the national AUSA organization.

Bill Stender, president of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation, told the coalition gathering that fundraising efforts for the \$3 million to \$4 million needed to build the memorial will continue in 2009 with the selling of \$100 brick pavers and \$50 vanity license tags. The number of corporate pledges will also increase.

“We’ve got to get the memorial done,” said Drolet, who is in charge of the memorial's fundraising efforts.

“Once we get that done, then we need to turn our attention to

# Salmonella outbreak causes nationwide alert

## Health advisory issued for peanut products

Public health officials across the country are conducting a very active investigation across the United States to determine the source of Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak, according to a Fox Army Health Center release.

There have been 486 cases reported across the United States and one case to date in Alabama. Tennessee has had nine cases, Georgia six cases and Mississippi three cases.

Salmonella Typhimurium, Salmonella, is a bacteria that is occasionally found in food that causes a food borne illness. Preliminary results have identified contaminated peanut containing products as a potential source of the bacteria. Historically eating raw eggs and handling reptiles have been other sources of Salmonella infections.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after infection. The infection is usually diagnosed by culture. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days. Most recover without treat-

ment. The young, persons with suppressed immune systems, and the very old may have an increased susceptibility to developing a more severe illness requiring antibiotic treatment. Six deaths have been associated with this outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and the Food and Drug Administration have established a website to keep people informed of the outbreak. Maps are available showing the distribution of persons who have illness in the U.S. Based on the available information from the CDC and FDA, the following recommendations are

made to protect the consumer:

Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them. These products include Austin and Keebler brand peanut butter crackers and King Nut brand peanut butter produced since July 1, 2008. (FDA's website, [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), has recalled lot numbers.)

Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information becomes available about which brands may be affected.

Use FDA's online database to check if foods you're concerned about are on the recall list.

Call the consumer hotline phone number that may be on any product packaging you have to get information directly from the product manufacturer.

Persons who think they may have become ill from eating peanut butter are advised to consult their health care providers.

Additional questions or concerns can be addressed with your local public health department or your primary care provider. (Fox Army Health Center release)

## ■ Schools prepare for influx of military children

### Schools

continued from page 8

challenges, ways to ease the challenges of transition, and using research such as the Secondary Education Transition Study.

Phase II, however, covers the deep and emotional aspects of deployment and separation, which could affect a student's confidence and resiliency, and provides information on available resources and family support systems for both schools and families.

Baldwin said most of the counselors that have attended these training sessions don't have military backgrounds. Although some have been exposed to military students, most of the counselors and teachers did not have a solid sense of what it feels like to be a military child. "Most of these folks here have been baptized by fire," Baldwin said.

Becky Thompson, school counselor for Rainbow Elementary in Madison, attended Phase II of the training, as she had

already completed Phase I last year. Thompson commented on a video she saw last year of what it was like to be a military brat. "It's not the glamorous lifestyle I thought it was," she said, referring to all the travel military families often make. She did not realize the impact and stress of transition, deployments and separation. "My perception was that life in the military was glamorous. I didn't see the hardship. And sometimes we don't stop to think about issues," Thompson said.

Amanda Hulsey, a two-year veteran instructor and project specialist for professional development for MCEC, said counselors are always very happy for the tools the training provides them. Often, Hulsey said, counselors and teachers are not aware of or equipped with resources available at their fingertips through CYSS or MCEC. "It's information sharing with the community," she said. Since the training is interactive and hands-on, counselors and teachers really get a full grasp of what it's like to be a military child, she said. "Additionally, all institutes are grad-

uate-level courses and accredited by the Association of Continuing Education."

Said Thompson, "It's been great to meet other counselors from across many counties. I just appreciate this opportunity that has been provided to us. It helps us do our jobs better."

Baldwin's next big goal is to include a Special Education Training session in the next class. Because of BRAC and the movement taking place, he said, Redstone really wants to help transition these kids. Knowing how to properly take care of special needs military students is going to be one of the big challenges for the schools.

Special training sessions have priority in military installations most affected by BRAC movements and many deployments. MCEC helps prepare guidance professionals and other educators to recognize and address school transition concerns that impact on mobile military students.

The training institutes are programs of the Military Child Education Coalition, a worldwide organization which was founded 10 years ago to support the nearly 2 million military-connected students in their frequent transitions from school to

school and community to community. The MCEC concentrates on all military-connected students and families, and includes all branches of the service.

"We want to give them a deep immersion of what it's actually like - things they haven't considered before," Baldwin said. These things include how to plan for having pets and considering having to leave them behind, how kids say goodbye to friends and how counselors impact the kids' learning structure in the early phases of transition.

"It's about creating an atmosphere in the school where kids are actually welcomed and feel like they're part of the community," Baldwin said. He also encourages the counselors to seek and use resources available on the Arsenal and the Army.

The counselors think the trainings are very helpful, said Baldwin. "They love it, especially those who are coming for the first time."

For more information on CYSS trainings and resources, call Baldwin at 842-9642. Additional information on the MCEC institutes may be found on the website, [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org).

# Depot's logistics mission extends to war zone

## Tobyhanna supports on-site repair work

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER  
Tobyhanna release

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Tobyhanna's ability to make on-site repairs to communications-electronics equipment extends the scope of its maintenance and logistics mission from the mountains of Pennsylvania to the deserts of Southwest Asia.

Hundreds of depot employees deploy each year to more than 20 Forward Repair Activity facilities to support expeditionary logistics missions in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Military members from all branches of service depend on Tobyhanna's

skilled technicians to fix systems and components damaged in the hostile environment.

"We have the capability to move a very flexible, adaptable, and responsive work force where it needs to be when it needs to be there," depot commander Col. Ron Alberto said, pointing out that a large percentage of the depot's work force works outside the installation. Tobyhanna has a worldwide net of more than 65 FRAs.

Tobyhanna volunteers support various repair missions: Firefinder radars, Warlock electronic countermeasures, communications security systems, and command, control and computers. The depot also provides embedded support to the Army's intelligence system, Guardrail. These war zone initiatives are directed by officials in three directorates with deployment lengths averaging six months.



Courtesy photo

**IDENTITY KIT**— Joe Costanzo, right, shows a Soldier how to navigate through the on-board biometric screens of the Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment device. HIIDEs are portable devices that combine iris, fingerprint and face biometrics to help determine an individual's identity. Biometrics is the science and technology of measuring and analyzing biological data. HIIDEs are being used to identify Iraqi and Afghani citizens to distinguish friend from foe. Costanzo, a production controller in Tobyhanna's Production Management Directorate, deployed to Iraq and is assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

## ■ Veterans group recognizes support during 2008

### Leadership

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building a new veterans museum. We have a great portfolio of equipment and memorabilia here, and we need to find a place to display it for the community."

In other business, the coalition recognized the following Veterans Day Parade float winners: Large Business, first place — ITT/CAS; Large Business, second place — AAR/Brown International; Small Business — Analytical Services Inc.; Organizations, first place — Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial; Organizations, second place — Explorers Post 30 (sponsored by Lockheed Martin); and Organizations, third place — Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 1007. In addition, a float built by the parade's first teen entrant, Clinton Perry, was recognized as were the Veterans Day activity sponsors.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SOARING WITH A HERO**— David Carney, outgoing president of the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition, accepts an Eagle trophy from incoming coalition president John Perry. Carney was thanked by the coalition for making the organization stronger and more effective during his two-year tenure as president.



Photo by Maj. Gen. Jim Myles



Courtesy photo

## Final tribute to Soldier

Two community members honor Staff. Sgt. Joshua Lee Rath and his family during the 14-mile motorcade procession from the Cavalry of God in Decatur to East Lawrence Memorial Gardens in Moulton where Rath was buried Jan. 19. Almost 1,000 people gathered in the church to pay their respects to Rath's family and friends. Throngs of cars and people lined up along the Beltline in Decatur and waved American flags in honor of Rath, who was killed in Afghanistan. Patriot Guard riders escorted Rath's body from the funeral home to the church then to the cemetery and circled all the places holding American flags. Rath, 22, was killed by an improvised explosive device while on foot patrol in Afghanistan Jan. 8. He graduated Austin High School in Decatur and is survived by his parents, two sisters and two brothers, and his fiancée.

## Store recreational vehicles at your own risk of loss

### Government usually denies claims for personal storage

By ERIKA McPHERSON  
Chief of claims

The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act, also known as the Personnel Claims Act, as implemented by Army Regulation 27-20 Chapter 11, authorizes the payment of Soldiers' and civilian employees' claims for the fair market value of personal property lost, damaged, or destroyed incident to service.

The PCA is a gratuitous payment statute. It is not insurance. The purpose of the PCA is to lessen the hardships of military life by providing prompt and fair compensation for certain types of property losses.

Many installations have storage lots where Soldiers may park recreational vehicles or non-operational vehicles, stables where Soldiers can store their riding tack, or marinas where Soldiers can moor boats. Inevitably, some property stored at such facilities is stolen, vandalized or otherwise damaged. Claims for losses occurring at recreational and non-operational vehicle lots, stables and marinas will most likely be denied. These facilities exist primarily as conveniences, and losses of property stored at them normally should not be considered incident to service. These facilities should adequately warn customers that the PCA does not authorize compensation for loss of, or

damage to, personal property stored there, and that the patrons should consider getting private insurance to cover any damage or loss.

An exception would be made for loss of, or damage to, recreational vehicles or boats that are stored at a special, secured lot pursuant to an installation commander's order prohibiting parking of such items in family housing areas and directing storage in a specified lot. If the owner is required to store his or her vehicle or boat in such a yard, then such storage is not for the owner's convenience; a loss or damage to property under these circumstances is incident to service and payable under the PCA.

If a civilian claimant is unable to receive compensation for property loss or damage under the PCA, he or she may still consider pursuing a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Under the FTCA, a claimant must prove that the act or omission of a government employee acting within the scope of his or her employment was negligent, and this negligence was the proximate cause of the loss or damage. For example, if a government employee was operating a forklift carrying barrels at or near the storage lot and accidentally dropped a barrel upon a stored vehicle breaking its windshield, this claim may be compensable under the FTCA if it was not compensable under the PCA.

For more information on the PCA or FTCA, call the Redstone Arsenal Claims Division of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 876-9006.

# Tax Assistance Center returns for season

*Largest staff ever forms to prepare*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
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**T**ax season isn't fun. When you add in the additional complexity of military service and deployments, it can go from minor irritation to full-blown anxiety. Fortunately, the Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is open for business again this year.

The center launched its 2009 operation Monday. Workers are scheduling appointments and seeing clients Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some Saturday appointments available through April 15.

Staffing for the center has always been tough. They have a limited number of Soldiers working there, so they rely on volunteers to fill out the roster. This year their ranks have swelled significantly.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**FREE SERVICE— Army spouse Vickie Taylor receives her completed return from preparers Staff Sgt. Thomas Smith and Pvt. Tiffanie Herold.**

“We have more civilian volunteers this year than ever before, which is wonderful,” Capt. Alyson Mortier, Tax Assistance Center officer in charge, said. “We

have a very robust and gifted staff this year. We’re hoping to be able to see more clients this year than last year.”

Every preparer has undergone

IRS training in order to prepare and file tax returns. They have been tested and certified. The center also continues to use the most current version of the TaxWise software, the same software used by the IRS.

“We have refund cycle charts that will tell you exactly that if you e-file within this window then you can expect your refund within that window,” Mortier said. “E-file significantly decreases the wait time. It’s about 7 to 10 days.”

Preparers can handle a variety of personal return types. Occasionally, someone will present with something beyond their scope. In that case, they will refer them to an outside preparer.

“Our scope is dictated by the IRS and military regulation,” Mortier said. “We reserve the right to refer someone outside if it is beyond our capabilities. That’s really for their benefit.”

The center is also limited in its customer list. They accept all active duty servicemembers, retirees and their dependents, plus

Reserve and National Guard on military orders for at least 30 days.

Every appointment is scheduled for one hour. Most simple returns require much less time, Mortier said, but the center wants both the client and preparer to work together unhurried.

“Everyone gets the same standard of attention to detail,” she said.

Using the tax center offers more than no cost and a speedy refund. Clients also have the peace of mind that comes from knowing preparers are solely motivated by the needs of the client – not profit.

“A tax return (prepared commercially) can run, on average, \$150 to \$200 for even a basic return,” Mortier said. “I think that their price is based upon the number of pages. The more complex it is, the more expensive it is going to be.”

The concern for their best interests and the experience dealing

See **Taxes** on page 19

# Local artist finds inspiration in nature and her travels

## Donates prints to crafts center

By KARI HAWKINS  
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Judy Bobula knew her husband-to-be was a real keeper when he suggested adding an artist's studio during a renovation of his home in Huntsville's Five Points.

"No one had ever offered me anything like that before," she said, still amazed by the act of generosity.

Bobula was particularly grateful for the offer because at the time she was painting in a closet in the townhouse where she lived.

"You can tell a real artist because they are willing to paint anywhere," she said with a laugh.

Now, married for nearly three years to George Bobula, chief engineer, Propulsion Division, Aviation Engineering Directorate, AMRDEC, Bobula spends her days working in a sunny art studio on the back of the couple's home. To one side of the room is her design area, where she mixes watercolors, hand-stained tissue papers and a plethora of recycled and natural items to create one-of-a-kind art that's alive with texture and whimsy. On the other side of the room, she stores her collection of art materials – leaves, seeds, wood chips, hand-made paper, Birch bark, stones, leather scraps and shells – in bins organized by color.

"I work in watercolors, and tissue paper and oriental papers, and all kinds of things like berries, shoe laces, string, pieces of jewelry or whatever else I can find," said Bobula of her mixed media collages. "I enjoy experimenting with new materials and techniques, and different organic materials."

Bobula is the featured artist at the Arts & Crafts Center during January and February. Her abstract artwork is on display at the center, and Bobula has donated prints of her artwork "Bottles," "Picket Fences" and "Small Adobe Buildings" to be used by students taking the center's Picture Framing 101 class.

Bobula, who has received several awards for her work and who participates in exhibits and outdoor art shows in the Southeast, grew her unique artistic expression out of an interest in ink drawings.

"They were very detailed," she said. "I found that I didn't have the freedom to express myself so much. They were too realistic for me.

"So, I tried watercolors. I loved how they flowed and you didn't really know where they were going on the paper. With watercolors, my work became more impressionistic."

For 15 years, Bobula developed her art with watercolors, painting florals and landscapes. But, like many artists, there came a time when she felt the need to expand her craft, to challenge herself in another direction.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**DISPLAYING HER ART**– The walls of Judy Bobula's sunny art studio are adorned with her original collages, which continue to inspire her as she prepares for another season of outdoor art shows. Her work is on display at the Arts & Crafts Center as well as the Starbucks on Governors Drive.

"I started by putting tissue papers and oriental papers on my watercolor paintings, and I liked the effect," she said.

"Then, I wanted to add something else. So, I got some woodchips from the woodshop at the Arts & Crafts Center, and added that to my work. Then, I started looking for string, shoe laces, old earrings, dried berries and stones. I've used feathers, postcards, pictures from old magazines, musical notes from a songbook, pages from dictionaries and whatever else might fit into my work."

Working in mixed media collages was a challenge that allowed for a lot of freedom in expression.

"You just never know where it's going to go," Bobula said. "Most of the time the way I work is intuitively. Sometimes I have a plan. Sometimes I don't see anything until I'm halfway through a piece. Sometimes it turns out to be a bomb and I sand it all down and start over again. This art form is a continually changing thing for me. A year from now I might find something else to add to my art."

In her studio, Bobula has several pieces adorning her walls, and other pieces that are in various stages of completion. One collage, titled "Leaf Study," is a combination of oriental papers, corrugated cardboard and leaves that have been preserved with acrylic sealer. Another, titled "Whirlwind," involved five layers of tissue paper. "Sea Fans" includes lace and images created by sea shells, "Iron Wheels" includes a picture of an old-fashioned tricycle and "Stand of Birch- es" includes pieces of Birch bark.

"When I put the title on a piece, that's when you can get a message from what I'm doing in the collage," Bobula said. "People

# HHC 59th likes its troop basketball chances



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**RAISE UP—** HHC 59th forward Andrew Hildreth scores over 326th Chemical's Darrin Johnson in the holiday tournament final Dec. 16, but the 326th won both games for the championship.

*Tournament runner-up entering 2009 season*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor  
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HHC 59th has momentum as it heads into the 2009 basketball season which opens this week.

With its unit motto "Raise up," the 59th was runner-up to the 326th Chemical Company in the holiday tournament which ended Dec. 16. The season opened Jan. 26 at Pagano Gym with nine unit-level teams.

"I think we're going to have a pretty decent team this year, provided everyone stays healthy," 59th point guard Kevin Sanders said. "I'm very optimistic about winning the championship."

The roster includes shooting guard Leroy Early, guard Kevin Thomas, forward Andrew Hildreth, shooting guard Travis Roop, power forward Benson Pace and 6-foot-8 center Jeff Reuter.

"We have lots of guards, lots of shooters," Roop said. "I think everyone has been playing basketball for a long time. We have a lot of experience on the team. We're a lot bigger than any other team. We have three big guys (Hildreth, Pace and Reuter). Most of the other teams maybe

have one."

In the holiday tournament, the 326th Chemical Company advanced from the losers bracket to beat HHC 59th in the final 63-62 and 60-54.

HHC 59th was also runner-up in last year's post championship, falling to Headquarters & Alpha 47-46.

The Eastern Conference teams include Charlie Company, HHC 59th, NCO Academy, Marines and the National Guard. Western Conference teams include 375th Engineer Company, Bravo Company, Civilian Welfare Fund and the 326th Chemical Company.

Games are Mondays and Wednesdays, and some Thursdays, at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. through March 2 at Pagano Gym. The postseason tournament is March 9-19 from Monday through Thursday.

Here's the schedule:

- **Tonight:** Marines vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; National Guard vs. 375th Engineer at 7; and Charlie vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 8.

- **Monday, Feb. 2:** NCO Academy vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; 375th Engineer vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 7; and HHC 59th vs. Bravo at 8.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 4:** Civilian Welfare Fund vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; NCO Academy vs. Marines at 7; and National Guard vs. 326th Chemical at 8.

- **Thursday, Feb. 5:** HHC 59th vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; Charlie vs.

Bravo at 7; and 326th Chemical vs. 375th Engineer at 8.

- **Monday, Feb. 9:** 326th Chemical vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; Bravo vs. NCO Academy at 7; and Civilian Welfare Fund vs. National Guard at 8.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 11:** Marines vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; Charlie vs. 375th Engineer at 7; and HHC 59th vs. NCO Academy at 8.

- **Thursday, Feb. 12:** 375th Engineer vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; Bravo vs. National Guard at 7; and Civilian Welfare Fund vs. NCO Academy at 8.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 18:** 375th Engineer vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; 326th Chemical vs. HHC 59th at 7; and Charlie vs. National Guard at 8.

- **Thursday, Feb. 19:** Charlie vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; NCO Academy vs. 375th Engineer at 7; and Civilian Welfare Fund vs. 326th Chemical at 8.

- **Monday, Feb. 23:** Charlie vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; National Guard vs. NCO Academy at 7; and 375th Engineer vs. HHC 59th at 8.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 25:** Bravo vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; Charlie vs. NCO Academy at 7; and Marines vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 8.

- **Monday, March 2:** Marines vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.

# Program executive office members show compassion

## Missiles and Space workers share 'spirit of caring'

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

At 1,560 strong, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space work force is not only regarded as a national treasure, but also as one that sets the standard for the Army value selfless service: Put the welfare of the nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own.

Entirely of their own volition and strictly on a voluntary basis, missileers have taken it upon themselves to honor fallen Soldiers and civilians.

"I am humbled by the fact that this PEO level of care has set the standard and been recognized for its sincere spirit of caring and gratitude," program executive officer Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco said. "As a leader, I can truthfully say nothing makes me prouder than the way that we take care of our own."

Just this past holiday season, for example, the PEO's workers honored four military members and two of their civilians with meals and gift cards.

Huntsville's Richard K. Grant acknowledged the care in a letter to the PEO.

"I wanted to express my most sincere gratitude for the kindness and support that you and your organization have shown to my family since the loss of my wife Maria," he wrote. "These Christmas gifts of emotional, spiritual and material support, along with the support that came before from the PEO and the many in your organization who individually reached out to touch us, have been a true godsend in aiding us in this challenge of life. May God bless and protect you and all the members



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

**TRUE PATRIOTS**— From left, Waynette Gaither, Candice Walker, Russ Asson, Jayne Jordan and Debra Wild recite the Pledge of Allegiance before a PEO Missiles and Space Fallen Heroes Committee meeting.

of the PEO and those that they support."

Yet another example is cited by the PEO's Jayne Jordan, whose husband's memory has been recognized.

"In November 2007, the PEO family hosted a special memorial observance at the building 5250 flag pole to honor my dearly loved and missed husband, James 'Jim' Frank Jordan Jr.," Jordan said. "At the event, it was noted that: 'We honor this former Soldier and civil servant, recognizing his Science and Technology management excellence and the enduring standard that he set for all of us to follow.'"

"The fact that the PEO family took time out to remember Jim has been a true memory of solace that helped us through a difficult time. His dedication to comfort the loved ones of fallen Soldiers and civilians is a support gesture that has a positive impact."

The PEO family's selfless service has not gone unnoticed by Army leaders. Laudatory e-mails have been received from Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson, ASALT and Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. Central Command.

## ■ Crafts center's featured artist enjoys varied materials

### Artist

continued from page 14

see different things in the collages. Many times a piece will appeal to someone because it reminds them of something."

Much of her inspiration comes from nature and travel.

"Some people get souvenirs when they travel. I shop for things like bark to bring home," Bobula said.

Sometimes a picture or a word printed in a book or on a label will provide the inspiration for a collage.

"Pictures are a jumping off point for me. They always give me ideas," she said.

In a recent collage, Bobula incorporated drawings and comments from a book titled "Writers Who Were Also Artists." The drawings, many of which are comical, were done by such writers as H.G. Wells, Rudyard Kipling and Fyodor Dostoyevsky and are accompanied by comments that are both insightful and whimsical.

Bobula studied art at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., and at Kennesaw College in

Marietta, Ga. She has also taken art classes at Calhoun Community College and the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Her pieces have received awards in major regional competitions. In 2008, her piece titled "Dangling" received first place in painting at the Alabama Community College System Chancellor's Awards Exhibition.

Besides the Arts & Crafts Center, Bobula is exhibiting some of her work at the Starbucks on Governors Drive near Huntsville Hospital. She will also participate in the Art in Bloom exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art on April 3-4 and has exhibited pieces at The Art Council in the Von Braun Center. Many of her pieces are in both private and corporate collections throughout the U.S., including the art collection of Marilyn Quayle, wife of former vice president Dan Quayle. Bobula is now getting ready, with the help of her husband who builds frames for her collages, for the next season of outdoor art shows, which begins in March and continues through November.

More information about Bobula's art career can be found on her website: [www.JudyBobula.com](http://www.JudyBobula.com).

# Brigade's top NCO is battle tested and true

*Command Sgt. Maj. Battle retiring after three decades*

By SPC. RYAN STROUD  
 59th Ordnance Brigade Public Affairs

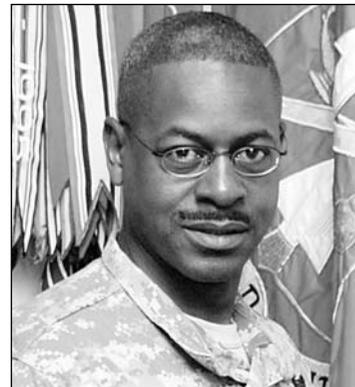
When he says his final goodbyes and officially leaves the 59th Ordnance Brigade and Redstone, the brigade will continue to move forward. Trainee Soldiers will still be trained to the fullest and operations will still commence. But once he says his final goodbyes, 59th and Redstone will never be the same again.

Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle is entering his final weeks as brigade command sergeant major, and more importantly, an active duty American Soldier. On Feb. 10, Battle will trade his ACUs for civilian clothes as he crosses another milestone into retired life.

As Battle counts down the days until his retirement, the 30-year veteran reflected on his life before the Army, his carrier and what lies ahead.

"The funny thing is I was in the Air Force ROTC while in high school," Battle joked while explaining his decision to join the Army in the late '70s.

"I was actually going to see the



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
 Reginald Battle**

Air Force recruiter," he said, reminiscing. "All of a sudden, an Army recruiter jumped out of nowhere and said, 'Hey, I know you!' I just said, 'Yeah, right.' He said, 'You're on the track team at Lowndes. You run the 400 yard dash. You're fast!' I was sold after that.

"While attending Lowndes High School (in Valdosta, Ga.), I knew I wanted to travel and see different parts of the world," Battle continued. "Thirty years later, I've done the traveling and I've enjoyed the Army. It's been great."

Battle's first goal was to retire at 20 years, but soon after reaching

the mark, things changed.

"I looked at 20 years in the Army and I told my family, 'Twenty years and then you get to retire, that's not too bad,'" he said. "Sure, there's things like wars and deployments, but looking at 20 years and retiring at 37, I just thought that was the best thing going.

"I knew if I was going to enter the Army or Air Force, I was going to give it my all and achieve the highest rank I could before finally retiring," Battle said. "But once I hit that 20-year mark, I was still having fun and enjoying the Army, plus promotions had just come out. I honestly never thought I would stay for 30."

Battle's ties to Redstone date back to his early Army career when he attended Advanced Individual Training here to become an 89B ammunition specialist.

"I attended Fort McClellan, AI, for basic training, Redstone for AIT, and my first duty station was Fort Carson, Colo. But my biggest memory from AIT was this club where Clothing and Sales is currently located. We stayed in there a lot and had some fun," Battle said, laughing while reflecting.

But as soon as winter hit at Fort Carson, Battle was in for a surprise.

"That was the first time I had ever been in snow," he said with a smile. "I had seen it on TV but I had to walk around in knee-deep snow. It was pretty rough on this Georgia boy."

Now into his Army career, Battle set his sights on progressing up the ranks.

"I wanted to be a specialist because it was better than being a (private first class). I had good leadership once I arrived who guided me in the right direction," Battle said. "My first platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Charles Goner, who was a Vietnam vet, had set me down and called me 'Sonny Boy.' He said, 'Sonny Boy, here's what you have to do if you want to stay in the Army.' He laid it all out for me and I like to think I tried to follow his guidance to the best of my ability."

It was this initial encouragement and guidance which helped shape Battle's future accomplishments in the Army. Soon, Battle was being promoted and taking on leadership roles.

"Something I will always remember is when I was promoted to sergeant first class on the banks of the Euphrates River near the end of the first Gulf War," he said. "Another thing I will always

remember is from (overseas). My first overseas assignment was Korea and later on as a battalion command sergeant major I got the chance to go back to that same area and see my first post closing in Korea. It was Camp Page and it was fully turned over."

Korea also had another memory for Battle.

"The (year) I left Korea was 1981," Battle said. "There was a vendor there who was selling jackets I really liked. I'd been in Korea for a year and he knew me and I went to him the day before I flew (to go back to the states) and said, 'I want to get one of your jackets and I'll pay you on payday.' The next day I flew, so I kind of stole his jacket.

"When I returned to Korea as a command sergeant major, I went into the same shop and, ironically, the same man was working there," he continued. "He didn't remember me so I walked around the shop to see if he would remember, but he didn't. I called for him and he said, 'Yes, can I help you?' I said, 'No, I owe you something.' I gave him the \$20 and I told him, 'This is for the jacket that in 1981

See **Battle** on page 19

# Rocket motor on target in test firing

The Missile Defense Agency has successfully conducted a static fire test of the propulsion system for its new strategic target.

The two-stage launch vehicle, or LV-2, is part of the Agency's Flexible Target Family and will be used to test the Ballistic Missile Defense System later this year. As a cost reduction initiative, the agency integrated former Navy Trident Missile C4 rocket motors into its new LV-2 design.

The Missile Defense Agency conducted the test Thursday at China Lake Naval Warfare Center in Ridgecrest, Calif. The first C4 rocket motor static test was conducted almost 26 years ago and this was the first static test of a C4 motor since 1996. The C4 rocket motor was retired from Navy strategic service in 2005.

The Flexible Target Family, developed by prime contractor Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, is composed of targets that exhibit various degrees of threat emulation with a broad range of performance characteristics and features in order to present tailorable target behaviors that test multiple Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities. The two-stage intermediate/long-range target uses Trident C4 Stage 1 and Stage 2 motors for the required trajectories, accommodating the desired capability for heavier payloads, longer ranges distances, higher velocities and variable launch capabilities.

The LV-2 first flight is planned for May in a planned BMDS flight test. *(MDA release)*

## ■ Brigade's top enlisted Soldier retiring after 30 years

### Battle

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I walked out with without paying for.' He started hugging me and saying he remembered me, though I bet he really didn't. But I straightened that out, after almost 22 years, I straightened that out. I'm proud of that."

Through the years, Battle encountered many different Soldiers in his career field. Some of the privates he once helped out were now working for him in different areas.

"Our field, the ammo field, is a small world," Battle said. "Seeing privates when I was a platoon sergeant and first sergeant cross my path then and now seeing many of them again as staff sergeants and first sergeants, as the brigade command sergeant major, I like to think I did something right. I can't take credit for their career, but I think I gave something to help them further themselves in the Army."

In another trip back to the Arsenal, Battle's life was forever about to change. There he met his future wife, Sharon Battle.

"She was in BNOC (Basic NCO Course) and I was just returning from the first Gulf War, entering ANOC (Advanced NCO Course)," Battle remembered. "One of my classmates was her supervisor. I asked him, 'Hey, who's

that?' He said, 'Oh, man, that's my Soldier. Stay away from her. You're too arrogant, so stay away from her.' But I eventually introduced myself to her and we just went from there.

"We ended up getting stationed together in recruitment command in Alexandria, Va., and got married there. After that, we went around the world.

"She's been an increment part of my career," he said. "I remember her looking at my ERB when I was a sergeant first class. She said my ERB looked like crap and she retyped it for me. After she retyped it, I've been getting promoted ever since."

Battle and his wife have one daughter who is also married with a daughter.

"You know, it feels pretty good to be a grandfather. It makes me feel a little old but still pretty good," he joked.

As his retirement day gets closer, Battle said his military career is complete and has been a success, thanks to everyone who has ever worked around him.

"I enjoyed my career and I enjoyed being around Soldiers, I enjoyed caring about them," he said. "You have to care about your Soldiers. You have got to take care of your people.

"As a leader you get nothing done," he continued. "It is the people that the leader leads that get everything done and if you do not show your people that you care about them, whether you sit down with them or stop them on the street to see how they are, at the end of the day, they are going to be the ones who make sure you succeed or fail. You have to take care of your people, your Soldiers, and they will take care of you.

"The entire Team Redstone has given me and this brigade 100 percent support in everything and I am eternally grateful. The team on post and off post makes serving here an honor," he said.

Battle also has a little advice for the trainee Soldiers on the Arsenal.

"Understand the training you're given, take the training serious and more importantly, learn your first aid," Battle said. "In the event of an accident or incident,

the first person who is going to give you aid is your battle buddy. Take all your first aid training and all other training very serious, understand it because you never know when you might just need it to save a life."

After beginning his career on July 11, 1979, it is time for Battle to enjoy the retired life.

"I plan to take about three to six months off and figure out how not to be in the Army, figure out how not to get up at 4:30 in the morning to go do (physical training), and I plan to travel a little bit," he said. "I want to spend time with my granddaughter and spend time with my family. I would like to go back down to Valdosta and visit with my mom. I have to shake off a bit of these 30 years and get out there to face the civilian sector as a retiree.

"I'm going to experiment a little bit with a goatee and see how much gray I've really got and try a different style of hair," Battle joked. "But when I travel, I don't plan on traveling overseas anymore. No more long flights for me, I'm done."

Thirty years of service stateside, overseas and deployments can be hard on anybody but has left Battle self-effacing.

"I feel extremely blessed and humbled that I've had good health to do the things that I've done and that I've had the opportunity to be command sergeant major of an extraordinary brigade," Battle said. "There is no higher honor for me than to get the chance to serve this brigade and all the Soldiers in it, this is my joy and my glory.

"I am eternally grateful that God has smiled on me and kept me grounded to the fact that I know it is not what I have done; it is what others have done to get me here today. I stand proudly on the shoulders of some great American Soldiers and Marines."

## ■ Tax preparation available for free to military community

### Taxes

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with issues unique to the military is a big draw. Vickie Taylor is using the tax assistance center again this year. She was even willing to make quite a commute for it.

"My husband is deployed. I know they know how to do military taxes the right way," Taylor said. "I actually live 30 minutes north of Birmingham. The IRS office will do

them for free there. Since they are not military, I don't trust that they know what I need."

A list of items needed for tax preparation is available on the center's website [www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html](http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html), along with additional tax resources. To schedule an appointment call 842-1040 or stop by the office located in building 3489 on the corner of Ajax and Zeus Road behind the barracks on Aerobee Road. All tax preparation is by appointment only.

# Amended law gives more protection for Soldiers

*Civil relief statute revised in 2008*

By Capt. LAURA MATEJIK

*Legal Assistance chief*

The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act provides protection to servicemembers. It applies to active duty servicemembers and reserve servicemembers ordered to duty (effective from the reservist's receipt of mobilization orders and for the duration of his active duty service).

Special rules apply depending on the section of the statute under which the servicemember is claiming protection. Consequently, it is best to consult with an attorney prior to asserting any claim under the SCRA.

The new amendments of the SCRA, passed in Section 2203 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 11-289, 122 Statute 2654 (2008), revised certain sections of the statute. This amendment provides increased protection for the suspension of judicial proceedings, the termination of, and remedy for breach of, installment contracts and leases, the rate of interest charged by creditors, and the foreclosure of mortgages.

One area of interest to servicemembers is the SCRA requirement that creditors forgive interest in excess of 6 percent on an obligation or liability, such as debts (but not student loans). For this protection to apply, the debt must be incurred by a

servicemember prior to the servicemember's entry into military service. Furthermore, the servicemember's entry into active duty service must materially affect his ability to pay the obligation. To invoke this protection, the servicemember must give the creditor written notice and a copy of his orders.

The interest rate reduction under the SCRA begins at the servicemember's date of entry onto active duty, continues through the member's military service, and ends when the servicemember comes off of active duty. For credit obligations secured by a mortgage or trust deed, the 2008 amendment provides that the reduced interest rate applies not only during the period of military service, but also for one year thereafter.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Legal Assistance Division, can provide assistance to eligible clients regarding the SCRA. The Army Legal Services website, located at <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal>, provides useful general information regarding servicemembers' rights under the SCRA.

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

# Army receives first six 'neighborhood electric vehicles'

By C. TODD LOPEZ  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army accepted its first six “neighborhood electric vehicles” during a ceremony Jan. 12 at Fort Myer, Va.

Delivery of the six tiny battery-powered NEVs, each about the size of a golf cart, represents the beginning of a leasing action by the Army to obtain more than 4,000 of the vehicles.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren said the service will receive a total of 800 NEVs in 2009, and an additional 1,600 of the vehicles in both 2010 and 2011. The vehicles will help the Army save money in both vehicle purchase and in fuel savings, he said. Though there will be a small cost associated with installing infrastructure to charge the vehicles — about \$800,000 total — that cost will be eclipsed by the savings, he said.

“It will be offset multiple times by the reduction and consumption of 11.5 million gallons of gasoline over the six-year life of these vehicles,” Geren said. “And this acquisition of 4,000 NEVs will allow the Army to

meet 42 percent of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act requirement for a two percent annual petroleum consumption reduction through 2015.”

The Army’s acquisition of the NEVs constitutes not just the largest acquisition of electric vehicles for the military, but also the largest acquisition of electric vehicles in the United States, Geren said.

“The Army is committed to substantially reducing the greenhouse gas emissions through our acquisition of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles,” Geren said. “This historic acquisition will constitute the largest acquisition of electric vehicles not just in the military, but in the entire country.”

The acquisition of the NEVs also helps the Army “go green” by preventing the release of some 218.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide into the environment, the secretary said.

The initial contract for 4,000 leased NEVs will cost less than the gasoline-powered vehicles they replace — \$3,300 less than a gasoline powered sedan, for instance, and \$13,000 less than a hybrid vehicle, Geren said.



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

**FLEET ADDITIONS—** The first six “neighborhood electric vehicles” were delivered to the Army Jan. 12 during a ceremony at Fort Myer, Va. The ceremonial delivery of the NEVs, which are entirely electric powered, represents the beginning of a leasing action by the Army to obtain more than 4,000 of the vehicles.

**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 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).

**Rules for cyclists**

Cyclists are now required to wear reflective vests in accordance with Redstone Arsenal Regulation 190-5 (Redstone Arsenal Bicycle Traffic/Safety Supervision) in order to ride on post. Those who do not have reflective vests donned while riding will not be permitted to enter the gate or ride on post. For information on where to purchase reflective vests, call David Stone 313-8755.

**Youth baseball**

CYSS Little League Baseball registration is under way through March 2. Boys and girls ages 5-12 are invited. The fee is \$55. For more information, call 313-3699 or 876-3704 or log onto www.redstonemwr.com.

**Youth lacrosse**

In partnership with Huntsville Lacrosse Association, Redstone Arsenal's Child, Youth and School Services is offering lacrosse for boys and girls ages 6 to high school. Fees range from \$185-\$270 per player. Players will have to purchase additional equipment. Players registering through CYSS will be on a Redstone Arsenal team if there are enough registrants. If not, players will be placed on Huntsville teams. For more information, call 313-3699.

**Golf league**

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2009 season meeting Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Redstone Links Clubhouse. It appears that at least two of the 20 league teams will not field a team for the 2009 season. "We

are looking for teams to fill the void left in our league, as well as individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or two," a prepared release said. The league will play April 7 through the first week in September. A team entry fee of \$110 is charged to all teams, which is used to pay to winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as individual and team wins each week. For more information, call Dean Anderson (home) 852-3531, (cell) 797-3531 or Dave Parker 313-4196.

**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.

**Advisory council**

Mark your calendars to attend the Exchange/Commissary/MWR Advisory Council meeting Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500. "Learn what's new in the community," a prepared release said. "Come by and tell us what we are doing well, as well as what we could do to improve our service to our customers." For more information call Carl Carpenter, Post Exchange general manager, 881-7313 or Derrick Gould, director of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, 876-2073.

**Kansas day**

The Kansas Club will hold its "Kansas Day Celebration" dinner meeting Saturday at the Tai Pan Chinese Restaurant, 2012 Memorial Parkway southwest. Social begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. David Lady, who recently retired from the Army and is employed by the Space and Missile Defense Command, will speak on "Quantrill's Raid of Lawrence, Kan.," which took place Aug. 21, 1863. Everyone is welcome to this celebration of Kansas Day. If you plan to attend, please call ahead at 883-0080 or 722-4798.

**University women**

American Association of University Women will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 3 at the Bevill Center (UAH campus), 550 Sparkman Drive. Avis Williams, principal at Terry Heights Elementary School, will speak on "Facing Poverty: Educating All Our Children." Meet and

greet starts at 5:50 p.m., dinner at 6 (\$20) and the program at 6:30. For reservations, e-mail Lois at herb.guendel@knology.net.

**Bible studies**

Protestant Women of the Chapel holds Bible study classes every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis for the 9:30 study. PWOC also provides adult supervision for home-schooled children at the chapel for the 9:30 study. "The lunchtime Bible study meets from 11:30-12:30 so take an hour off from your busy workday to release, refresh and regroup while learning of the healing power of God's word," a prepared release said. For more information, call Laura Keegan 489-7686 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404. The contact for the lunchtime group is Mattie L. Jones 828-9890 or 508-7744.

**Executive women**

The Huntsville Chapter of Executive Women International invites girls in grades 8-12 to attend the Executive Women of Tomorrow Conference on Feb. 21 at ADTRAN Inc. in Huntsville. The theme is "Outfitting Your Career Toolkit." Proceeds benefit the EWI Huntsville Chapter Scholarship fund. Early bird discount is \$40 for payments postmarked by Jan. 31; \$50 for payments received by Feb. 13. For more information, call Donna Corbett 890-3101 or visit www.ewihsv.org.

**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.



Photo by Robyn Somers

**Welcome home**

**Lt. Col. William Taylor, a communications officer with Joint Forces Headquarters, Alabama Army National Guard, is greeted Jan. 11 at Huntsville International Airport as he returns after a nine-month deployment in Afghanistan. Taylor served as an Embedded Transition Team leader during his deployment. From upper left is Taylor, his wife Michelle, their daughter Nicole, 16 along with from lower left their sons, Hunter, 7, Mason, 3 and Zachary, 10. Taylor resides with his family on Redstone Arsenal.**

**Federal employees**

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees will meet Feb. 14 at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 10 a.m. and the program to follow. The February program will be presented by Tom Stroud, a retired Army civilian. For more information, call president Barbara Boomershine 519-3327.

**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.

**Resource managers**

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Feb. 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Mayor is the guest speaker. For ticket information, call Kim Wright 876-6163 or Lisa Lowery 876-7086. Cost is \$13 members, \$14 non-members.

**Admin professionals**

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

**Toastmasters**

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

**Officers association**

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Annette Ikstrums, supervisory program analyst of Fox Army Health Center pharmacy services. 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.

**Blacks in government**

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks in Government will hold a general membership meeting Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians

Club in Ballroom 5. Non-members desiring information about BIG are invited to attend and bring a friend. For information call Mary Peoples 955-4275 or James Foster at 852-2129.

## Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. A program on "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address" will be presented by Dr. Robert Schaefer, an Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar and professor from the University of Mobile. This meeting is free to the public; and visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

## Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly luncheon Feb. 12 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Bob Fay of ISSI is the spotlight speaker. The main topic is "Sustainability" offered by Ch2MHill. Registration for the buffet lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost of the meal is \$10. For reservations call Dan Foran 830-1031, ext. 130.

## Fleet Reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 28 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, Exit 3. For more information, call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

## Order of world wars

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars will host the National Midwinter Conference on Feb. 10-15 at the Huntsville Space Center Marriott. "Our CINC, retired Lt. Gen. Sam Wetzel, will be in attendance," a prepared release said. This conference will include a golf tournament dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. Clair and his son, Mike Goodridge, a welcome reception, CINC Banquet, and tours. "MOWW is a patriotic, nonprofit, all service, veterans organization founded by Gen. John Pershing after World War I and supports patriotic education, law and order, Boy and Girl Scouts, Youth Leadership Conferences, flag and memorial programs and ROTC throughout the United States," the release said.

## Autism support group

Making Connections Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group will have a family outing Feb. 28 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Southeast YMCA, 1000 Weatherly Road. RSVP is required for this free swimming event. Send an e-mail to Jenny Morris, with the number of adults/children and their names attending, at jenny-morris70@yahoo.com.

## Space society

HAL5, local National Space Society chapter, will have its monthly meeting Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library, 915 Monroe St. The program is a free public lecture by Craig Russell of Americans in Orbit-50 years. He will give a status report on the commemorative flight to celebrate the first U.S. manned orbital space flight (Friendship 7). A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 506-3833 or visit www.HAL5.org.

## 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 SSB 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](mailto:keith.coates@us.army.mil) or e-mail MSF instructor Ralph Harris at [93hdstc@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:jwk108@yahoo.com) or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

## 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.

## VA benefits

Veterans Administration representative Andrew Carver will visit Redstone Arsenal on Wednesday of every week from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide anyone with assistance and information about veterans benefits and VA processes. Please give

him a call and schedule an appointment at (334) 430-8860; or you can reach him at 842-2718 Wednesday only. Office location is building 3493, Retirement Services Division, Military Personnel Office. Family members, retirees and active duty are welcome to solicit information regarding VA benefits.

## Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Cyrus Russ 539-6511 or 539-6512.

## Cadet program

Join the Army Reserves and enroll in your college ROTC program simultaneously through the Simultaneous Membership Program. Earn anywhere from \$470 to \$1,400 a month as a SMP cadet. As a member of the Army Reserve SMP Cadet Program, you are non-deployable, you have an opportunity to pursue the degree of your choice and you can assure yourself of a future as a commissioned officer in the active Army or the Reserves. For more information, call your local Army Reserve recruiter 518-3972.

## Veterans office

The local office for Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to veterans and their families in applying for benefits from the VA. These benefits include, but are not limited to, Service

See Announcements on page 26



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

## Surprise donation

Members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army present a \$15,000 check toward building the new Veterans Memorial. Presenting the surprise donation Jan. 21 to Veterans Memorial chairman of the board Bill Stender, third from left, are Dave Seay, Mike Howell and Bob Drolet. The local chapter is also sending a nomination package to AUSA National in the hope that National will match the donation for a total of \$30,000.

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.

### 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.

### Army training

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

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

### Customer services

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

### Thrift Shop grants

The Redstone Thrift Shop Welfare Committee announces its annual grant program. The deadline for applications is

Feb. 28. Requests must be reviewed and awarded in April. For an application, organizations wishing to solicit funds should call Jennifer Kennedy 682-6981 or e-mail [jkhunter\\_1999@hotmail.com](mailto:jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com).

### 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 [puaaloha@bellsouth.net](mailto:puaaloha@bellsouth.net). Forms are also available in the OCWC Southern Exposure Newsletter. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form. Deadline for submission is Feb. 28. Requests postmarked or received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information, call Robley 882-6064. OCWC is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

### 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>.

### Student apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Pro-

gram 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 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>.

### 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 Comp-trollers 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,



Courtesy photo

## Graduating interns

The AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center recognized its graduating Army interns Jan. 14. Certificates were presented to, from left, Richard Thomas, Milissa Taylor, Alicia Ellenburg, Jennifer Wilborn, Allen Wampler and Marshall Grice.

building 5300, 876-8932; Debbie O'Neal, building 5400, 876-2671; Dee Kowallik, 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 Thursday 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.

## 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.

## Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 16 for Presidents Day. The health center is closed on Thursday afternoons, weekends and federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox has no emergency room or emergency medical services. Dial 911 to activate EMS.

## 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, gov-

ernment 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.

## 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.

## Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on Feb. 3 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338, Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone as outlined in Commander's Letter 005-08. Civilian employees, contractors and spouses are

encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. Re-entry counseling for overseas returnees is also available. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

## Dr. King celebration

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration is today at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Keynote speaker is Nevil "The Shadow" Shed, a member of the 1965-66 Texas Western College national championship basketball team. There will be entertainment by Calvin Drake and J.O. Johnson High School Jazz Band.

## Speed limits

Garrison Directorate of Public Works announces changes in the posted speed limits on Martin Road at both Gates 1 and 7. On Martin Road West, the speed limit will be reduced to 45 mph, from Rideout Road westward through the Indian Creek area and Test Area 6. The limit will be reduced to 25 mph through the Gate 7 area. On Martin Road East, the limit will remain at 50 mph from Patton Road through the causeway area, but will be reduced to 25 mph through the Gate 1 area, which is under construction. These changes should be made soon. For questions or concerns, call DPW at 876-7008.

## Job fair

The Redstone Arsenal eighth annual Job Fair is Feb. 5 from 12-3 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. "The job fair will offer an excellent opportunity for military spouses and transitioning military personnel to meet with a diverse group of

employers in one location," a prepared release said. "This event is not open to the general public. You must have common access to enter Redstone Arsenal to attend." A resume workshop will be held this Thursday at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, to provide resume writing tips. To reserve a seat for the workshop, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

## German culture

Friends of German Culture will have a classic German feature film showing Friday at 3 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 12200 Bailey Cove Road. The film, "Sissi," is about a Bavarian princess who falls in love with the young Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph. The 100-minute color film is in German with no English subtitles. Cost is \$5 per person (for coffee and cake only); there's no charge for the movie. RSVP today at 883-1005 or 653-4764

## Birthday bash

Saborlatino invites you to the "Saborlatino Birthday Bash of 2009 New York Style" on Saturday from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. Cost is \$5. You must be at least 18 to party, 21 to drink. To reserve your tables, call Yvonne 783-5756.

## Tax assistance center

The 2008-09 Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is open through April 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or as needed (appointments only). The center is located in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road. All active duty servicemembers, retirees, their dependents, as well as Reserve and National Guard servicemembers on military orders for 30 or more days and their dependents, are eligible for e-filing of federal and state tax returns. There is no charge for this service. You can schedule an appointment by calling 842-1040.

## Thrift shop

Name brand items are available at the Thrift Shop. The shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first Sat. of the month. Call 881-6992 for more information.

## CFC applications

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2009. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is Feb. 23 through April 2. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. The Tennessee Valley CFC serves charitable agencies in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln



Courtesy photo

## New location

Redstone Technical Test Center's Advanced Technology Office has completed its move to building 3217. For test services/information, e-mail: [rttc.contactus@conus.army.mil](mailto:rttc.contactus@conus.army.mil).

# Rocket Announcements

County, Tenn. A copy of the 2009 CFC package may be acquired by calling the CFC office 876-9143 or by website <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

## Butler High reunion

SR Butler High School's Class of 1969 will hold its 40-year reunion June 13 at the Radisson on South Memorial Parkway. If you or someone you know is from this class, call Billie Harbin Parks 859-5810 for more information.

## Huntsville history panel

"Huntsville's History in the Making," a presentation on the history of Huntsville, Normal and surrounding areas, is Saturday at 2 p.m. at Alabama A&M University, School of Business, Multi-Purpose Room. Guest panelists include Arthur Burks, Addison Fields, Dr. Sonny Hereford and Dan Tibbs. This event is sponsored by the Society of Professional Women. For more information or to reserve your seat, call 372-5393 or 426-6025.

## Pastor appreciation

Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church will celebrate 18 years of dedicated service by Rev. Dr. Theodis Acklin at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Tom Beville Center (UAH campus), 550 Sparkman Drive. Meal ticket is \$25. For more information, call 683-2848, 651-2998, 468-3576 or 859-9986.

## West Point recruiting

The U.S. Military Academy will sponsor an information session for high school sophomores and juniors, their parents and high school counselors Feb. 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Davidson Center at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Maj. Ryan McBride, USMA admissions officers of the southeast U.S., will present the benefits of a West Point education.

## Professional development

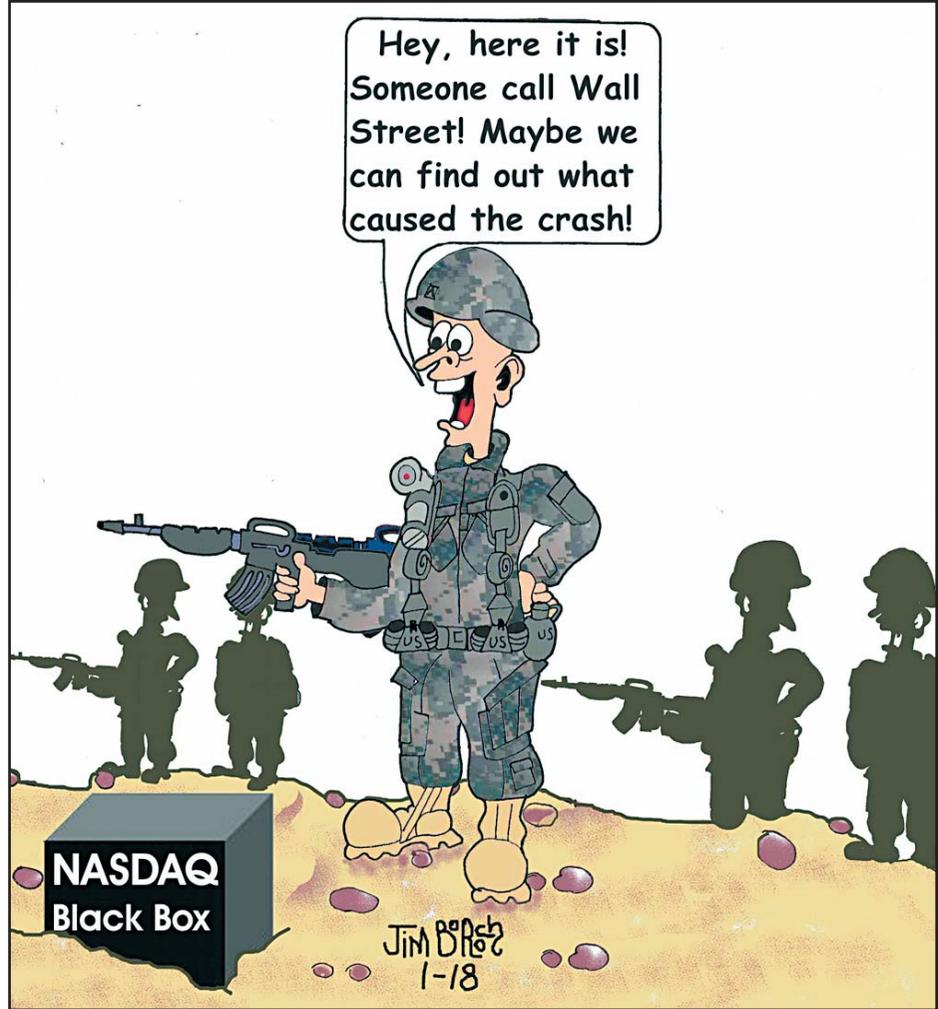
The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual Mini-Professional Development Institute Training Sessions on March 11 and 12 at Trinity United Methodist Church, New Room Auditorium, on Airport Road. This is a one day training session and the sessions are the same each day. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., and the training begins at 8:30. Deadline to register is March 4. Cost is \$100 for members, and \$125 for non-members. For more information call Cody Swinford 876-3363, Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Theresa McBride 842-9272 and Sandy Balog 842-8012.

## Acquisition careerists

Applications are being accepted through April 30 for the 2009 Senior Service College Fellowship Program-Huntsville which begins July 27. Eligible applicants are Department of the Army civilian Acquisition Corps members who occupy permanent positions in grades GS-14 and 15 or broadband equivalent. Persons interested in applying for the 2009 SSCF Program must respond under this announcement. The official announcement can be accessed at [https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opfam51/SSCF\\_09.pdf](https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opfam51/SSCF_09.pdf). Eligible applicants are encouraged to contact their Acquisition Career Manager before submitting an application to ensure application criteria is met. ACM contact information can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/organization/western/default.cfm>.

## Deployed recognition

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles would like to honor all those who are serving or who have served in deployments in sup-



port of Redstone Arsenal operations for OIF/OEF, during the third Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony scheduled April 7 at 1 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments from Aug. 11, 2008 to April 7, 2009. Those who were not able to participate in the ceremony held Sept. 18 are

also invited to participate in this event. Myles will present letters of recognition to Soldiers, civilians and contractors including immediate family members of the Team Redstone work force who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. For more information, call Sofia Bledsoe 842-9828 or Bruce Cline 955-6925