

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 58 No. 10

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

March 11, 2009

Helping hands

Relief fund drive has 2009 kickoff
Page 6



Money matters

Refreshing strategy to get spare parts
Page 8



Depot update

Tobyhanna meets request for surge
Page 11



Training day

Missile Defense Agency develops new careerists
Page 12



Win or lose

HHC 59th center raises his game
Page 16



Leading the way in Year of NCO

59th Ordnance Brigade's command sergeant major

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis isn't really concerned about the motives that cause a Soldier to join the Army.

"Some join the Army to provide for their family and to serve. Some join to go to college and to serve. There are a lot of reasons. Each of those reasons comes with 'and to serve.' Soldiers have a desire to serve their country and to be part of something that's bigger than all of us," Clark-Davis said. "And they are a better person for that."

Clark-Davis does, however, concern herself with how a Soldier feels about the Army once they are enlisted. As the new command sergeant major of the 59th Ordnance Brigade, she is focused on ensuring that Soldiers under her command are enthusiastic about their job, trained to handle the professional and personal demands of the military, and confident that their senior command is working on their behalf.

"Our challenge is to help grow Soldiers," she said. "When they finally put their patch and crest on their uniform and they are technically a full-fledged Soldier, we want to make sure they really are a Soldier and they're ready for what a Soldier's life will require them to do."

While Soldiers assigned to the 59th Ordnance Brigade take classes in their military occupational specialty at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, Clark-Davis works to ensure they also maintain and refine their basic Soldier skills.

"When they leave here, they may go to a unit that is deploying in 30 days," she said. "We have a lot of things here – the roll-over Humvee trainer, the EST 2000 (weapon simulator) and the Warrior Training Unit – to teach Soldiers and to make sure they are ready for deployment."

"We must be battle ready. We are about training Soldiers and being prepared for deployment. We get paid to go and fight and win our nation's wars. Even while we sit in Garrison, our job is to make sure our Soldiers are prepared and trained to standards."

In her work with young Soldiers, Clark-Davis is always particularly amazed at their commitment to the Army and dedication to the mission.

"They are coming into the Army after we've been at war for seven years, going on



Photo by Kari Hawkins

OPENING DOORS OF COMMAND— Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, the first female command sergeant major for the 59th Ordnance Brigade, hopes to set an example for all Soldiers of what they can accomplish in the Army.

eight," said Clark-Davis, a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Sometimes I sit back and wonder 'Would I have come into the Army while the country was at war?' These Soldiers are my heroes. They come in at a time of war and at a time when we will continue to be at war. Regardless of their motives, that speaks volumes about their character."

While being a Soldier comes first for Clark-Davis, she has another role that is particularly significant in the Army – being the first female command sergeant major of the 59th Ordnance Brigade. Throughout her military career, she has proven that women can succeed in the military, regardless of the traditional obligations they have to their families.

"A lot of females think they have to make a choice between being a good mom and being a good Soldier," she said.

"I was a single parent when I came into the Army. Whether you're married or single, it's hard. But you can do it. You can be successful at both. There are times when my

daughter says to me 'Mom, I'm so glad of all the sacrifices you made so I could have opportunities' and there are other times when she says 'Mom, remember when you missed this or that?' It can be tough because the Army has to be your first priority. But you can do it."

Clark-Davis joined the Army in 1983, a time when there weren't a lot of female role models in the military. Yet, with unemployment high, only two years of college completed at Alabama A&M University, a baby daughter to support and a determination not to go on welfare, Clark-Davis saw the Army as a chance at job security and career opportunities.

"My primary goal was to take care of my daughter," she said. "The recruiter helped me look at the military occupational specialties that were open to women at that time. I didn't want to be a cook because I didn't want to be cooking every day. I didn't want to be a truck driver because I wasn't going to be changing tires out on the road."

See Command on page 10

An open lane random survey

What does 'March madness' mean to you?

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



Don Lewis
MWR Sports and Fitness
"Basketball. I love it. Love March madness. That's the time of year I'm looking for."

Angie Smith
MWR Sports and Fitness

"It's a basketball frenzy that gets mimicked here in our gyms. The guys will say 'Did you see that move last night? It looked just like this.' And I'll think, no baby, it didn't (laugh). And it flows over into the gyms. It's a lot of fun."



Cpl. Andrew Johnson
Marine Detachment
"A chance to cram a lot of games into one sitting. It gives me a chance to know the players, I guess. It's a good way for teams to showcase their skills."

Sgt. Jared Stufflebeam
Marine Detachment

"March madness means a chance to see all the teams compete to cut down the net."



Quote of the week

'Any reader who expresses rage and loathing for a novel is preposterous. He or she is like a person who has put on full armor and attacked a hot fudge sundae.'

— Kurt Vonnegut
U.S. novelist (1922-2007)

Letters to the Editor

Wakeup call for health

As some of you know, I had a mole removed from my back in February, because it had begun to grow and bleed. The biopsy showed malignant melanoma cancer. I was scheduled in for immediate Sentinel node biopsy where they placed radioactive dye around the initial site and tracked it to the lymph nodes. They then removed the lymph nodes that "lit up."

In addition they took a large chunk out of my back around the original biopsy site. The biopsy of the back specimen came back negative, but the Sentinel node was positive for melanoma. I was immediately scheduled for further surgery deeper into the lymph nodes (left armpit). The biopsy of these additional 28 lymph nodes was negative, so it looks like they got it all. Our fingers are crossed.

I am of course very sore, and limited in movement on the left side, but am healing well. This has been a wakeup call for me, as I spent a lot of time in my younger years sunbathing and tanning heavily, but have not really ever paid attention to my skin condition, especially moles.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you that spent, or spend, a lot of time in the sun, especially as you get older, to check your skin condition regularly. Google 'melanoma' for the visual signs. Make sure you see your doctor quickly if you even think you see the signs — don't wait months like I did. Four operations in three weeks is no fun at all, along with the attendant fear from not knowing, which affects the entire family.

Many thanks to those of you who have given me support and encouragement. My wife and I genuinely appreciate it.

Mike Osborne
Senior program analyst,
Torch Technologies Contractor Support

Pedestrians have right of way

I would like to know if the policy on marked crosswalks on Redstone Arsenal has changed or are drivers simply ignoring the law. I was walking in a marked crosswalk and a vehicle drove right up to me. The driver stopped in the crosswalk and got out of his vehicle and told me that I was wrong for not yielding to motor vehicles. The driver was a lieutenant colonel. I informed this individual that I was in a marked

See Pedestrians on page 18

Fund-raisers for worker's family

As you may know, Rick Gray (an IMMC employee), has been battling renal cell cancer (kidney cancer) for seven years. His and his wife Lisa's twin daughter, Lauren, was born with Arthrogryposis, which is a rare disease that causes contraction of the joints. Rick is currently undergoing aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Their family continues to face many challenges, both from Rick's health and Lauren's special needs.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, friends of the Rick Gray family hosted a fund-raising concert. The performers were Christopher-Joel Carter and Sweet Water. Carter is a fabulous piano player and an absolutely charming young man. He won the

See Concert on page 18

Managing required supervisory classes

Are new supervisory employees still required to take a mandatory management class within a year of becoming a supervisor? If so, is the requirement enforced? My supervisor says he has not taken this class and he has been working as a supervisor for two years.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "It is DoD policy to provide all training necessary to ensure maximum efficiency of civilian

See Supervisors on page 18

Disturbing incident in hometown

What is happening in my hometown? Huntsville is my hometown; I was born in Huntsville Hospital and grew up here. I've been proud and excited watching all the changes that have turned my once small, unknown home into a thriving metropolis and technological powerhouse. I was never one of those people that wrung their hands

See Incident on page 18

Happy trail ends with construction

My family and I have been enjoying the MWR jogging trail, that starts at the Welcome Center and ends at the Wellness Center, for almost two years now. I have been watching bulldozers destroy trees inside the only circle at the end of the trail for a few months now. I initially hoped MWR was creating a beautiful gazebo for us to enjoy, but when the area became larger and larger, I finally called to ask. I was extremely saddened to be informed that MWR had nothing to do with the destruction going on. I can honestly say that

See Trail on page 19

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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.

email: skip.vaughn@htimes.com
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn
Reporters: Kari Hawkins
Kelley Lane-Sivley
Copy Editor/Layout: Scott Seeley
Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith
Lacy Pruitt

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.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

Getting to know you

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

Name: Pfc. Nicholas Mejia

Job: Student (2311 Ammunition Specialist Technician), Marine Detachment

Where do you call home?
Harrison, N.J.

What do you like about your job?

It's a lot of responsibility. A lot of people are depending on getting ammunition out in the field so they can continue the fight. It's not what I originally intended to enlist for but it still has a part in the fight.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, socialize and play bass guitar.

What are your goals?

My goal for the future is to ultimately become an officer in the Marine Corps. And if for some reason I don't stay in the Marine Corps, to become a politician.

What's your favorite type of music?

Classic rock



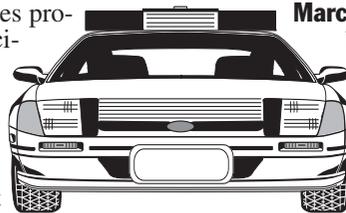
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Feb. 26 through March 4:

Feb. 26: A subject entered the Post Exchange, selected a pair of shoes and left the store without paying. The subject was detained by store security, and Redstone Police were notified. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 27: CID arrested a subject who was charged with larceny of government property. Investigation continues by CID and the local FBI office.

Feb. 28: While in the Commissary, a shopper was observed carrying a partially concealed pistol in his rear pants pocket. He was arrested by Redstone Police and transported to the police station. The pistol was confiscated and he was issued a violation notice for carrying a pistol on a military installation. Investigation continues by DES investigators.



March 3: Someone passed a counterfeit \$100 bill in the Post Exchange. Investigation continues by CID and U.S. Secret Service.

March 3: A motorist approached Gate 1 and could not produce a driver's license. She was found to be driving with a suspended license. She was issued a violation notice.

March 4: A subject entered the Post Exchange, selected an Xbox videogame and left without paying. Store security detained the subject and notified police. The subject was processed and issued a violation notice.

Traffic accidents reported: one with injury, one without injury.

Violation notices issued: 13 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 inattentive driving, 3 handicap parking, 1 concealed weapon, 2 larceny of AAFES property.

Servicemembers honored at Alabama A&M University

Ten servicemembers were recognized Feb. 25 during the Defense Department outreach at Alabama A&M University for African-American History Month.

They were selected by their service for their contribution to the Global War on Terrorism.

Eleven Alabama A&M ROTC students were also honored for their academic achievements.

The service honorees included Lt.

Col. Franklin H. Wood Jr. and Master Sgt. Amaziah J. Cummings, Army; Master Chief Delbert M. Terrell and Petty Officer 1st Class Melody Colebrook, Navy; Col. Terence W. Reid and Staff Sgt. Darian J. Lewis, Marine Corps; Staff Sgt. Mark-Daniel Houghton, Air Force; Maj. Joseph L. Thomas, National Guard Bureau, Alabama Army National Guard; Maj. Efrem L. Rivers, National Guard Bureau, Missouri Air

National Guard; and Lt. Andrea J. Parker, Coast Guard.

ROTC cadets honored for Military Science Outstanding Academic Achievement included James B. Chambers, Colby D. Roberts, Jarrod T. Best, Marcus A. Sharps, Jasmine L. Torrence, Cyrus A. English and Candyace N. Laster. Cadets honored for Outstanding Leadership included Sibbreena P. Adellsenegal, Theodore C. Allen, Jarrett D. Green and Aaron J. Beattie.

Tournament teeing off to benefit Honor Flight

Directorate sponsors golf event April 24

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

They may not be wearing red, white and blue, but golfers teeing off in the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight Golf Tournament on April 24 will be displaying their patriotism in all its glorious colors.

After all, there's nothing more patriotic than lending a helping hand to a World War II veteran who wants to fulfill a dream of visiting their war memorial in Washington, D.C.

Golfers playing in the April 24 tournament at the Links at Redstone Arsenal will indeed be lending that hand by participating in the first-ever Honor Flight golfing fund-raiser organized and sponsored by a Redstone Arsenal organization. The AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate has stepped up to make this fund-raiser a success in providing much-needed financial assistance to Tennessee Valley Honor Flight.

"We've had two Honor Flight-sponsored golf tournaments, but this is the first major golf tournament sponsored by a Redstone organization," said Joe Fitzgerald, president of Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. "We can't tell you how happy we are that an organization like SAMD has stepped up to spearhead a major fund-raiser for Honor Flight."

"We've had other Redstone organizations sponsor fund-raisers for us, such as TMDE, which raised money for Honor Flight at their organization day last fall, and Vettes for Vets, which will sponsor a car show at Bridge Street this April 18 as a fund-raiser. We would love other organizations to step up and sponsor a fund-raising event because Honor Flight is in definite need of funds."

Since launching the Honor Flight program in early 2007, 629 veterans have been flown to Washington, D.C. free of charge to visit their WW II memorial and to spend an entire day in the nation's capitol, during which they also visit Arlington Cemetery and the Marine Corps memorial. In 2009, three chartered flights – beginning with the first on April 25 – will take another 375 veterans to see their memorial. Each Honor Flight costs just over \$100,000 or



PREPARING FOR TOURNAMENT— Although they are dressed in business attire, Liz Preston, left, and Gena Scofield of the Security Assistance Management Directorate are all smiles while taking a quick lesson in using a driver from Joe Fitzgerald, president of the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

between \$800 and \$1,000 per veteran.

"We've collected sufficient funds for the April flight," Fitzgerald said. "But we are way behind on funds for the Sept. 12 and Oct. 24 flights. Funding is extremely critical because we have to have the funds in hand before we can finalize arrangements for the flights. Those funds have to be available 120 days out from the actual flight date. We've got to raise money and we've got to raise it fast."

SAMD hopes funds raised from the April 24 golf tournament will help to secure the two fall Honor Flights. SAMD's

events committee has had success in the past with sponsoring events that have raised funds for worthwhile organizations.

"We did a Combined Federal Campaign golf tournament last fall," said Gena Scofield, chairman of the SAMD events committee. "It was so successful. Our director (Dr. Tom Pieplow) and our deputy director (Dan Parker) wanted us to do something to raise funds for Honor Flight. So we decided on another golf tournament because it's a fun way to raise money."

The tournament will include 54 teams, for a total of 216 golfers who will play in a tradi-

tional four-man scramble tournament.

"Everybody is talking about it right now," said Liz Preston, vice chairman of the SAMD events committee. "A lot of advertisement has been word of mouth. We are going to definitely fill up our teams."

The day is being organized with a lot of fun in mind. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast and a shotgun start at 9. A barbecue lunch will be served and post tournament awards will be presented about mid-afternoon for the longest drive, hole-in-one, closest to the pin and best overall score. There

will also be prizes for the top three teams.

"It's going to be a real exciting tournament," Preston said. "The CFC tournament was a lot of fun and the atmosphere was just great. We plan to do that again with this tournament."

Tournament registration is \$100 per golfer before April and \$125 per golfer after that deadline. In addition, hole sponsorships are \$200 and golf cart sponsorships are \$100.

"With the sponsorship, the company or organization will get their name or branch on a sign along with their logo. The sign will be posted at the beginning of a hole or on the golf cart," Preston said.

The April 24 golf tournament has been scheduled for the day before the first Honor Flight of 2009. After a day of golfing, participants are invited to Signature Aviation at Huntsville International Airport for a 5 p.m. flag ceremony that will include involvement of fighter planes and pilots from the Alabama Air National Guard. During the ceremony, the flags of deceased WW II veterans will be transferred from veteran families to Honor Flight officials to be transported to Washington, D.C. on April 25 and featured in a special flag ceremony at the WW II memorial.

Golf tournament participants are also invited to Huntsville International Airport at about 8:30 p.m. on April 25 to welcome returning veterans home from their Honor Flight.

"There are many things that make an Honor Flight unique, and one of those are the people who welcome veterans at Reagan International Airport in Washington, D.C. and who welcome them home at the end of the day," Fitzgerald said.

"These veterans are so humble. They will tell you 'I was just doing my duty' and 'I don't expect any thanks.' They don't expect, especially at this late in life, to be thanked for, literally, saving a nation. They don't understand or know how to accept our appreciation. But they deserve it."

Since the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight program was first launched, Fitzgerald said the local community has been very supportive during numerous fund-raising efforts.

"We've gotten a lot of support. But when we started this, we didn't know how many flights we would take," he said.

See Benefit on page 5

Benefit

continued from page 4

“This program has become quite popular with veterans. We had four flights in 2008 and took 500 veterans to their memorial. We thought that with those flights we’d get all the veterans. As it turns out, with every flight there is more publicity of the program and more veterans who tell us they want to go. And we still have a backlog.”

It is important, Fitzgerald said, that enough funds are raised to take WW II veterans to their memorial as soon as possible. He hopes most of these veterans get that opportunity in 2009.

“Any program like this does have an expiration date because these folks are leaving us,” he said. “We are losing between 1,200 and 1,500 every day. There are less than 2.5 million World War II veterans still alive. In seven years, they will all be gone.

“This is one the most rewarding things I’ve ever done, and it’s been the most difficult and challenging. When veterans finally get to the point where their name comes up on the list for an Honor Flight, we find that some are now deceased or they are too ill to go.”

Priority for an Honor Flight is given to those who are critically ill and who are 90 years old or older. The application date is also considered.

“But the number one consideration is that the veteran has never seen their

memorial,” Fitzgerald said. “There are a lot of World War II veterans who haven’t seen their memorial because it was built nearly 60 years after the war.”

Once the 2009 flights are complete, Fitzgerald said plans will be made to sponsor Honor Flight trips for Korean War veterans.

“After this year, we will be taking mixed flights of Korean War veterans and any World War II veterans who haven’t gone,” he said. “Our mission is to take any veterans that want to go and who have not seen the memorial built in their honor. Honor Flight makes it possible for veterans at such an advanced age to see their memorial.”

Upcoming dates for Honor Flight include an orientation today for the April 25 flight, and an Honor Flight and WW II alumni event on June 6, which will be the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

“It will be a day of recognition,” said Fitzgerald, who will announce more details of the June 6 event in upcoming months.

Questions about the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight Golf Tournament can be directed to Scofield at 975-6952 or gena.scofield@us.army.mil, and to Preston at 876-4960 or liz.preston@us.army.mil. Registration forms and entry fees should be mailed to Liz Preston, P.O. Box 4535, Huntsville, 35815 (make checks payable to Liz Preston). For more information about Honor Flight or to volunteer or make a donation, visit its website at www.honor-flight.net.

Army Emergency Relief opens 2009 campaign



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LEADERSHIP— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles expresses the importance of giving to Army Emergency Relief.

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

The active duty and retired Soldiers described how they had been helped by Army Emergency Relief.

Their personal testimonies were part of a video played during the AER campaign kickoff March 2 at Heiser Hall.

“AER is truly a program of Soldiers helping Soldiers,” campaign chairman Maj. Pam Tingle said afterward.

The annual fund-raising drive continues through May 31 with a \$210,000 goal. AER helps active duty and retired Soldiers and their family members with financial emergencies. The fund provides loans or grants and also gives scholarships.

In 2008, more than 500 people locally received a total of \$509,000 in loans and grants. This included active duty and retired military, widows or deceased veterans and their family members.

While \$292,000 was contributed to last year’s campaign, AER assisted with more than \$509,000. “So we actually gave away or loaned almost twice the amount of contributions,” AER officer Mike Burden said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, expressed the importance of giving to Army Emergency Relief.

“It’s about the Army’s ability to take care of their own for those that are in need,” he said.

NCO induction ceremony a rite of passage

By **Sgt. MICAH E. CLARE**
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany — While not every day is easy for noncommissioned officers, the U.S. Army Europe NCOs honored at an induction ceremony here Feb. 27 seemed to agree that it was a great day to be a sergeant.

“I wasn’t sure if I wanted to stay in the military, but after seeing this today, I know I can continue making an impact,” said

Sgt. Jessica Carter, a human resources information system management specialist with the USAREUR personnel division.

Carter was one of 18 USAREUR NCOs honored at the ceremony, which was designed to provide official recognition for the hard work required to earn the rank of sergeant, and induct the newly promoted in the Army’s NCO Corps, said 7th Army Special Troops Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Sal Katz.

Expect more testing in skies over Redstone

Deputy commander provides update on aviation center

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
For the Rocket

Much of the Army's test and evaluation resources will be channeled through the Aviation Technical Test Center.

That's what Keith Darrow told the International Test and Evaluation Association at its luncheon Thursday at the Qinetiq facility in Huntsville.

Darrow, deputy commander for ATTC and guest speaker at the luncheon, informed the group of his organization's role and mission in the testing community and what the community can expect during and after its transition from Fort Rucker to Redstone Arsenal due to the Base Realignment and Closure.

Sixty aircraft will be conducting aviation testing in the surrounding communities on a daily basis. "I don't think the community has a good understanding of that yet," Darrow said, explaining that organizations in Redstone and ATTC are doing everything they can to inform the community of what they may start seeing and hearing from the air.

"We are going through great lengths to ensure we analyze all options when we conduct tests," he said.

ATTC has implemented a Fly Neighborly Program in order to mitigate the



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

OVERVIEW— Keith Darrow, deputy commander for the Aviation Technical Test Center, speaks to the International Test and Evaluation Association about ATTC's mission.

effects of aircraft operations on Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding communities. The program provides training and awareness for tenant aircraft organizations, develops flying routes and altitude policies that lessen the noise effects on the public, and provides information to the public about ATTC flight operations.

Darrow showed a map of northern Alabama and indicated where ATTC will conduct flight testing. The organization is looking at rural areas much less populated outside of the city of Huntsville. These include minimally populated areas in Lawrence County, Fayetteville, Tenn., and Guntersville. Aircrews have and will receive continued training on the Helicopter Association International, Fly Neighborly Guide.

The growth of developmental flight testing on Redstone will be significant, Darrow said. As home to the Program Executive Office for Aviation, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, ATTC, industry representatives, educational institutions, and professional societies, Redstone Arsenal is the Army's Aviation Technology Center of Excellence.

"We are genuinely excited about the developmental growth here on Redstone Arsenal," Darrow said.

ATTC, a customer funded organization primarily through the Program Executive Office for Aviation, is the sister command of the Redstone Technical Test Center. Both fall under the Developmental Test Command based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Part of the BRAC move and consolidation of resources will also result in the merging of the two organizations to form Redstone Test Center in the next two years. ATTC will complete

its move by September 2011, after construction of a new \$5 million hangar at the Airfield. An Aviation Test Center for Excellence comes to fruition as more of these test locations may move or allocate resources to Redstone.

"An integrated test and evaluation hub plays right into the BRAC evolution," Darrow said. ATTC has invested approximately \$4 million in facility upgrades to accommodate the mission growth and personnel moves. The groundbreaking of the Combined Test Team Facility last year signifies the integration of ATTC and PEO Aviation personnel, which will further consolidate resources, streamline communication, and improve the overall aviation test process.

The move will create a need for ATTC to outsource certain requirements such as X-ray shop, paint shop, upholstery shop, instrumentation calibration shop, sheet metal shop, machine shop, welding shop, and non-tactical vehicle maintenance shop.

"If you think you can help us with these requirements, please let us know," Darrow said.

DTC, together with Operational Test Command and the Army Evaluation Center, belong to the Army Test and Evaluation Command, currently based in Alexandria, Va. Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, Redstone commander, led ATEC prior to his move to Huntsville.

'Go out there and continue to make a difference'



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHARING STORY— Liz Hurley, news anchor for WAFF Channel 48, relates her experience as a breast cancer survivor at Team Redstone's program for Women's History Month.

Breast cancer survivor gives advice to live by

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

Women's History Month isn't about making history, according to the keynote speaker at Team Redstone's annual observance program March 5.

"It's about women making a difference," Liz Hurley, news anchor for WAFF Channel 48, said.

She has definitely done that.

Hurley told the estimated 275 people in Bob Jones Auditorium about her experience as a breast cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in 1998 with an aggressive form of breast cancer and went on to establish the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at the Huntsville Hospital Foundation.

"It's the leading cause of death in women age 35-54," Hurley said.

Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 30 and died six years later, when Hurley was 12.

When Hurley learned of her own disease, she shared her story publicly by documenting her experience on videotape and then counseling women with breast cancer. She went on to establish the fund at Huntsville Hospital. Last year a breast MRI was purchased for \$1.3 million at the hospital; and it is the only such machine in North Alabama.

"Don't just make history," she said. "Go out there and continue to make a difference."

Ronnie Chronister, deputy to the commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, delivered the closing remarks at the program.

"Liz, what a great message," he said. "And one we can all take back and make our difference."

Women's History Month contest winners included the following:

- **Essays** – first place, Doris A. Allgor of AMCOM; second, Linda Myszkka of NASA; and third, Lawanna Harvey of AMCOM G-4.

- **Displays** – first place, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; and second, 2nd Army Recruiting Brigade.

Refreshing way around acquisition process

Army-industry partnership delivers spare parts at lower cost in less time

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

There's a government-industry partnership team at Redstone Arsenal that is catching the attention of aviation and missile system leaders throughout the Army and Defense Department.

The partnership – designed to update existing and aging weapon systems while also cutting costs, speeding up the design, production and acquisition processes, and providing the best equipment possible to the war fighter – is known as Continuous Technology Refreshment. It is a DoD-wide program that has been implemented successfully by the Integrated Materiel Management Center for the Aviation and Missile Command.

"CTR is a life cycle management success story for AMCOM," said Alan Miller, chief of maintenance information operations for IMMC. "AMCOM is a model of

how to make CTR work. This is a high priority program to (AMCOM commander) Maj. Gen. (Jim) Myles and IMMC director Eric Edwards."

CTR allows the command to work closely with industry to address sustainment issues in regard to the safety and readiness of aviation and missile systems. Sustainment issues can involve decreased reliability, high cost and diminishing manufacturing sources.

"The intent of this program from the beginning has been to modernize our equipment by doing one spare at a time to improve performance and reliability, increase Soldier readiness, reduce maintenance time and lower costs," Miller said.

"We wanted to modernize spares without using government research and development money because R&D money is limited and there's a very competitive R&D process. R&D money often also doesn't cover all the requirements. In addition, guidelines wouldn't allow us to use spares production money to do a redesign, and a DoD acquisition process for a newly designed spare is lengthy. So, it was decided we needed an acquisition

strategy that didn't follow the DoD acquisition process."

The standard acquisition process for military hardware involves detailing requirements, defining a program and budgeting funds.

"That can take several years to materialize or be successful," Miller said. "It is the Office of the Secretary of Defense belief that technology would change or evolve several times before that process could be complete. So we needed a way to get outside the DoD process. CTR became DoD's way around the acquisition process."

In early 2002, AMCOM took steps to enter into a partnership with industry that suggested industry would fund the CTR process.

"CTR is about the re-engineering of a part to arrive at a production solution," Miller said. "The re-engineering is done by industry at their cost, and then the part is produced under the normal production process for spares. The industry that does the re-engineering teams with a production company and recoups their costs."

Two companies – Battele of Columbus, Ohio, with offices in Huntsville and Sparta of Huntsville — are teamed with AMCOM to re-engineer spare parts while two other companies are AMCOM's production partners for those parts. Electronic parts are produced by Alaskan-native owned Tyonek, which has a facility in Madison, and mechanical parts are produced by a small disadvantaged business known as Adept of Huntsville.

One example of a redesigned spare is the caution advisory panel on the Black Hawk helicopter.

"The old CAPs required 164 light bulbs that were always burning out. Pilots were known for carrying pockets full of light bulbs. It also had five circuit cards and eight flex circuits that all had to be maintained," Miller said. "The new CAP has only two circuit cards and all LED lights. The change reduced cost, cut down on maintenance and created a weight reduction."

See **Process** on page 9

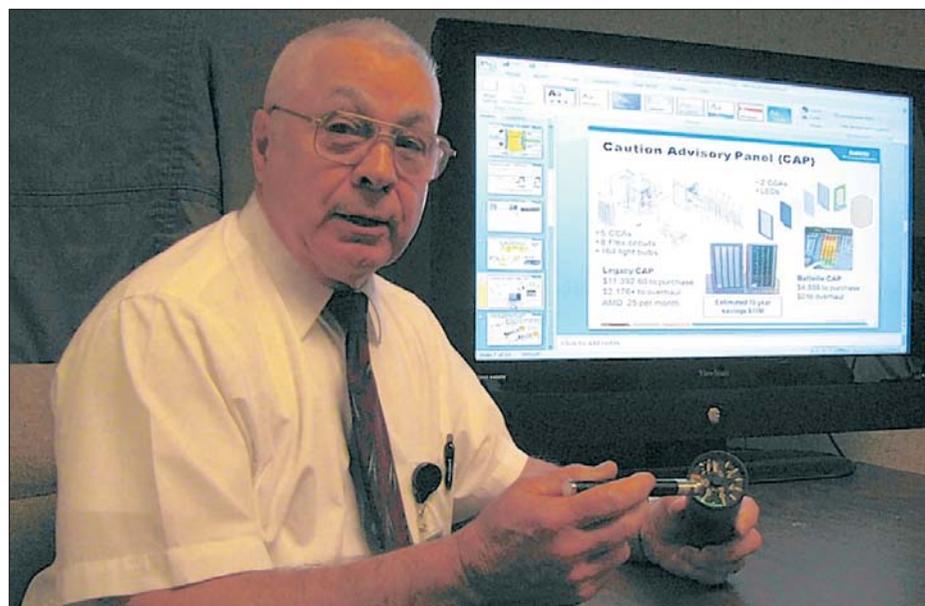


Photo by Kari Hawkins

CHANGE FOR THE BEST— Alan Miller of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center explains analog-to-digital changes that will be made to an RPM indicator from an OH-58 helicopter when it goes through Continuous Technology Refreshment. This program allows the command to partner with industry in the redesign and production of spare parts that can cut down the time required by the standard DoD acquisition process. Behind Miller on the screen is a slide showing CTR changes in the caution advisory panel on the Black Hawk helicopter.

Commissary getting set for layout change

Store closes March 17
to redo product flow

The Commissary will be closed March 17 while it undergoes a “reset” as part of the Defense Commissary Agency’s ongoing effort to enhance the shopping experience.

“We hate to inconvenience our customers with the closure, but this is something we’ll all appreciate when it’s done,” store director Robin Daniel said.

The reset is part of an agency-wide program that systematically changes how products are displayed on shelving throughout a commissary in order to better serve customer shopping patterns. The goal is to give commissaries worldwide a more customer-friendly product flow and a layout that is as consistent as possible from location to location, according to Steve Arland, chief of Defense Commissary Agency’s store reset and planogram team.

“Although we have to take into consideration that no two commissaries are constructed exactly alike, a customer-friendly product flow means dog food will be next to pet supplies instead of the charcoal, peanut butter is best found next to the jam, and you shouldn’t have to cruise three different aisles to find all your cleaning products,” Arland said. “It’s a simple matter of making the commissary layout more sen-

sible by ‘resetting’ the store.”

DeCA is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier – making the commissary the place to shop every day, not just on pay day. One of the priorities is to help busy, active-duty shoppers make a quick run through their commissary and get home quicker.

“The whole idea, in a nutshell, is to get convenience into the shopping experience,” Arland said. Consistency is also part of the reset equation. “Why shouldn’t you be able to go to different commissaries and find basically the same layout?”

“We try not to inconvenience the customers while resetting stores,” Arland said, “but we often have to close the store for a day, sometimes two, in order to tear down the shelving and move it and restock. Our customers usually like the new layout once they get used to it. Sales increases always follow a store reset and that’s an indication that the user-friendly product flow is a good change.”

To make changes easier for customers to follow, stores have aisle layout maps available as well as generic item locators on their web pages. Store web pages are under the locations link at <http://www.commissaries.com> along with store hours, contact information, store news and special customer service features. (Commissary release)

Continuous program reduces cost, increases readiness

Process

continued from page 8

Other examples include the cryogenic coolers on the Avenger and TOW-II missile systems, which were made more reliable, lighter in weight and less expensive to maintain.

“In every case, the spare is redesigned and qualified. It is produced and fielded, and we own the new design specifications,” Miller said.

Redesigns have one rule to follow – the rule of form, fit and mission function.

“The interfaces with the overall system have to be the same. The new hardware has to be able to fit in the same place as the old hardware. And the signal strengths have to be the same,” Miller said. “The aircraft or missile system can’t know there is a difference.”

Spares are earmarked as possible candidates for CTR by item managers when cost, reliability, readiness or production sources become an issue. Miller works with industry to do a Business Case Analysis based on a spare part’s age, design, quantity and use, and then builds a contract requirements package to put the spare on a production contract. Throughout the CTR process, Miller works closely with industry partners as well as the program executive offices and program managers for aviation and missile systems.

“In a normal acquisition process, it can take 10 years to justify re-engineering. We can take that same part and re-engineer and qualify it, produce it and put it in the field in two years,” he said. “Spares that go through CTR meet all performance

requirements and are granted Air Worthiness Release.”

CTR maximizes Soldier readiness by providing higher reliability at lower costs.

“The commanders in the field have a limited budget to work off of,” Miller said. “When their systems are stressed because of reliability, they can’t always buy everything they need to maximize readiness. CTR helps their budget situation by fixing low reliability parts at much lower costs. In every case, we’ve seen at least a 50 percent reduction in costs. CTR allows them to use their money on other things, resulting in a more efficient use of money.”

When the CAP was redesigned, the cost per unit went from \$11,392 to \$4,886 and overhaul costs went from \$2,176 per unit to zero per unit. Estimated cost savings over 10 years are \$18 million. Savings for the Avenger and TOW cryogenic coolers, respectively, are estimated at \$7 million and \$18 million over 10 years.

Another spare that is undergoing redesign is the Black Hawk navigation system, which will be more reliable and will save \$375 million over 10 years.

In all, the program’s current 32 redesigned spares – which are now either fielded, under contract for production or in the business case analysis stage in preparation for production – will save \$869 million over 10 years.

“CTR is a DoD mandate. It is a sustainability strategy that will continuously refresh the technology of aviation and missile systems,” Miller said. “But, most importantly, it is a program that will modernize spares, improve reliability, increase readiness and improve performance for Soldiers on the battlefield.”

AUSA to honor former mayor at spring meeting

The highlight of AUSA's Third Region spring meeting will be the Cocklin Award dinner, which honors an individual for distinguished service to this nation, the Army and the Association of the U.S. Army. This year's recipient is former Huntsville mayor Loretta Spencer.

The dinner will be held the evening of Saturday, April 4 at the new Bridge Street Westin Hotel. This event is open to the public. For ticket information, call Linda Crutcher at 722-4260 or e-mail linda.crutcher@lmco.com.

Spencer served Huntsville as mayor for three terms from 1996-2008. Her service was marked by an uncommon love for the city of Huntsville and her dedication to fostering the unique and special relationship that exists between the Huntsville community and the activities at Redstone Arsenal.

The Cocklin award was created in 1989; and Maj. Gen. Robert F. Cocklin was the first recipient. Cocklin was a distinguished leader of AUSA as public affairs director and then president for more than 30 years. He died in 1996.

Past recipients of the award include Senators Strom Thurmond, Sam Nunn and Howell Heflin; Congressmen Bill Hefner, C.W. "Bill" Young, Bill Dickerson, Bill McCollum and Bud Cramer; retired Gen. William Westmoreland, Second Vice President of the Republic of Panama Kaiser Bazan, and in 2004, retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, this year's keynote speaker for the Cocklin dinner. (AUSA release)

■ Brigade welcomes its first female command sergeant major

Command

continued from page 1

"But the idea of being an ammunition specialist seemed like a good fit. And the advanced individual training was right here at Redstone Arsenal. So, that's what I chose and I've been an ammunition specialist for 26 years."

Clark-Davis did have a lot of family support as she juggled her military career and raised her daughter, Candy. Her sister, aunt and father all cared for Candy as Clark-Davis did three tours in Korea, served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm and answered the call of the Army wherever it took her.

"The Army does require you to have a family care plan, and I did have a good, solid family support system," she said of her early years as a mom and Soldier.

"Everybody is not that fortunate to have that kind of support. But the Army does an extremely good job of building a family in the military. And that family can step in where a Soldier's relatives can't or won't."

Today's Army offers plenty of female role models – including Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command — for women considering the military as a career choice.

"Women like Gen. Dunwoody have opened up a crack in the door to give hope to other female commanding generals who know they, too, can cross that threshold to make four-star," Clark-Davis said.

"I've been the first female command sergeant major in my last two jobs, and that is opening doors for other female Soldiers. I want Soldiers – male and female – to look at me and see they can be in my position someday, too. I think the Army is very fair in that it promotes on merit ... Women have a lot more opportunities to excel in the military than they do in large corporations. We don't have the imaginary glass ceiling in the Army. Everybody has a fair shot."

Through the years, the Army has rewarded Clark-Davis for her dedication. She has had exceptional mentors – most of them male – and has thrived in a military culture that follows strict policies to make sure all are treated equally despite race, gender or religion.

Clarke-Davis has served at Fort Hood, Texas, Redstone Arsenal, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and in Germany and Korea. During Operation Desert Shield/Storm, she deployed in support of the 24th Infantry Division as they moved from Saudi Arabia into Iraq.

"Ammunition specialists provide all the ammunition in support of the war fighter," she said. "Every bullet that's fired from a gun or a helicopter or any arms-related equipment, we provide the ammunition for."

"During Operation Desert Shield/Storm, we were on the road behind the war fighter where we operated the corps storage ammunition supply point. We supplied on the go. The Soldiers would always thank us for our support. You can't be anymore prouder than that."

As a command sergeant major, Clark-Davis served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where she was part of the 191st Ordnance Battalion's logistics task force charged with supplying ammunition, fuel, food and maintenance support to 13 forward operating bases throughout the country. She has also served as the command sergeant major of the Joint Task Force East in Romania and Bulgaria.

A Soldier leading Soldiers, Clark-Davis knows her own assets as a Soldier, and what it takes to be a good Soldier.

"My best strength is I really love the Army. But my weakness is that I want other Soldiers to love the Army as much as I do," she said. "Soldiers have got to love the Army enough to give it 100 percent."

"I love being around privates because you can just feel the energy. You can see their passion, their discipline and their desire to want to learn and grow as a Soldier. When you want to be a Soldier and you get a job in the Army that you really love, you are on fire and you are all lit up. That's a great Soldier."

Succeeding in the Army involves one core characteristic – discipline.

"If you are disciplined or you have the capability of becoming a disciplined Soldier, then the Army is for you," she said. "If you don't want to be told what to do, then it's not. Everybody is just not meant to be a Soldier."

"Some Soldiers come to us with discipline. Others come without discipline, but know that if they are going to be a better person they need to be in the military. Every Soldier has to have a desire to want to improve themselves."

Clark-Davis enjoys being a command sergeant major at the brigade level because she can influence change while still "getting out there and taking care of the Soldier." She wants to see the Army do even better at taking care of Soldier families and Soldier spouses, particularly male spouses, during deployments.

"I want to be a voice for Soldiers," she said, mentioning her plans to visit the brigade's other schools at Fort Gordon, Ga., Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Bliss, Texas.

"I want them to feel comfortable coming to me and talking about the good and even the bad, and asking for my opinion. I want them to know I'm representing them. I'm their command sergeant major, and I'm a voice for change."

Being assigned to Redstone Arsenal brought Clark-Davis home after serving five and a half years in Germany. She is from Tusculumbia, her husband of seven years is from Gadsden, and her daughter, who is now married, lives in Huntsville. Clark-Davis and her husband arrived in Huntsville just a few days before last Christmas.

"It was the first Christmas we've had at home in five years," she said. "With 26 years in the Army, there is a tendency to miss a lot of Christmases. Coming to Redstone Arsenal has been a real bonus for me and my family."

But, no matter where Clark-Davis is assigned, she is committed to giving her best to the Army.

"I'm still in awe that I'm here and I have this job. It's been something I've been working toward since I was a sergeant E-5 at Fort Hood," she said. "This rank is important to me. But I know that a private's rank is just as important to them as this rank is to me, and that my rank can be stripped just as their rank can if I do something wrong."

"To be a good Soldier you have got to love it. For all the things the Army and the Army leaders ask you to do and to give up sometimes on a daily basis you've got to love this stuff. You won't be able to do this job if your heart isn't in it."

Black Hawk system repair surge supports war fighter

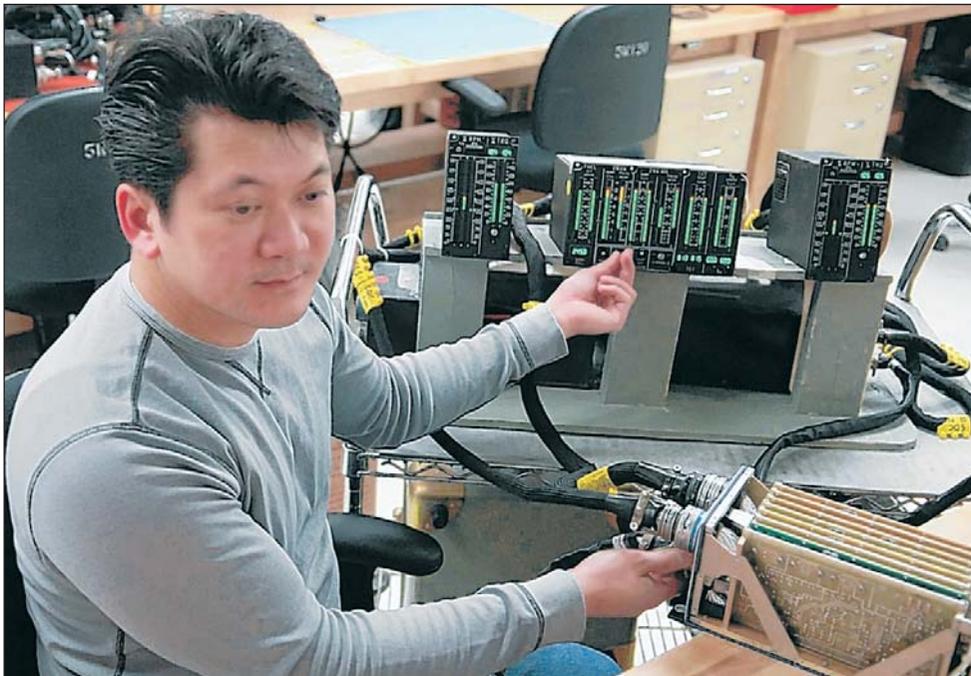


Photo by Tony Medici

TESTING— Electronics mechanic Trung Mai uses a test set to troubleshoot one of two signal data converters in the Vertical Instrument Display System.

Tobyhanna Army Depot meets AMCOM request

By JENNIFER CAPRIOLI
Tobyhanna public affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Flight Control Systems Branch personnel have doubled the number of Black Hawk systems they repair and overhaul here to support war fighters in Southwest Asia.

The request, which came from the Aviation and Missile Command, was for the branch to increase their production from 20 to 40 systems for January, noted Jim Walters, branch electronics mechanic leader.

Six technicians in the branch (two are Student Career Experience Program participants) repair and overhaul the UH-60L Black Hawk Vertical Instrument Display System, which is comprised of five parts: two signal data converters, two pilot display units and a central display unit.

The display system is located in the cockpit of the helicopter and constantly

provides pilots with accurate information on engine status. The branch is part of the Command Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate's Avionics Division.

"It usually takes about 10 days to overhaul, repair and troubleshoot a system, but the time varies depending on what needs to be repaired," electronics mechanic Trung Mai said.

Normal maintenance includes replacing light bulbs, connectors and power supplies. Because the system is exposed to vibrations from the helicopter, loose hardware needs to be tightened and circuit cards need repair. Each system houses up to 25 circuit cards.

Five test sets, which include a simulator and tester, were used by technicians on one shift, noted Walters, adding that they only made use of about 160 hours of overtime.

"We weren't sure if we were going to be able to finish when the last week approached, but everyone stepped in and did what they had to do," Walters said.

"We care," Mai said. "And this is how we're able to show it."

Missile Defense Agency develops new careerists

By **PAM ROGERS**
MDA public affairs

In an event marking the beginning of a concerted effort to launch young people into careers, the Missile Defense Agency graduated its latest class of participants in the Missile Defense Career Development Program during a ceremony Feb. 27 at Redstone Arsenal.

“You’re now the old people,” said Lt. Gen. Patrick O’Reilly, MDA director, who officiated at the ceremony.

“There are new people coming behind you,” he continued, referring to MDA’s plans to have a new class of 60 individuals in its newly-renamed Missile Defense Career Development Program. O’Reilly said one of the first things he did when he came on board as director last fall was to look at the overall health of the organization. He was disconcerted to realize that most of the workers had gray hair, he said. “One of the things that jumped



Photo by Henry Norton

GRADUATING CLASS— The Missile Defense Agency graduated its latest class of participants in the Missile Defense Career Development Program during a ceremony Feb. 27. The graduates from left are James Simms, Leah Tracy, Jennifer Reynolds, Kelli Blake and Brenda Neely.

out was that they were all like me and less like you,” O’Reilly said.

Where the challenge for his generation of workers was to prove that missile defense technology would work, the challenge for

future generations will be to prove the value of the technology, he added.

O’Reilly noted that more and more countries are acquiring ballistic missiles, and the job of future

generations of MDA workers will be to prove that acquiring and attempting to use such weapons against the U.S. will be money wasted.

He related a recent visit with engineering students at Tuskegee University, during which a current MDA CDP participant, Danielle Nagia, asked the question, “Who wants to make a difference?” The enthusiastic response affected him deeply, he said.

People who go to work for MDA are not embarking on ordinary careers, O’Reilly said. “What we’re doing right now, no one else on earth is doing.”

The graduating class included contract specialists Kelli Blake, Brenda Neely and Jim Simms, operations research analyst Jennifer Reynolds and engineer Leah Tracy.

The Missile Defense Career Development Program, formerly known as the Career Intern Program, is a vehicle for the Missile Defense Agency to recruit, train and grow its future work force. Par-

ticipants in the MDCDP are selected for their potential to recognize opportunities to excel and refusal to be satisfied with anything less than full effort. The recent graduates from the MDCDP have successfully completed the hands-on approach of the program, acquiring the work-related skills necessary to excel in the MDA mission. These participants will now begin their career with MDA, accomplishing the most demanding tasks, excited about the new challenges on the horizon, and successfully helping MDA move toward the future.

“The most important contribution of my internship was demonstrating by example, with the widest possible impact, the potential of MDA interns and to pass that legacy of excellence on to the interns that follow,” Tracy said. “Everything I learned and contributed was because great people took time they didn’t have to teach me and I will always appreciate their effort.”

AMCOM volunteers reach out to local schools

February was a busy month for the volunteers of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program.

They have been actively involved in the community's schools since the program's inception. Collectively they visited six schools, ranging from first-grade to high school PTA; and they engaged the students with special educational topics as it relates to everyday life and AMCOM's many critical missions.

Eric Edwards, executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, gave the first educational outreach presentation to fifth-graders at Monrovia Elementary School. He spoke on the Aviation and Missile Command's value to the community and nation, the importance of academics, and he encouraged the students to begin considering business and technical careers at an early age.

Brenda Forte, chief of Aviation and Missile Division, Security Assistance Management Directorate, and Fred Frost, chief of the C-RAM Logistics Management Division, IMMC, supported Black History Month programs with their own themes. Forte spoke to second-graders at Martin Luther King Elementary on the theme "From Slavery to the White House." Frost addressed a PTA meeting at Johnson High School on the theme "Yes We Can."



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

OUTREACH PARTICIPANTS— From left are Brad Lemley, Deborah McLemore-Baugh, Fred Frost, Brenda Forte, Hollis Armstrong, Laura King, Eric Edwards, Melanie Jackson and Ronnie Chronister.

Charles Chen of LAISO and Laura King, chief of the Supply Management Branch, IMMC, conducted Junior Achievement presentations at Rolling Hills Elementary on "Our Families" and

"Ourselves." Melody Jackson, an intern at AMCOM G-3, read a book to a kindergarten class at University Place Elementary.

Through the Junior Achievement pro-

gram the following volunteers are continuing their series of 30-minute presentations at Rolling Hills Elementary School: Brad Lemley and Hollis Armstrong, both with USATA/TMDE, are team teaching second-graders about "Our Community." Frost is teaching fifth-graders about "Our Nation," and King is teaching kindergartners about "Ourselves."

More than 20 new visits have been scheduled with six schools for March and April. The volunteers from SAMD, USATA/TMDE and IMMC will present program themes requested by the schools. Participating schools include Madison County High, Sparkman High, Hazel Green High, Randolph School, Monrovia Middle and Rolling Hills Elementary, ranging from grades three to 12. All presentations encompass relevance to AMCOM's various missions.

AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program is a new command initiative by Ronnie Chronister, deputy to the commanding general. Deborah McLemore-Baugh, executive officer to the DCG, is the AEOP program manager; she works closely with support contractor TMT Inc.

For more information on the program, call McLemore-Baugh at 842-9880 or e-mail deborah.mclemore-baugh@us.army.mil. (Command Group release)

Logistics modernization training on schedule

By FREDRICK LLOYD
For the Rocket

Expert users are your source for functional assistance within the new Logistics Modernization Program. They are dedicated government employees doing their best to help transition AMCOM into the future of Army logistics.

I heard they haven't taken a break since October '07. Expert users have been, and will continue to work hard for a successful deployment.

The Expert users are an integrated team assembled by recommendation, encompassing all business areas. Since their inception, this transformation team has hit the ground running, participating in a complex schedule of events leading up to Deployment 2.

The team began by attending APICS training in October '07, followed shortly by the scheduled-intensive Transformation Discovery Labs.

From the Labs derived the Business Design Workshops where issues, requirements, processes, procedures, and policy changes were discussed — oftentimes argued — to ensure that AMCOM needs were properly addressed.

Coinciding with the workshops, the Data Specific Scenario Testing was also executed. While supporting these efforts, the experts had to continue to perform their mission, oftentimes staying late and working weekends to support the demands of a dual role.

After begging their spouses to understand

that the next phases will require them to travel extensively, the game began.

These subject matter experts next had to attend Expert User training. They also participated in Critical Business Process Testing of the system, and have been supporting the Basic Navigation course.

Expert users have spent an enormous amount of time preparing for Deployment 2. All the knowledge they have acquired has landed them at the forefront of a gigantic task ahead. Just remember change is hard and often disruptive, but knowing you have a friend with detailed knowledge softens the blow. Expert users will be paired with CSC experts to fly to the rescue when users have problems post Go-Live.

End users' training began in February. This is where the expert users will have the opportunity to help the community bridge the gap between legacy terminology and business processes, with the new way of doing business — LMP. They will continue to support the end users and AMCOM business processes through post LMP deployment. There were 20 classes scheduled the first week. All week, there were 40 coaches and several staff and support personnel onsite. The first day went very smooth. Brad Johnson has been on D2 deployment since August 2007. He is the training lead for team CSC.

“The AMCOM LMP Integration Office has done a superb job with preparing the work force for training,” Johnson said.



Courtesy photo

PROGRAM TRAINEE— Lelorna Bennett-Chunn, an item manager for CH-47 Airframe Project Office, says she's looking forward to the Logistics Modernization Program. “I have no in-depth knowledge or experience with LMP, however training has shown me that the modernized system will provide more point and click capabilities,” she says. “It is a type of a system I am accustomed to using.”

HHC 59th big man raises his level of play

Reuter scores 22 against Marines

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

Just call him the big man. That's an apt description of Jeff Reuter, the 6-foot-8 center for the HHC 59th basketball team. And he had a big game for the "Raise Up" bunch on the final night of the regular season.

Reuter scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the 59th beat the Marines 54-43 on March 2 at Pagano Gym. The 59th (4-4) ended its season with momentum heading into this week's postseason tournament.

"We just played with good teamwork," Reuter said. "Good passing, getting the ball inside and a lot of rebounds."

Reuter got plenty of help from his teammates. Kevin Sanders had 13 points at guard; and backcourt mate Leroy Early added six rebounds and three assists. Kevin Thomas, a forward, had 10 assists and two steals. Post player Andrew Hildreth had eight points, seven rebounds and two blocks. Amos Jackson added three steals.

"It was tenacious defense from Sanders and also the big man down low and Hildreth," 59th coach Jeffrey Moses said. "And Early pushing the ball up-court."

Reuter's three-point play put the 59th up 22-13 with 4:06 left in the first half. After the Marines' Sean Hayes hit a 3-pointer, Reuter answered with two baskets for a 26-16 lead at 1:32. The 59th led 28-20 at half-time.

Two jumpers by Reuter after intermission put the 59th up 32-21 with 18 minutes left. The lead was 49-36 when he went out on fouls at 2:33, but the Marines could get no closer than nine at 50-41 in the final minute and a half.

Hayes finished with 14 points, including three 3-pointers, and 10 rebounds for the Marines (3-5). Justin Billings had 13 points, four rebounds and two steals. Craig Johnson added nine points and two steals.

"You've got to play defense," said Billings, the Marines point guard. "You can't win if you don't play defense."

Moses liked the 59th's chances entering the tournament which opened March 9.

"We look pretty good," he said. "I predict a victory. I predict a tournament (championship) win. And it won't be individual play. It'll be a team concept - giving backdoor picks, utilizing the guy that's hot."

375th Engineer 49, NCO Academy 44 in overtime: Power forward Marcus Beasley scored 23, including five 3-pointers, as the 375th outlasted the Academy.

Point guard Kenneth Lee added 12 points for the 375th (4-4). The score was tied 37-all at the end of regulation.

"Defense was key for us," 375th coach Carlos Richardson said. "On offense we stunk it up. Defense was key. We kept pressure on the ball."

The 375th won its second straight game in overtime after beating HHC 59th 63-61 in two extra periods Feb. 23.

"We're hot now," Richardson said. "We have all our players now. And we're all on one accord. This is actually the first time all our players are together. We're looking forward to this (tournament)."

Kurtrell Jackson had 18 points, Joseph Kimbrough nine and Brian Womack eight for the NCO Academy (4-4).

Here are the final standings for the regular season: Eastern Conference - 1. National Guard (5-3), 2. Charlie (4-4), 3. HHC 59th (4-4), 4. NCO Academy (4-4), 5. Marines (3-5); Western Conference - 1. Civilian Welfare Fund (8-0), 2. 375th Engineer (4-4), 3. 326th Chemical (3-5) and 4. Bravo (1-7).

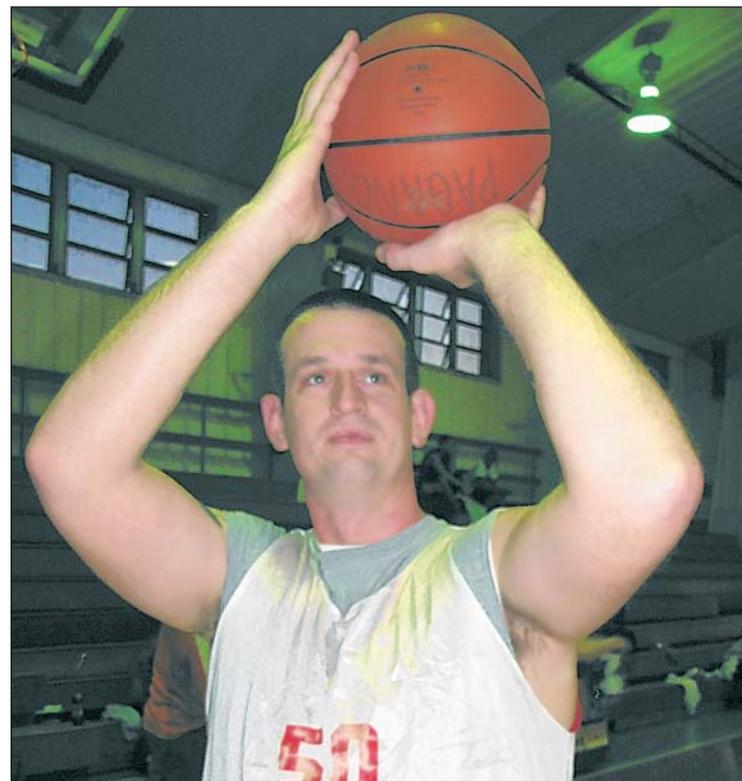


Photo by Skip Vaughn

CENTER OF ATTENTION— HHC 59th center Jeff Reuter had a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds in a 54-43 win over the Marines on March 2.

Kickball league signup scheduled at Pagano Gym

Redstone's kickball league is ready to spring into action. This co-ed social, sports league has the goal of getting people active and bringing them together in sports which cannot really be taken too seriously but with an immense amount of fun and camaraderie.

It is a partnership between MWR Sports and Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine/Health Promotion.

Kickball is played with official kickballs, 10-16 inches in diameter. The game is played with official rules; and games will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

"Some of you played in the fall when we tried to determine inter-

est," a prepared release said. "This spring the MWR Sports and Fitness staff will be maintaining schedules, tracking scores, etc. This will run like a true league which will make the games more competitive."

The 2009 spring league is now forming. Please get your team or teams together. Signup begins March 16 and ends April 3. "We will be compiling individual players without teams so that everyone can enjoy the game," the release said.

A league formation meeting is scheduled March 17 at 9:30 a.m. at Pagano Gym. Please send a team representative.

For more information, call sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson at 842-2574. (MWR Sports and Fitness release)

'Mad Bomber' captures extreme welterweight title

Kniest takes 4-man tournament and plans to fight again in May

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

Mike Kniest joined the National Guard the day after leaving active duty, and he's still fighting in mixed martial arts.

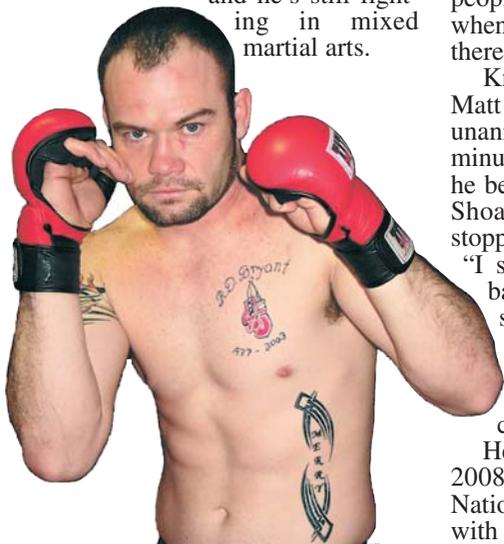


Photo by Skip Vaughn

BATTLER— Mike Kniest, a first sergeant in the National Guard, is a mixed martial arts fighter with the nickname "Mad Bomber."

Kniest won a four-man tournament Feb. 27 at the American Legion in Decatur. He won both his fights that night for the Alabama Extreme Cagefighting welterweight title.

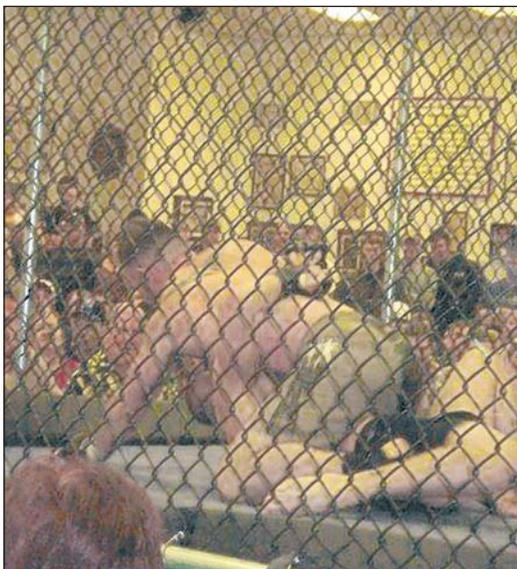
"I thought I fought real well and it's nice to win a title," the St. Louis native said. "I had a whole lot of fans there. I had about 70 people to see me fight. It's nice when you've got a lot of people there to cheer."

Kniest, 31, of Huntsville, beat Matt Vaughn of Cullman in a unanimous decision after three 3-minute rounds in the cage. Next, he beat Randy Owens of Muscle Shoals when the fight was stopped at 2:58 in the first round. "I submitted him with an arm bar in the first round," Kniest said.

At 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, the "Mad Bomber" improved to 23-6 in his career.

He left active duty in February 2008 after 12 years and joined the National Guard. Kniest is a first sergeant with Headquarters & Headquarters Division for the 441st EOD Battalion in Huntsville. He's also finishing a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Kniest works as an explosive safety



Courtesy photo

IN CAGE— Mike Kniest, on top, beats Randy Owens of Muscle Shoals in the second of his two wins Feb. 27 at the American Legion in Decatur.

engineer with APT (Analysis-Planning-Testing) Research. This job took him to Australia from March 6 until April 6.

"After I get back from Australia, I've got offered another fight with a little bigger show in Chattanooga, Tenn.," he said.

The fight will be in May with Game-ness Fighting Championship.

NASA tests parachute for Ares rocket

NASA and industry engineers have successfully completed the second drop test of a drogue parachute for the Ares I rocket. The test took place Feb. 28 at the Army's Yuma Proving Ground near Yuma, Ariz.

The Ares I, the first launch vehicle in NASA's Constellation Program, will send explorers to the International Space Station, the moon and beyond in coming decades. The drogue parachute is a vital element of the rocket's deceleration system; it is designed to slow the rapid descent of the spent first-stage motor that will be jettisoned by the Ares I during its climb to space. The parachute will permit recovery of the reusable first-stage motor for use on future Ares I flights. The first-stage solid rocket motor will power the Ares I rocket for the first two minutes of launch.

This was the seventh in an ongoing series of flight tests supporting development of the Ares I parachute recovery system, which includes a pilot chute, drogue and three main parachutes. Researchers dropped the 68-foot-diameter drogue parachute and its 50,000-pound load, which simulates the rocket's spent first-stage motor, from an Air Force C-17 aircraft flying at an altitude of 25,000 feet. The parachute and all test hardware functioned properly and landed safely. (NASA release)

■ Drivers should yield at crosswalk

Pedestrians

continued from page 2

crosswalk to include pedestrian crossing signs on either side of the crosswalk and that I in fact had the right of way. The driver then demanded my name and my supervisor's name and told me that no pedestrian ever has the right of way over a motor vehicle and that he was going to report me to my supervisor.

The next day I observed a Redstone Shuttle bus drive through another marked crosswalk two buildings down from mine. There were two pedestrians who had taken a step into the crosswalk when the shuttle bus drove through it. Since that time I have observed numerous vehicles, both civilian and GSA driving through crosswalks with pedestrians standing in them.

In my over 30 year association with the U.S. Army, I have always been trained that in a marked crosswalk, a moving vehicle must yield to the pedestrian. If this has changed, please let's get the word out to the pedestrians. If the policy has not changed, we need to get the word out to the drivers.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Traffic engineer Tom Richardson of the Garrison Directorate of Public Works provided the following response. "Generally, pedestrians have the right-of-way within a marked crosswalk. The Code of Alabama – which applies on Redstone Arsenal – states the following in Section 32-5A-211: Pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks. (a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. (b) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard."

■ Family thanks Redstone community members for their prayers

Concert

continued from page 2

Showmanship portion of the 2008 Liberace Piano Competition in Las Vegas, and the performance he gave us definitely showed how he won it! Sweet Water is a seven-member Southern gospel group who perform at many churches and events in North Alabama. They blew us away with their harmonies and great down-home sounds. I think we all got a workout tapping our feet and clapping along with their music. Jim Flinn, formerly of IMMC, did a wonderful job as our emcee. We were all blessed to be able to enjoy what they offered us.

I thought our community would enjoy knowing that the concert raised \$7,118 - and donations are still coming in! Those of us who hosted the concert want to thank everyone who has donated for their generosity. Rick's family also wants to thank everyone for their prayers, which are helping the family get through this difficult time. Rick, Lisa, Lauren and Hannah have a very strong faith in God. I have never met anyone who has shown such grace in the face of so many challenges. Their

family never fails to inspire those of us who know them. After the concert, Rick and his family said a few heartfelt words of thanks. When Lauren and her twin sister Hannah took the microphone, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. This is a very special family and we are all blessed to know them.

For those who were not able to attend the concert but want to donate, go to any branch of Redstone Federal Credit Union and donate to the "Donations for Lauren Gray" fund. The Grays have recently installed a track system from Lauren's bedroom to the bathroom - at a cost of over \$9,000. This will make taking care of Lauren's bathing and personal needs much easier on the family, as it can lift Lauren from her wheelchair and carry her where she needs to go. Their van (with wheelchair lift) is on its last legs. The lift has broken down several times and the van is having many mechanical problems. They are trying to save money to get a van with a lift that can support Lauren's wheelchair. The van that would fill their needs will cost approximately \$54,000.

We called the concert "A Father's Wish" because Rick wishes to make sure that his wife and daughters are provided for in the future. In that vein,

there is another very special fund-raiser for the family coming up this month. Linda Wolfe (of IMMC) and her husband Luke, are the owners of a photography business, Magical Moments Portrait Studio. They will have a fund-raiser for the Gray family March 13-14, with 20 percent of all sales donated to the family. A free 8x10 color portrait will be provided to anyone who purchases a package at the normal low price. Everyone who has his or her picture taken during these two days will be entered into a drawing for a free 13x19 full color canvas portrait. Their contact information is: Luke and Linda Wolfe, Magical Moments Portrait Studio, 4258 Highway 231, Suite 4, Lacey's Spring, AL 35754, mmmps@otelco.net, phone 498-0265 or 656-6133. They have generously agreed to extend the terms of the fund-raiser for those who are unable to be there on those two days but still would like to participate in the benefit and have their portrait made. Just give them a call and they will find an alternate date and time that will work for you. With Easter, graduations and weddings coming up, this is a good time to have a portrait made.

Once again, thank you to our wonderful Redstone Arsenal family.

Friends of the Gray family

■ Training required for newly appointed managers

Supervisors

continued from page 2

employees in the performance of their official duties and to encourage efforts to improve themselves. After an appointment or a major job change, a special assessment of training needs is necessary. The assessment is completed by both the employees and their supervisors. The training of employees is regarded as vital to the successful accomplishment of the Army mission. Newly appointed supervisors must serve a one-year probationary period. During this period these newly appointed supervisors will be given at least 40 hours of training within one year after appointment to a supervisory position to develop their supervisory knowledge, skills and abilities. This requirement can be met for military and civilian supervisors of civilians by completing the Human Resources or Supervisors course.

"Also, the transformation of the Army begins with educating the Army's leaders. The Civilian Education System is a new progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced leader development and education opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers. Army civilians will become multi-skilled leaders of the 21st century who personify the warrior ethos in all aspects, from war-fighting support to statesmanship, to business management. The CES leader development

program includes four courses that replace the previous inventory of legacy courses offered for Army civilians — Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

"CES provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. CES includes the Action Officer Development Course, Supervisory Development Course, Management Development Course, Foundation Course, Basic Course, Intermediate Course,

Advanced Course and Senior Service College.

"Ensuring training is completed is an inherent responsibility for both employees and military and civilian supervisors. The Redstone CPAC provides guidance and assistance, plus conducts at least three HR for Supervisors courses each year to assist leadership in meeting their training mission requirements. For upcoming training opportunities (HR for Supervisors), visit Redstone Arsenal CPAC HRD web page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/569159>. Click the link and use AKO CAC login."

■ Huntsville native describes confrontation in hometown

Incident

continued from page 2

or complained that we were growing too fast and the changes would bring crime to our fair city. But after Saturday, Feb. 28, I'm not so sure anymore? My husband and I were at the Fresh Market grocery store on Whitesburg Drive that afternoon. And when we were nearing the end of our shopping list, my husband accidentally brushed a man when passing him in the aisle. Now, when I say "brushed," I really do mean "brushed." My husband is a tall and very broad man, so if he would have even bumped this man a bit, he would have knocked him into the containers he was looking through. Also, my husband is an

extremely polite person and if he had realized that he brushed this man, he would have apologized immediately. I will make an ugly story short, this man — and I do mean "man," he looked to be mid- to late-40s — tried to pick a fight with my husband in the middle of the Fresh Market. They exchanged words and the man pulled a knife and said "I will gut you like a ... pig." I have traveled all over the world and met all kinds of people, but I've never had something this absolutely bizarre happen to me and smack dab in the place where I feel most safe and secure. I love my hometown, but has it changed beyond recognition? Maybe.

Amelia R. Flanigan Garrison

Trail

continued from page 2

my number one favorite and most used service on this Arsenal is the MWR jogging trail. I enjoy it daily during every season.

In the summer, my family and I would get on our bikes with a picnic lunch and bike from housing to the Wellness Center. We would enjoy a picnic at the picnic tables in the much-needed shade of the trees and rest before taking the five-mile ride back home. I can't see us doing that this year. What joy could we possibly have to bike five miles to sit next to a substation and have lunch, then bike five miles back? If you haven't used the trail before, you might not realize just how much the shade is needed during all the seasons, but to destroy the beautiful scenery and shade in the middle of the jogging trail is just cruel. Please tell me how to explain this devastation to my children. This was our family healthy activity we enjoyed that didn't require us to drive 10 miles to get to. We use all the MWR sites on this installation, but when the summer heat is here shade is very scarce, especially when ticks are a threat year-round.

You couldn't move 100 feet over to where there is an empty old school build-

ing and install it there? I am so glad you care that the new AMCOM building workers won't have to view the eye sore as they work in their concrete building, but you care less of us many that enjoy a jog during lunch, walk after work, or bike ride with our families. Please let me know who I can speak with to complain. It does not surprise me at all that the entities on this installation do not talk or work together. I just hope it's not too late to stop this tragedy from happening.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper provided the following response. "I have personally ridden the bicycle loop by the Wellness Center. I understand and appreciate your desire to maintain a conservative attitude toward our natural resources. Unfortunately, progress takes precedence. The infrastructure components being built in the loop are vital to the post's development. The 100 yards of trees that were removed, and the area cleared, were done in a fashion as to not damage the bicycle trail. The trail is still usable. During my travels in that area, I noticed several areas to stop and take a break. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause."

PUT YOUR

suggestions or comments on

How are we doing?

ICE is your direct link to management. We promise to respond to your submission in 3 business days when you ask for a response.

THANK YOU for giving us the opportunity to serve you better!

COL Robert M. Pastorelli
and the
Garrison Staff

Go online to make a submission

<https://ice.disa.mil>

ICE INTERACTIVE
CUSTOMER
EVALUATION

A three-tiered customer feedback process that includes:
ICE, Community FIRST, Customer Service Assessments



Customer Services Officer
Steve McFadden
Martin Road Bldg 4488
256-876-3294
rsacms@conus.army.mil

Garrison intern's efforts count with environment

Program helps make career out of her love of nature

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
 Staff writer
 kelleylanesivley@att.net

Garrison intern Shannon Allen is no bean counter. However, her job as an ecologist providing National Environmental Policy Act support in the Directorate of Public Works does make her the occasional shrimp counter.

Allen's assignment in the Garrison intern program puts her on the DPW team that manages the endangered and protected wildlife on Redstone.

"We have 10 species that have been listed, are proposed to be listed or are listed under the Endangered Species Act. We also protect state listed species that are deemed important by the state of Alabama," she said. "The Alabama Cave Shrimp is only found in a couple of the caves in the entire world. They are in one cave here."

A large part of the job involves memorandums of agreement, policy questions and information gathering. However, part of wildlife management includes knowing how many of these species are present and which areas on post they inhabit. If you want to know how many plants or animals there are in an area, there is really only one way to be sure.

"We monitor – which means we traipse around in the woods and count plants, flowers, shrimp and salamanders," Allen said. "We count critters and plants essentially so we can track long-term trends in how well we are taking care of them."

The office also relies on environmental testing to make sure that pollutants and chemicals from human tenants aren't adversely affecting the creatures whose care they are charged with.

"Water quality is monitored monthly. They test for lead, asbestos, pharmaceuticals, gasoline and contaminants that could be spreading from on and off the Arsenal," Allen said.

While donning a headlamp and crawling through partially submerged caves to count shrimp smaller than a penny may sound bizarre to some, it is a part of the job that Allen relishes.

"I don't get to do it as much as I would like," she said. "I've had jobs where I was outside 10 hours a day, seven days a week. I love it."

Allen received a bachelor's degree in wildlife science from Auburn University with the idea that she would continue on to veterinary school. However, she fell in love with wildlife management along the way. She decided instead to seek a master's in wildlife science. Working with wildlife and spending her time outdoors had always been a part of her life.

"I always wanted to work with animals," she said. "I have a few family members that were novice naturalists. I grew up watching birds and traipsing around in the woods with my family."

She came to Redstone's DPW as a contractor, where she spent a year working in a similar capacity to her job now. When she was presented with the opportunity to come onboard as one of the first Garrison interns in November, she seized it.

"It's a little bit different from other intern programs in that we know where we're going to end up," she said. "It offers real job security."

Allen will begin her rotation schedule in May. While she was slated to begin earlier, she was granted a brief deferral so she could wrap up planning for the post's Earth Day event at the end of April, which educates local schoolchildren on wildlife and environmental issues.

Garrison interns

Part 1 of series

The rotations she will make as part of the Garrison intern program will be mainly within DPW. She will also spend time in state and regional environmental agencies to study the big picture of environmental management.

Allen's love of nature fills her life. She and her husband, a conservation officer with the state of Alabama, spend their free time outdoors with their four dogs. In fact, one of the hardest parts of her new position has been getting used to spending so much of her time indoors at her desk.

"It's taken me a long time to turn into a desk jockey," she said laughing. "But when I get outside I appreciate it so much more."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

ECOLOGIST— Shannon Allen was able to parlay a love of nature into a rewarding career with the Garrison intern program.

Project manager finds dream job with engineering center

Completed intern program in 2008

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Engineering Center public affairs

When she was 10 she was always “building things,” and liked to help her father with construction projects, and dreamed about becoming an engineer.

In a way, Amber Martin, a project manager in the Facilities Support Division, began preparing for her dream job as a little girl.

Martin said she didn't know what type of engineer she wanted to be, but she knew exactly where she wanted to work. So at her dad's suggestion, she entered the University of Alabama-Huntsville's civil engineering program, and she became hooked.

“I guess I have engineering in my blood,” Martin said. “Growing up in Florida, I heard a lot about the Army Corps of Engineers. I can remember there always being an ongoing project in the news, and was always under the impression that the Corps was a premier engineering organization. My family always supported my desire to work in this non-traditional field for women, because of the passion I had for it at such an early age.”

Martin has been working as a project manager for the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate team since graduating in May 2006. On a daily basis, Martin serves as lead on the Access Control Point and Facilities Reduction Program programs, responsible for ensuring that contractors, engineers and contracting personnel work together to meet their goal and the customer's requirement on schedule with optimal customer service.

Martin said becoming an engineer with the Corps wasn't easy. It was many years after her family moved to Huntsville that a path was marked for her that would take her closer to finding a career in the engineering field and reaching her goal.

“My family relocated from Florida to Alabama when I was 16 due to my dad taking a job in the Huntsville area. I was a sophomore, and the move was hard for me since I'd lived in Florida most of my life,” Martin said. “Then someone pointed out to me there was a Corps office located in the Huntsville area. Just knowing this meant there was a chance I could possibly work as an engineer with the Corps made the move a positive one for me.”

Martin said since as far back as she can remember she was always helping her dad complete some pretty tough construction projects for family and friends in the Florida area. This experience, coupled with her already having a basic knowledge of the civil engineering field, provided her an opportunity to pick up some experience with the federal government working as a student at NASA in the International Space Station program on Redstone Arsenal.

Martin made good grades, and focused on taking advanced math and science

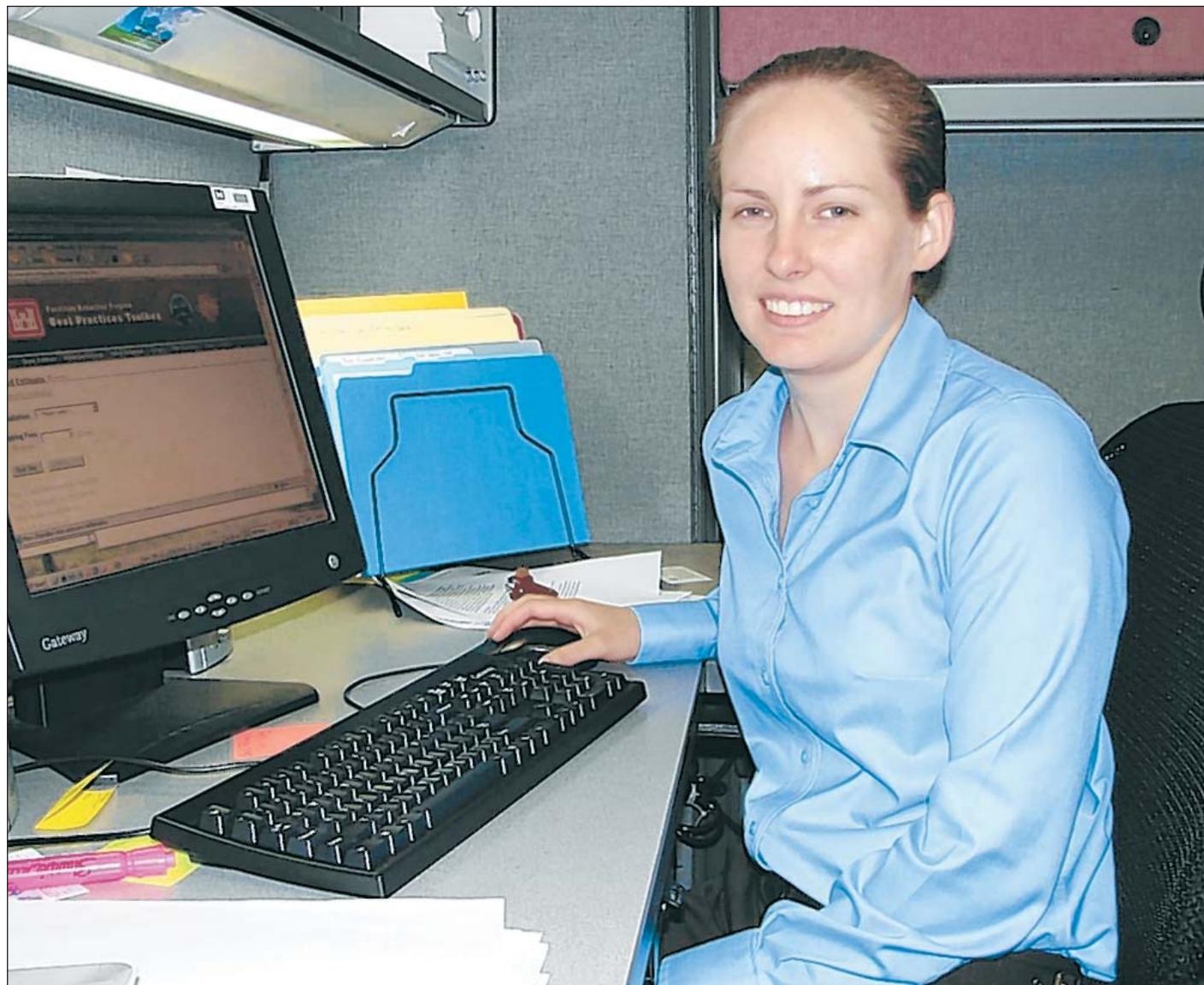


Photo by Debra Valine

MAKING PROGRESS— Amber Martin, project manager with the Facilities Support Division at Huntsville Engineering Center, spends most of her day with her computer, tracking the progress of the product delivery teams she leads.

courses during high school. After graduating from Bob Jones High in 2001, she enrolled in the engineering program at UAH, and continued every available opportunity to reach her ultimate goal to get a job as an engineer with the Corps of Engineers. According to Martin, it was in one of her first engineering courses at UAH that she was formally introduced to the Corps and the Huntsville Center.

“Mike Rogers (former Huntsville Center employee) came to speak to my Civil Engineering 101 class at UAH and said ‘if you want to get a job at the Corps as a student, give me a call,’” Martin said. “I sent him my resume, and called him every three-and-a-half weeks thereafter. I was driven, and knew from the moment he spoke to our class I was finally going to reach my goal.”

Martin said getting into the Co-op program at the Center is very competitive. She completed the application process and waited patiently for the phone call she'd waited for most of her life – a job offer from the Corps. Finally, she was hired a year and a half later.

“I've literally grown up at the Center. I was given mentors along the way who helped me to become the project manager and civil engineer I am today,” Martin said. “Everything that goes into a project has to be approved, so a lot of my job as a lead on the product delivery team is to push issues through the appropriate channels for approval. This can be quite difficult when I'm leading a team of people, and am most often the youngest in the group.”

Martin said Dave Shockley, team lead for FRP and ACP, has mentored her from day one, focusing on giving optimum customer service and meeting the customer's needs. She met Mike Norton, FRP program manager, later in her career. Norton gave her insight on how to manage the product delivery teams, and stay on track to meet deadlines.

Martin completed the intern program in 2008, and is working on several large projects within her division.

Shockley said hiring Martin and others who are interested in engineering at the Center is a good investment for everyone.

“Amber is one of my best project managers/civil engineers. She's a prime example of how having the right attitude and proper training can take you far as engineering professional,” Shockley said. “She is teachable – always willing to learn something new and go that extra mile for our customer and the Center. I'm proud to have her on my team.”

As a recent graduate of the intern program, Martin felt there were a few insights she could offer to prospective students who are interested in working as a project manager for the Center. She said if you like working hard and managing people and resources – at least it's that way here at the Center – then the Corps is for you.

“What I like about my job is that I'm never in a rut. There is always some new challenge to overcome, not the same old thing,” Martin said. “I don't think there is anywhere else in the Department of Defense where I can work on so many challenging and diverse projects as those we have at the Center. I can't think of a better place to be an engineer!”

Traumatic Brain Injury: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment

Awareness month for brain injuries

By **JERRY HARBEN**
Army News Service

A roadside explosion throws a Soldier against the side of his vehicle, with force that shakes his brain inside his skull. Another Soldier is in a traffic accident on the way to work, her head thrown forward into the windshield. A family member takes a hard fall during a sports game, hitting his head on the ground.

Different situations, but often the same result — a mild traumatic brain injury, better known as a concussion.

A concussion is an injury that causes an alteration of the person's mental status. You had your "bell rung." You are dazed and confused. More serious brain injuries that cause unconsciousness for 30 minutes or more are usually quickly recognized, but concussions may be dismissed and go untreated.

"It's the same as we see in a football game on TV, but no one comes out and holds up two fingers for you to count," said Lt. Col. Lynne Lowe, TBI program director in the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army.

"If you have a car accident and the EMTs come, they are likely to tend to your bleeding and not check for concussion. You are likely to be so happy you're alive, you don't think about concussion," she added.

Most people recover from concussions in a short time — as long as they do not repeat the injury.

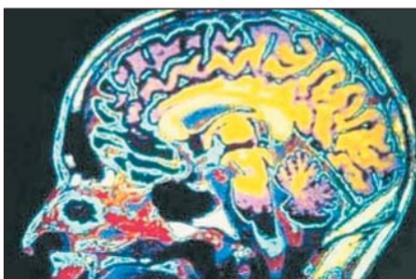
"If someone has a concussion, we want them to be evaluated. It is very important that we protect them from getting another concussion before their brain heals," Lowe said.

Symptoms of concussion can include confusion, headaches, dizziness, ringing in the ears or nausea. These symptoms usually resolve within hours or a few days. Some people do have more persistent symptoms, which can include trouble sleeping, irritability or blurred vision.

"Providers can give medication for headaches or dizziness, and reassure them that they will be OK, because most people will be OK," Lowe said. "We teach them about what it means to have a concussion, and some of the warning signs of a worsening condition. If symptoms last longer, more formal testing can be done and, if needed, rehabilitation. It's a step care model, give them what they need, while always using our best judgment and available guidance.

"Just reassurance is very therapeutic in itself. Research proves that reassurance and education contribute to better outcomes," she said.

The military has developed two tools to help medical professionals diagnose concussions. The MACE (Mild Acute Concussive Evaluation) is part of treatment protocols used in the Department of Defense for injuries less than seven days



Courtesy photo

FOCUS— March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. The Army has conducted a well-publicized campaign to convince Soldiers who may have suffered a concussion in combat to seek treatment. But this is not an injury limited to combat; it can result from sports, vehicle accidents or everyday activities that produce falls or bumps.

old. A doctor or medic will ask about the subject's medical history and test memory and thinking ability. The subject may be asked to repeat a sequence of words or count backwards.

"It isn't that a bad score means you have a TBI," Lowe said. "The score means nothing by itself. It informs the decision, but doesn't form a diagnosis."

The ANAM (Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric) is a computer-based neurocognitive test. From the full 45-minute test battery, the military has extracted several tests associated with brain injury that take about 15 minutes to complete. Soldiers complete this test before deploying. If there is an incident that might produce a concussion, medical personnel on site can e-mail for the baseline results and compare them to a post-injury test.

Again, ANAM is not diagnostic, it is a tool used by a trained health-care provider to help in making a diagnosis.

The Army has conducted a well-publicized campaign to convince Soldiers who may have suffered a concussion in combat to seek treatment. But this is not an injury limited to combat; it can result from sports, vehicle accidents or everyday activities that produce falls or bumps.

"Whether you're going down a snow ramp on a tube, riding a bicycle or playing contact sports, it's a good idea to wear a helmet," said Larry Whisenant, chief of the safety office at Army Medical Command Headquarters. "Even children on a bicycle carrier should have helmets. It's such an easy thing to do and it can prevent a lot of grief.

"Some states don't require a helmet when riding a motorcycle, but the Army requires it of Soldiers regardless of state law," he added.

Whisenant said safe helmets should bear a seal of approval from either the U.S. Department of Transportation or the Snell Memorial Foundation.

"A Nazi-style helmet that lacks a DOT or Snell seal is not good. It may look good riding down the highway, but it doesn't provide the protection you need," he said.

Growing threat of ballistic missiles drives agency's efforts

MDA director O'Reilly shares concerns of nation's leaders

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

The growing threat of ballistic missile proliferation around the world is a concern not only of military leaders but also of President Obama's administration, said the new director of the Missile Defense Agency.

Speaking to a gathering of more than 400 local military and industry leaders at Friday's luncheon meeting of Women in Defense at the Huntsville Marriott, MDA director Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly said China and Russia are not the only nations who have the capability to be a significant ballistic missile threat.

"If you remove China and Russia from the picture, there are still 1,100 more missiles today and in the next five years there will be 1,500 more missiles than there are today. That brings to 7,000 the number of ballistic missiles" and over 1,000 ballistic missile launchers owned by nations throughout the world, he said.

More than 20 foreign countries have ballistic missile systems. Instead of testing their systems once a month or once a week, they are testing them daily.

"The question is how many launches do they do every day," O'Reilly said. "Proliferation is growing. The new administration knows this. It's a serious question of how to stop missile proliferation."

The growing number of countries with ballistic missile capability creates unpredictability in the international military and political environment. Nations, particularly poor nations, are spending more and more money on ballistic missiles, causing U.S. political and military leaders to be concerned about the motives behind such investment.

"The threat over and over again is very uncertain," he said. "There is a huge uncertainty out there. But one thing is confirmed and that is proliferation."

The Women in Defense luncheon is the largest Huntsville group that O'Reilly has spoken to since taking over at MDA in November. He oversees MDA's worldwide mission to develop a capability to defend deployed forces, and the U.S. and its allies and friends against ballistic missiles.

When speaking to various groups about missile defense, O'Reilly said he has learned that he should include an introduction to the fundamentals of ballistic missiles so that his audiences understand his message.

Briefly reviewing such systems as Aegis, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Program, Patriot, the Navy's SM3s and others, O'Reilly told his audience "each of the systems



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HOME AUDIENCE— Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, who is well known in the Huntsville community for his leadership at Redstone Arsenal, speaks about the dangers of ballistic missile proliferation during a luncheon meeting of Women in Defense. O'Reilly is the new director of the Missile Defense Agency.

we are developing have a unique capability. All have a unique performance function in our architecture. Each one of these systems is designed to go against a specific threat and they are not interchangeable ... The key here is that since each system is designated against a major threat we need to get them to work together."

Together, these systems create the missile defense net to protect deployed forces, the U.S. and its allies against a ballistic missile threat from another country.

"We are starting to intertwine the net and see how effectively it works," O'Reilly said of testing that is being done with multiple systems.

"We are exercising different parts of this network" and involving ballistic missile systems established in places like Greenland, Hawaii, Israel, Japan and Arkansas. In addition, the systems will eventually be enhanced with the European Midcourse Radar system that will increase the missile defense net area in Europe.

O'Reilly said testing is beneficial, even when there are failures such as in the 1990s and early 2000s. These failures show engineers where improvements must be made. There has been tremendous success in recent testing, with THAAD succeeding in all five of its simulated intercepts, Aegis succeeding in seven out of eight and the Ground Based Midcourse Defense system succeeding in all three of its tests.

"We are going to have failure and we are going to learn from it ... I have confidence in the system doing the scenario we've tested it on. But none of the systems are done with testing. There will be testing done for years to make sure systems are operationally effective, suitable and survivalable" as MDA develops a comprehensive flight test and ground test program, he said.

O'Reilly said upcoming testing will be aggressive so that "we prove this system's significant capability."

He also said that anytime the U.S. conducts a successful test, the reaction can be viewed on a worldwide scope. A

successful missile defense system for the U.S. and its allies devalues missile development being done in countries that may be perceived as a threat, provides allies with options in addition to a pre-emptive strike, stabilizes events in a crisis and assures protection of population systems and critical assets.

The general took a few minutes during his speech to give a "sales pitch" to his audience about the need for young engineers to seek out positions with MDA and other military organizations. He said the average age of the engineering work force is 46, and that MDA is working on recruiting and mentoring programs to encourage young engineers to enter the work force.

O'Reilly also mentioned that MDA was doing well on BRAC recruiting plans in North Alabama. But the recent downturn in the economy and especially in regard to the housing market has made it more difficult to convince civilian engineers to move to the Huntsville area with MDA.

Golf fund-raiser

The Security Assistance Management Directorate is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on April 24 at the Redstone Links to benefit the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. For more information, call Gena Scofield 975-6952 or e-mail gena.scofield@us.army.mil.

Ten-Miler tryout

Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler Team, which will compete in the 25th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 4 near the Pentagon, will hold an open tryout for runners March 28 at 7 a.m. The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center. Redstone is a two-time defending champion in the government agency category. The team will have members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and Army contractors. For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn 876-1500.

Hockey tickets

The FMWR Ticket Office has free tickets for the Huntsville Havoc vs. the Columbus Cottonmouths hockey game Saturday at 7:35 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. The FMWR Recreation Center/Ticket Office is at building 3711 on the corner of Aerobee and Patton Roads. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 876-4531.

Basketball tournament

The Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. will present the Huntsville Hoopfest 3-on-3 basketball tournament June 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Joe Davis Stadium. For registration information call 651-0981, 509-8998 or visit www.dtlaphia.org.

Fishing benefit

Boeing Bass Club's 10th annual Charity Open Bass Tournament is March 21 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wheeler Lake, Ingalls Boat Harbor in Decatur. All proceeds benefit Hospice of the Valley, Hospice of Limestone County and Hospice Family Care. Entry fee is \$125 on tournament day. Current payout is 10 places, from \$1,500 down to \$150 with a Big Fish award of \$500. For more information, call tournament chairman Scott Reid 464-4504.

Motorcycle riders

The Redstone Riders Motorcycle Club's 30th annual Charity Poker Run is March 28 at Chips & Salsa in Huntsville. The event opens at 10 a.m. with the last bike out at 12:30 p.m. Charity is Hope Place.

AER bowling tournament

The 2009 Army Emergency Relief bowling tournament, sponsored by AMRDEC Industrial Operations, is March 26 at 1 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. Entry is \$15 per person. Registration ends March 20. This

will be a "no tap" format tourney. For registration and more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408.

Men's baseball league

A local men's recreational baseball league, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is recruiting players to participate in its upcoming season. The SSBL has two age divisions: Over-48 and Over-35. (Note: five 25-and-older players are permitted on each 35-year-old division team.) All newcomers are welcome; however, the league is especially looking for players for its over-48 division. Open practices will be held Sundays from 2-4 p.m. from April 5 through May 17 at the John Hunt Baseball Complex, just off Airport Road across from the Municipal Golf Course. The league plays a 20-game season from June through August, normally with two games per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon/evening game). The 35s play their games in Huntsville and Decatur; and the 48s play in Huntsville. For information e-mail either the Over-48 Division commissioner Bill McArdle at SSBL48s@comcast.net or the Over-35 Division commissioner Jim Crum at JimCrum10@yahoo.com.

Bass tournament

The Army Aviation Association of America's Spring Bob Vlasic Classic Bass Tournament is March 27-28 at the Elk River Group Lodge, Joe Wheeler State Park. For more information, e-mail thomas.geoffroy@us.army.mil.

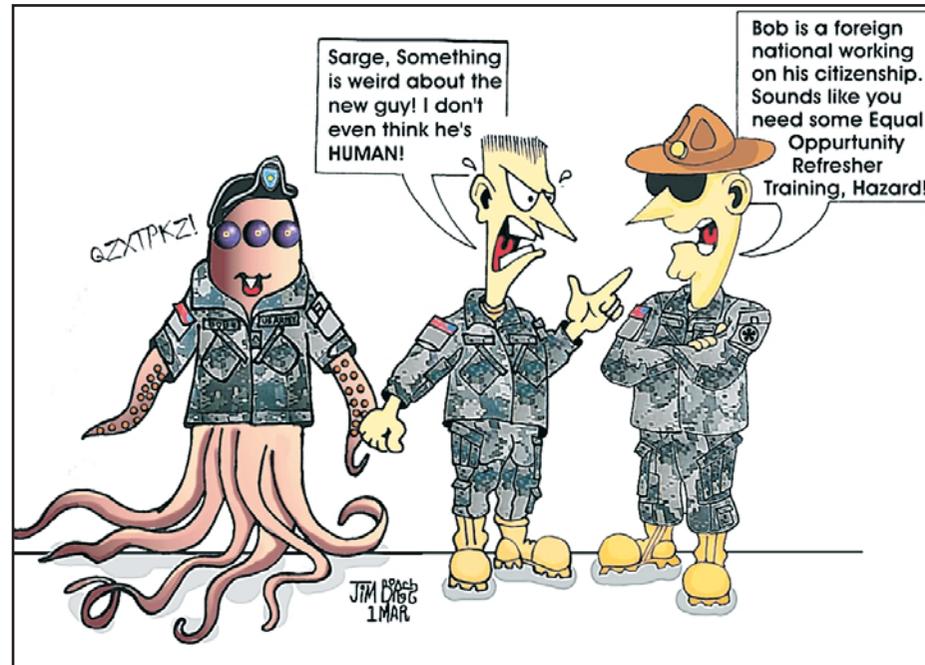
Conferences & Meetings

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.

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.

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.

Logistics engineers

This month's SOLE program and luncheon is March 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Gary Nenner, AMCOM G-3, is the speaker. For reservations call Jane Reeves 450-1620 or Dave Welch 450-1620.

Genealogy society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet March 17 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Main Branch, Auditorium. Robert Davis will speak on "Researching the Civil War in Libraries and the Internet." For more information, call 883-5650.

Civil War discussion

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Tom Parson, a Civil War author and park ranger at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, Shiloh National Military Park, will speak on "The Importance of Corinth, Miss., the May 1862 Siege and the October 1862 Battle." Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

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.

Toastmaster clubs

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. The Research Park Club 4838 meets Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753.

Federal employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. As part of a chapter membership recruitment effort, a complimentary breakfast is being offered to prospective chapter members, both active and retired federal employees. To reserve a place, call Eleanor Kay 881-8124. Breakfast is 9 a.m. Chapter members cost is \$6. Following breakfast, chapter member Morton Archibald will present a program on alternate energy options and energy-savings pointers. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Air/missile defense summit

The Tennessee Valley Chapters of the National Defense Industrial Association, Women in Defense and the Huntsville Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association are planning the fourth annual Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Summit. This event is April 6-9 in Huntsville. Attendance is by invitation only. For more information, visit the website www.JIAMDsummit.org.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is March 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. This month's speaker will be meteorologist Dan Satterfield from WHNT Channel 19. For ticket information, call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Rocket Announcements

Fleet Reserve

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

Blacks in government

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government will hold a general membership meeting and networking lunch March 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club in the Soldatenstude Room. "The meeting will start at 11:20 and for those who want to use the buffet to purchase lunch, please arrive early enough to get your food and be seated when the meeting starts," a prepared release said. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Transportation group

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles is the featured speaker as the North Alabama Transportation Foundation meets for lunch today at noon at the Heritage Club in downtown Huntsville. Cost of the meal is \$15 for non-members of NALTF. For reservations or more information, call NALTF executive director Kurt Furst 890-8544, ext. 14.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will have its monthly outreach luncheon March 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. Kim Spicer, a writer and mother of five, will tell how her near-

drowning experience put her life in perspective. For reservations call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339 by March 19.

Engineer society

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers meets for lunch at 11:30 a.m. March 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Gary Heard, Small Business Administration Procurement Center representative of the Aviation and Missile Command, will speak on "Joint Ventures and Their Advantages to an 8(a)." The spotlight speaker is Steve Bong of Jaya Corporation. Cost is \$11. For reservations call Dan Foran 830-1031, ext. 130, by March 16.

Administrative professionals

The Huntsville Chapter IAAP sixth annual Seminar and Education Forum is April 21 at the Redstone Federal Credit Union Technology Center, 220 Wynn Drive. Keynote speaker is John Croyle, founder and executive director of Big Oak Ranch Inc. and a former football All-American at the University of Alabama. Registration deadline is April 14. To register go to www.iaaphsv.org.

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 infor-

mation systems operators. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9435 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

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

Motorcycle safety

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

Reserve unit

If you have several years invested in your military career, you do not want conflicts between Reserve duty and civilian life to keep you from earning 20 qualifying years. The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King jwk108@yahoo.com or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Stacy Hopwood and 1st Sgt. Brian May 539-6511 or 539-6512.

Pilots wanted

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking qualified applicants to apply for Warrant Officer Flight Training School. Applicants must have a high school diploma and age 18-33. Age waivers will be considered. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Stacy Hopwood and 1st Sgt. Brian May 539-6511 or 539-6512.

Butler High reunion

S.R. 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.

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.

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.



Courtesy photo

Dr. Seuss day

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles participates March 2 in a reading event at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. On what would have been the 105th birthday of legendary children's book author Dr. Seuss, this was also part of the 12th annual Read Across America Program. Myles read from his favorite Dr. Seuss book, "Cat in the Hat." The readers from left include Myles, MLK Elementary principal Dr. John Humphrey, WHNT Channel 19 news anchor Lisa Washington and Richard Kretzschmar, deputy director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. The students are Damion Kelley, Patriah Rogers and Payden Clay.

Rocket Announcements

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.

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.

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. For more information, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

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>.

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.

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 continues 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 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>.

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 support 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.

Veterans home visits

Redstone Soldiers are visiting Tut Fann State Veterans Home on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Remaining dates for this year include April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15. For more information, call Jessica Merritt of Wireglass Hospice 519-8808.

AER book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief is April 13 through May 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5300, Sparkman Center, on the first floor in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. As in the past, they accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape. They can receive donations until April 29. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery or pickup of those items.

Thrift shop

"We're got something for everyone," the Thrift Shop says in a prepared release. New merchandise is arriving daily. Visit the shop at building 3209 on Hercules Road on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 9-4 or Thursdays 9-5. The shop is also open the first Saturday of each month from 10-2.

Autism support

Alabama Parent Education Center and the Making Connections Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group will present an Individualized Education Program on March 28 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Drive. To reserve your place for this free session, call (toll free) 866-532-7660 or 334-567-2252 by March 20. Leave your name, telephone number, and mention Code Number 003. For more information, call Debra Bumbicka 348-2180.

Sugarland concert

Redstone Arsenal's Family, Morale Welfare and Recreation presents the 2009 Army Concert Tour featuring Sugarland with special guest Billy Currington and introducing Matt Nathanson. The concert is May 16 at the Activity Field off Patton Road. Tickets are \$30 through May 15, and \$35 on the day of show. Premium tickets, which cost \$70, are available at the FMWR Ticket Office and the Officers and Civilians Club. For ticket locations and more information, call 876-4531 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Suicide prevention

The remaining session for Suicide Prevention Training is Friday from 9-11 a.m. at Rocket Auditorium for SAMD, LAISO and PEO-Aviation makeup.

Alcorn State scholarship

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter, Alcorn State University offers the William E. James Memorial Scholarship award, in the amount of \$1,000, for the fall 2009/spring 2010 semester at Alcorn State University. The TVA-ASU scholarship is based on merit and need for prospective Alcorn State University students only. Deadline for applications is March 19. For more information and/or scholarship application, call Melvin Mayo 721-9336 or Sam King 882-7733.

Mr. Man Premiere

The 2009 "Mr. Man Premiere" is scheduled Sept. 19 at the Marriott Hotel near the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "This premiere event will reveal each male contestant's character through personality, finesse and style," a prepared release said. A panel of judges will decide who will win the title of Mr. Man. "SB Productions is making the final selection on the caliber of men who possess the completeness of what a true gentleman, father, husband, mentor and role model should portray to complete the 10 contestants in the Mr. Man Premiere," the release said. Eight contestants have been selected through a screening process with two left to fill. More than 150 men have gone through the screening process with a selection result of eight. SB Productions is also placing a female Model Call for the final two models sought to complete the five needed to escort the contestants onto the runway and take part in this event. For those selected, runway and etiquette preparation will be given. The contestant lineup thus far includes a doctor, Army officer, Navy officer, Air Force recruiter, Madison fireman/Marine, Madison police officer, engineer, and a minor league baseball

player. For more information, call 278-8862 or 683-3083.

Interviewing workshop

Many employers are changing how they screen resumes, test candidates and conduct interviews. Come learn what employers expect and how to prepare for your next interview. A representative from West Corporation will offer suggestions to help you to ace your interview. This workshop will be held March 18 at 10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Call ACS at 876-5397 to reserve your seat.

Gate 8 closing

Gate 8 (Goss Road/Drake Avenue) is undergoing security enhancements and construction. Gate 8 will be temporarily closed to all vehicle traffic for approximately three months. The gate will still allow access to building 3149 and to pedestrians until 5:30 p.m. daily. For questions or more information, call the Garrison Directorate of Public Works at 842-0032.

NARFE scholarships

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association is accepting applications for its 2009 scholarship awards. NARFE scholarships are available to the child or grandchild of any NARFE member. All applicants for the \$1,000 scholarships must be current high school seniors with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information, call 536-6057 or 519-3327.

Red Cross blood drives

This month's American Red Cross blood drive schedule includes the following: March 12 from 7 a.m. to noon at Sparkman Center building 5308 lobby; and from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers, 4820 University Square. March 13 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. March 26 from 7-noon at Garrison building 4488; and 7-noon at AMRDEC building 5400. March 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency, 106 Wynn Drive.

Library dinner

The J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center, Alabama A&M University, will hold its fifth annual Friends of the Library Membership Dinner on March 28 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the A&M campus. Joyce Pettis-Temple, author of "African-American Poets: Lives, Works, Sources," will be the keynote speaker. This year the organization will honor Janie Holifield, a graduate of Alabama A&M University, now a retired educator from the Madison County School System and part-time cataloger/instructor in the Learning Resources Center; Prudence Bryant, a graduate of Jackson State University and a MLS graduate of Atlanta University, currently head reference librarian at the Learning Resources Center, and Ralph Redrick, a retired operations research analyst and a graduate of A&M.

Children's theater

The Dream Weavers' Children's Theatre presents "Seussical the Musical," based on the works of Dr. Seuss, on March 27 at 7 p.m. and March 28 at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Princess Theater Center for the Performing Arts in Decatur. Tickets are available at the Princess Theater Box Office in Decatur or by calling 340-1778. Prices are adults \$12, seniors \$10 and students \$8. For more information, visit the website www.dreamweaverschildrenstheatre.com.

Commissary sale

A Commissary On-Site Sale will be held April 17-19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Birmingham ANG Base, AASF No. 2 Hangar, 5700 East Lake Blvd., Birmingham. "The Commissary - it's worth the trip," a prepared release said.

Youth orchestra benefit

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra members invite everyone to join them at the Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurants on March 26. "While you enjoy your meal, you can also enjoy beautiful live music performed by some of our area's most talented young musicians," a prepared release said. At various times throughout the day and evening, small groups and soloists from the Youth Orchestra will be playing some of their favorite pieces. On March 26, Cheeburger Cheeburger is donating a portion of all profits from both of its restaurants to support the Youth Orchestra. "So come on out, have some great food, listen to some great

music, and support a great cause," the release said. Cheeburger Cheeburger has two locations: 5000 Whitesburg Drive in south Huntsville (at the corner of Airport and Whitesburg), and 7 Town Center Drive in northwest Huntsville (just north of 72, in Providence Town Center).

Latin dance

Saborlatino invites everyone to the "Spring Latin dance" Saturday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. "DJ Ed will be mixing to the hottest Latin music," a prepared release said. Cover charge is \$10 per person. To reserve your tables, call Yvonne 783-5756.

AER doughnut sale

The Maintenance Information Operations Branch is holding a pre-order doughnut sale through April 1 to benefit Army Emergency Relief. For information call John Zuber 955-6699 or Ernest Edwards 876-0976.

Relationship class

"Part I: A Tale of Two Brains," a class on relationship between the sexes, is March 30-31 from 6-8 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338. This is open to anyone who wants to better understand how the opposite sex thinks and what motivates them. To register or for more information, call Virginia Dempsey 876-5397.

Diabetes alert day

The American Diabetes Association will

"Sound the Alert" about diabetes during the 21st annual American Diabetes Alert Day, March 24. Diabetes is a devastating disease which affects nearly 24 million Americans including 360,912 Alabamians. Nearly one-quarter of those affected by diabetes (approximately 90,228 Alabamians) are not aware that they have the disease. For more information, call the American Diabetes Association 1-800-342-2383 or visit www.diabetes.org.

Housing referrals

Whether you are moving to Redstone Arsenal or need to rent or sell your house at Redstone Arsenal, military and Department of Defense civilians now have computer access to the Automated Housing Referral Network. The website will list off base rentals, on post housing, temporary lodging, and military for sale by owners. For more information, call Giannina Brown 842-0422. The website is www.ahrn.com.

Education seminar

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will hold the National Education Seminar 2009, titled "Cost Estimating and Contract Pricing: Tools, Techniques, and Best Practices," on March 26. The presenter will be Andrew C. Obermeyer, director of contracting tests, targets and countermea-

Rocket Announcements

asures programs, Missile Defense Agency. For more information, visit the NCMA website <http://ncmahsv.org>.

Orchid show

The Heart of Dixie Orchid Society will hold its annual orchid show and sale March 21 from noon to 5 p.m. and March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 University Drive. The show is free to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.h-o-d-o-s.org/>.

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. 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>.