

Redstone Rocket

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Kiowa Warrior gains firepower

Avenger machine gun adapted for new use

By KARI HAWKINS
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The Army's Avenger air defense system is not part of the fire fight these days in overseas contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But its machine gun – the M3P .50 caliber – is gaining rave reviews from Army pilots thanks to a new application developed by AMCOM and Program Executive Office for Aviation workers.

In recent months, Avenger's M3P machine gun has taken on a new life as the machine gun of choice for OH-58D Kiowa Warrior units stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The M3P is providing Kiowa units with what they needed as outlined in two Operational Needs Statements from theater – a lightweight, reliable gun system with a level of lethality greater than or equal to the helicopter's previous XM296 machine gun and a machine gun more suited for close fighting situations encountered in urban environments.

"This is a success story in that we were able to respond quickly to a need in theater with a system that we already had in our inventory," said Maj. Kirk McCauley, assistant product manager for Kiowa Warrior, PEO for Aviation.

"It speaks to the level of talent and expertise we have here at Redstone Arsenal. Employees brought their experience and know how to the table and came up with a simple, elegant and effective solution that used internal and inexpensive resources to provide exactly what we needed in record time."

The use of the M3P machine gun on Kiowa helicopters represents an innovative and can-do approach by a team of several Army entities, including AMCOM's Maintenance Operations Procedures and Prototype



Courtesy photo

FULLY LOADED— The Kiowa Warrior helicopter takes off on a mission with the M3P machine gun mounted on its side. Since mid-January, 30 M3P guns used on Kiowa helicopters have fired more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition. A total of 130 M3P machine guns have been fielded in Iraq and Afghanistan, with plans to field a total of 380 guns to supply the entire fleet of Kiowa helicopters.

facility (MOPP Shop); PEO for Missiles and Space's Cruise Missile Defense System Project Office, PEO for Aviation's Kiowa Warrior Product Office; Redstone Technical Test Center; Aviation Technical Test Center; Prototype Integration Facility; and Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Campbell, Ky., OLR sites.

Although the need for a more effective and reliable machine gun for the Kiowa helicopter wasn't submitted in an Operational Needs Statement until May 2007, the MOPP Shop had been working on ways to reuse Avenger M3P machine guns since 2004. When the 7th of the 17th Cavalry submitted the ONS for a new .50 caliber machine gun, the Kiowa product office team and the TRADOC capabilities manager at Fort Rucker investigated several solutions, identifying M3P as one of the best solutions.

The M3P, with its 1,100-round-per-minute rate of fire,

See **Avenger** on page 11



Photo by Kari Hawkins

NEW USE FOR AVENGER GUN— David Forrest of AMCOM's Maintenance Operations Procedures and Prototype facility (MOPP Shop) reassembles a M3P 50 caliber machine gun that was once used on an Avenger air defense system. As the Army restructures and takes out of service the Avengers, these machine guns are being reconditioned and reassembled, quality checked, and test fired at Test Area 1 and then mounted on the Kiowa Warrior helicopter.

An open lane random survey

What is your favorite prom memory?

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



Shelia Scruggs-Howard
Garrison

"Oh, my tea-length dress! I was too short for a long gown, but the tea length was just right for me. I remember it was purple and silver. It was such a special night. I felt so pretty."

Glen Reese
Garrison

"My uncle had just bought a new Cadillac. He let me drive it. It was beautiful, yellow with white interior."



Bob Copeland
Garrison

"The best parts were dinner at the Saledo Inn before and the party after out at the lake."

Theresa Falcetano
Garrison

"The after party – you stay out all night or at least to the late hours. It was the best part of the prom."



Quote of the week

'A'rt is making something out of nothing and selling it.'

— Frank Zappa
musician/singer/songwriter

Getting to know you

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Name: Daniel Orta

Job: Safety specialist, Garrison Safety Office

Where do you call home?
Houston, Texas

What do you like about your job?

The satisfaction in ensuring everyone on Redstone Arsenal has a safe working environment. At the end of the day, working to ensure that moms, dads, sisters, brothers get home to loved ones without an accident. My work involves accident investigations, construction safety inspections and high-level hazard area inspections. When there is an accident, we work to find the cause, determine what can be done to prevent future accidents, and then coordinate with other Garrison offices to make sure safety measures are implemented.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like fishing and working around the house on projects. I enjoy woodworking and landscaping. We just recently put a porch on the back of our house, and I'm doing some carpentry and painting to finish it up.

What are your goals?

I'm working on my master's in occupational safety and health. I'm trying to finish it up so that I am more promotable.

What's your favorite type of music?

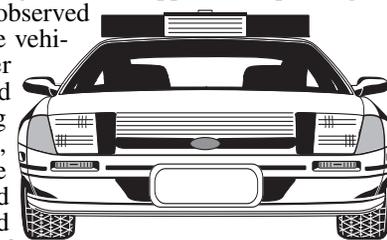
I like everything. But I especially like country and I enjoy listening to Hawaiian music with my wife, who is from Hawaii.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for April 23-29:

April 23: A driver had a suspended license at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

April 23: When a subject was stopped for speeding on Hughes Road, police observed pistol ammunition in the vehicle console. A further search of the car revealed a pistol, a bag containing suspected marijuana, and open beer in the vehicle. The suspected marijuana, pistol and ammunition were seized by police. The subject was processed and released.



April 24: During a random vehicle search at Gate 9, guards found two pistols concealed in a vehicle. The guns were seized and the subject was processed and released.

April 24: When a vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation on Vincent Drive, it was revealed that the driver had a suspended license. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.

April 25: A Soldier surrendered to Redstone Police as a deserter when it was revealed that an arrest warrant had been issued by Alabama State Troopers. The Soldier was released to state troopers and will later be returned to military control.

April 25: Post Exchange investigators suspect an employee of stealing more than \$3,000. Investigation continues by USACID.

April 29: When a motorist stopped at Gate 10 to request a map, he was found to be driving with a revoked license. He was issued a violation notice.

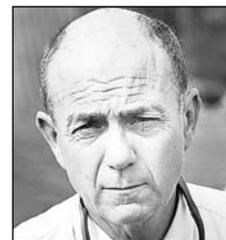
Accidents reported: six without injury, none with injury.
Violation notices issued: 34 speeding, 1 inattentive driving, 1 failure to judge clearance, 2 driving while suspended or revoked, 2 possession of weapons, 1 possession of marijuana, 1 expired driver's license, 1 no proof of insurance, 2 handicap parking.

Public Affairs Hall of Fame inducts Harris

WASHINGTON — After a career of more than 30 years, the man responsible for publicizing the Army's first satellite launch into space has been inducted into the U.S Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame.

The late Dave Harris was chief of public affairs for Redstone Arsenal and a spokesperson for the Army and NASA from 1962-65.

The U.S. Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame was established in 2000 to recognize Soldier and Army civilian public affairs professionals who made lasting, significant contributions to the profession, history and traditions of Army public affairs. Harris was the voice and the face of the Army and NASA through many controversial and highly-visible issues such as chemical contaminant discoveries and cleanups; the Vietnam War and anti-war protests;



Dave Harris

desegregation and social unrest; layoffs and cutbacks; and weapon-system successes and failures.

He is most well-known for his efforts with the German scientists at Redstone Arsenal, who launched the nation's first satellite into space and transformed Huntsville into "Rocket City USA." (Army public affairs release)

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Logistics modernization goes live next week

The Logistics Modernization Program will kick off at AMCOM on May 14.

"As we count down the final days for transitioning to LMP, the realization of the magnitude of this transformation has truly begun to resonate with our users," AMCOM LMP integrator Cathy Dickens said. "The stress level is high among the team, but so is the excitement level. LMP 'Go-Live' is the beginning of a journey that can lead us to significant improvement in Soldier support."

Deployment and sustainment of LMP integrates business across acquisition, logistics, maintenance and finance and provides a single view for the Aviation and Missile Command.

The go-live date was extended an additional five days beyond the targeted May 9 date. Two factors contributed to the extension. The first was a delay in the secretary of the Army's certification to Congress that the depots were prepared to implement LMP. The second was driven by the additional time needed to complete shadow postings and adjusting entries to ensure the financial records are in order when LMP goes live. This extends "Blackout," the amount of time manual processes will have to continue until the system is available, by five days. Blackout was scheduled to occur April 30 through May 9. It will now occur April 30 through May 14.

Worldwide logistics workshop draws record crowd

Training addresses future challenges

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
For the Rocket

During the final day of a worldwide logistics workshop, Freddy Garza excitedly collected his bags and prepared to depart Redstone to return to his home unit in Alaska. It was not because classes were over. Rather, he was excited to share and implement what he learned during the past five days.

"I thought it was excellent," the first time attendee said of the AMC Logistics Support Activity 2009 Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop. The event took place April 20-24 in various buildings throughout Redstone.

Approximately 1,182 logistics experts from around the globe attended, breaking last year's record 900-plus.

The workshop has steadily grown in size and scope since its inception in 1996, which drew more than 200. Using the theme "Army Logistics Integration - On a Joint/Combined Battlefield," the Logistics Support Activity offered briefings and training on a broad range of state-of-the-art applications and systems. Attendees chose between a variety of workshop classes, hands-on training, and sidebar meetings. The workshop's goal was to improve management capability of Army equipment.

Armed with his new skills, Garza, an installation supply representative from the Army Materiel Command G3 in Alaska, said he learned a lot of good, cutting edge technology that will significantly improve the efficiency and quality of customer service in his shop. He attended six workshops a day for four days and participated in the "hot wash" on the last day.

"When GCSS Army gets online, it will make my job a lot easier," Garza said.

Currently, one has to go to different sites to find resources or find the answers to customers' questions. "Now it's going to be in one place," said Garza.

Approximately 340 classes covering more than 100 subjects were offered. Twenty-nine exhibitors were represented; and more than 90 presenters provided instruction.

Several guest organizations from across the logistics community offered special topic sessions. Attendees had the opportunity to hear keynote addresses from Army Materiel Command leadership. Akin to going to classes in college, attendees were able to choose their classes at various times and locations that were being offered.

Marcia Byrnes, chief of the Training Management Division in LOGSA, said more servicemembers attended this year. Last year attendance ratio was 60 percent civilians and 40 percent military. This year military numbers were half of the attendees.

"I was very pleased with the turnout," Byrnes said. "I look at this as the mini AUSA (Association of the U.S. Army) for mid-level executives. I believe that this year's WLTW had a good cross-section of all the logistical fields represented and we were able to provide critical training to the challenges we're going to face in the future."

Maj. John Cheek, team leader for the Item Management Team from the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., said his shop faces numerous issues every day.

"Being in the equipment branch, we constantly have issues looking for stock numbers, cross checking data, and finding out where the bottlenecks are so we can solve the problem," Cheek said.

A first-time attendee, Cheek was impressed by the workshop. "I'll be able to provide customer service much more efficiently and quickly," he said.

Military spouses live life of rewards in service to U.S.

Army's appreciation day a way to show support

By KARI HAWKINS

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When military spouses are recognized at special Army or community events, Alice Myles is proud to be counted among them.

Her 31 years as a military spouse have brought challenges, opportunities, plenty of changes and always a sense of pride that she and her husband, Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, have committed their lives to service to their nation, and to the Soldiers and families that make the Army strong.

As the Army prepares to pay tribute to military spouses on Military Spouse Appreciation Day this Friday, Myles is an example of the supportive, steadfastness, patriotic and independent nature of a military spouse.

"You have to be a team. You have to both be committed to this," Myles said of her husband's Army

career. "If you are not both committed to it, then it can be extremely difficult. You have to be committed together.

"I have young wives tell me 'I didn't sign up for this.' But they did. I am a much better person – stronger and more independent – because of this commitment. The Army stretches you to do things that are unfamiliar and uncomfortable at times. The Army forces you into leadership roles and into staying engaged. And because of that in so many ways I am a much better person."

Myles and her husband were high school sweethearts. They married 35 years ago, attended college at Middle Tennessee State University and went on to fulfill her husband's ROTC commitment to the Army.

At the time of college graduation, neither husband nor wife realized his initial Army commitment would extend well beyond a few years.

"We thought it would be a short thing then," Myles said. "It was not his intent to make it a lifelong career. But as it played out it was



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PROUD TO SERVE ARMY— As the wife of Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, Alice Myles represents what being a military spouse is all about. Myles appreciates the Army's ongoing emphasis on military spouses and families. The Redstone Arsenal community will recognize this Friday at Military Spouse Appreciation Day with special discounts and activities.

See Spouses on page 14

Specials in store for military spouses

The following discounts and special activities have been planned for Military Spouse Appreciation Day this Friday:

- The Officers and Civilians Club will offer a 50-percent lunch discount for any military, National Guard or retiree spouse coming in for lunch Friday. They must show their ID card.
- FMWR Auto Skills will provide free vehicle safety inspections for military spouses at the Auto Skills Center from 1:30-9:30 p.m.; perform a vehicle oil change with spouse paying only for the oil and filter Friday — this free service is by appointment only; and provide \$5 worth of credits to be used at the FMWR Car Wash on Friday — this is also by appointment only.
- Military spouses will receive a Star Player Coupon for a free game of bingo on Friday at FMWR Challenger Bingo.
- Military spouses will receive 10 percent off of purchases in the Links Golf Pro Shop on Friday.
- Military spouses will receive 10 percent off on any class at the FMWR Arts & Crafts Center when registering on Friday.
- FMWR Outdoor Recreation invites all military spouses to shoot trap and skeet for free on Friday.
- The Post Exchange will give away eight \$25 AAFES gift cards to military spouses who stop by and enter their name in Friday's drawing. Other giveaways include a red, white and blue gift basket valued at more than \$50, a \$35 floral arrangement from the Floral Shop and a free T-shirt with choice of one design from the William's Group.
- Cinnabon will give military spouses \$1 off a purchase of a Cinnabon and small coffee from 9 a.m. to noon Friday.
- The Commissary will serve cake and refreshments, and have giveaways Friday for military spouses.
- Any military spouse coming to Army Community Service on Friday from 9-11 a.m. will receive a "sweet treat."

Mom of five copes with deployment through Army's help

Services help fill void from Soldier's absence

By KARI HAWKINS
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With five kids to watch over, Yashica Smith doesn't have much time to miss her husband.

But sometimes, the chaos of a busy household actually makes her miss him more.

"He's not just a Soldier. He's a dad, a husband. He's everything to us," Smith said.

Smith is the wife of Capt. Michael Smith, a Reserve Soldier who deployed in January to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq.

It is the couple's second deployment.

"The first time he deployed, I was excited. My husband was actually going to serve his country. I was proud," Smith

said, referring to his 2005 deployment.

"The second time I felt lost. I felt like a brand new Army wife. I think my insecurities really came out because we had two new infants to care for."

Together, the couple have four children – Ben, 15; Miya, 13; and Michaela, 10; Monae, 1; and one foster child, Jay, 2, who they hope to adopt soon.

Though she is a Reserve military spouse, Smith fully understands the struggles, challenges and opportunities of active duty military spouses. She grew up as a military child, and has been a military spouse since 1990. When Michael Smith is not deployed, he works in the project management office for Cargo Helicopters, Acquisition Branch on Redstone Arsenal. He is also a Reservist with the Reserve unit stationed on the Arsenal.

"Michael is a man of many hats. He is really committed to

any job that he has, be it military or civilian," Smith said. "He didn't want to go on this deployment. But he felt he had to go to serve his country and to help other Soldiers. He has always been compelled to help others."

Smith has seen the Army grow in its concern and care for military spouses and families. She has been active with the Arsenal's Waiting Spouses program and is on the Waiting Spouses e-mail list. Smith often gets calls from Military One Source and she received assistance from the American Red Cross during the deaths of her grandparents. Her children have participated in programs offered by School Age Services and the Youth Center, and she takes the two younger children to the Arsenal library every week. The family plans to purchase a swimming pool membership on the Arsenal this summer. They shop at the Post Exchange and Commissary.

"We use everything there is to utilize on the Arsenal," Smith said. "A lot of Reserve wives don't know what they can use or what they can do on the Arsenal. But my military background has helped me with that."

As a frequent visitor to Redstone Arsenal, she is looking forward to taking advantage of the special discounts and activities planned for Military Spouse Appreciation Day.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FAMILY MISSING A LINK— Reserve Capt. Michael Smith's family continues with their lives as their Soldier serves the nation in Iraq. His spouse, Yashica Smith, relies on Redstone Arsenal to provide services, programs and resources for her family, and is looking forward to Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Smith holds Monae while surrounded by her other children, from left, Miya, Michaela and Ben holding Jay.

ward to taking advantage of the special discounts and activities planned for Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Twenty-five years ago, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation officially recognizing Military Spouse Day. The commemoration is held the Friday before Mother's Day

every year to show appreciation for the sacrifices of military spouses. After almost a decade at war and multiple deployments, active, Reserve and National Guard spouses continue to unconditionally support America's Army.

See Mom on page 15



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

We got the beat

The Drum Line from Bob Jones High School performs April 27 at the Child Development Center as part of the Month of the Military Child. In addition to the performance, CDC kids were invited to try out the drums.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

PGA Free Fitting and Trade-Up Month

During PGA Free Fitting and Trade-Up Month, PGA professionals Jon Samuelson and Dave Atnip from the Links at Redstone will provide free 15-minute equipment fittings sessions to help golfers, regardless of skill level. The fittings will help golfers trade up to more distance by determining their proper fit. Players who get fit by a PGA professional can expect to potentially consistently drive the ball straighter and longer, hit all shots more accurately, have noticeably better distance control and save strokes with better short game execution. For more information, call 883-7977

Rumba Dance Classes

Register through May 13 for Intermediate Rumba Dance Classes at the Recreation Center. Call 876-4531 for info.

CYSS Little Tennis

For ages 3-10, Saturdays through May 23 at the

CYSS Tennis Courts on Goss Road. \$35 per child. Call 313-3699 for info.

50 Games of Bowling for 50¢ each

Through May 31 get your 50-50 cards at the Bowling Center for \$25. That is only 50 cents per game. Call 876-6634.

Summer Bowling Leagues

Summer Bowling Leagues are forming at the Redstone Bowling Center. Call 876-6634.

Mother's Day Brunch

May 10 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Treat mom to a wonderful brunch on her special day. Call 830-2582 for tickets.

Health Fair

May 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center. Free testing, goodies and more. Call 842-2574.

Sugarland concert

May 16 on Redstone Arsenal. Open to the public. Visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Flying house opens doors to public



Photo by Carolyn Peoples

FUTURE PILOTS—Two children have fun sitting atop an Army aircraft during the 2008 open house at the Aviation Technical Test Center. This year's event, set for May 14, will include more than a dozen aircraft and presentations. Lunch will be provided at cost, but reservations must be made by May 11.

Workers, families invited to center

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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One of Redstone Arsenal's newest and fastest growing organizations will open its doors to the Arsenal community next week with an event designed to impress and educate visitors interested in the Army's aviation programs.

Army helicopters – including the Apache, Black Hawk, Kiowa Warrior, Chinook and Huey – will be among about a dozen military aircraft on display at the second annual Aviation Technical Test Center open house from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 14 at Redstone Airfield.

“We had about 300 people at our event last year,” ATTC deputy commander Keith Darrow said. “Last year was the first

year ATTC had a large enough presence on Redstone Arsenal so that we could do an open house. We have grown here over the past year and hope even more people come to our second annual open house. We can accommodate up to 1,000 visitors.”

ATTC has gone from about 70 employees to more than 120 employees since May 2008, with the work force being a mix of Soldiers, civilians and contractors. When ATTC's new \$50 million test hangar and flight support facility opens in 2011, the organization will have more than 400 employees, up from the original employment figure of 323.

“Our workload has grown since the initial pre-BRAC survey in 2003,” Darrow said. “We are a customer-support business. We've had a workload increase so our work force has grown. Army aviation is a high demand combat multiplier in Iraq and Afghanistan. Improvements and

modifications are in high demand, and everyone requires some kind of development testing. That's where we come in.”

The May 14 event will include aircraft displays, facility tours and presentations on current and future test capabilities. In addition, a deli sandwich lunch is available for \$8 and can be ordered by calling 842-9520 before May 11.

ATTC's mission is to “support PEO-Aviation by providing them with flight test services,” Darrow said.

About 80 percent of ATTC's flight testing involves helicopters. Yet, airplanes also have a significant presence at ATTC's operations at the airfield.

“Airplane flight testing takes up quite a bit of our attention,” Darrow said. “And we use airplanes in support of helicopter testing. As our mission continues

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Fund-raisers under way

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- Barbecue, sponsored by PEO for Missiles and Space's Lower Tier Project Office, Thursday at the Sparkman Center.

- Yard sale, sponsored by AMC Readiness, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside building 5301.

- White elephant sale Thursday at SMDC/ARSTRAT.

- IMMC Maintenance Support Division will have a barbecue Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the building 5302 parking lot.

- Hot dog sale, sponsored by the Garrison, is May 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the building 4488 lobby.

- The Logistics Data Management and Maintenance Branch is sponsoring a golf tournament May 17 at the Redstone Links. The tournament, in Scramble format, has a shotgun start at 8 a.m. For more information, call David Newton 876-2585 or Robert Bray 876-5919.

- Hot wing/barbecue, sponsored by IMMC Depot Maintenance, is May 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside building 5302.

- CSD bake sale May 21 at building 5400, SELA lobby. Call 876-5197.

- The Acquisition Center is sponsoring lunch or dinner at Five Guys or Nothing But Noodles on May 21. A flyer is needed to participate. Call 842-4946.

■ Aviation test center reaches out to community

Aviation

continued from page 6

to grow here, there will be more occurrences of helicopters and airplanes in the air above Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville at multiple times of the day. ATTC operations over Huntsville and other local communities will continue to grow.”

ATTC's presence and growth at Redstone Arsenal necessitates the importance of an annual open house focused on different Redstone Arsenal audiences – non-aviation employees, aviation employees, retirees and families.

“At Fort Rucker and Enterprise (ATTC's pre-BRAC location), there are hundreds of aircraft flying in the skies every day. The majority of the people working there either fly aircraft or have flown aircraft,” Darrow said. “Our target audience is the Team Redstone community because there are many employees out here – both DoD and NASA – who don't deal with aviation on a daily basis.”

Another group of employees work in the aviation arena, but they don't have a job that allows them to actually work with aircraft.

“There are a lot of Army employees working in aircraft acquisition, sustainment or other areas with organizations like AMCOM, AMRDEC

and PEO-Aviation who rarely get a chance to see the aircraft. They have a high level of interest in seeing these systems up close,” Darrow said. “The open house gives them an opportunity to put their hands on a piece of equipment that they have spent their careers supporting. They can sit in it, walk around it, and talk to the pilot and flight crew.”

Employees can spend their lunch hour touring the facility, viewing the aircraft and eating lunch. For employees and families who can stay longer, two one-hour test capabilities presentations are set for 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in building 4815.

“The presentations will include a flight test video and information on what we've been doing during the past couple years to support Army aircraft deployed overseas,” Darrow said. “We will also provide information on our flight test support capabilities and test technology at Redstone Arsenal. We will talk about how we do data collection to substantiate air worthiness. And the last third of the presentation will provide information on our facilities plans and the investments already made to support our BRAC move to Redstone Arsenal.”

Among the helicopters on display will be the Medevac version of the Black Hawk and a Chinook mounted with the helicopter icing spray system used in artificial icing testing of air-

craft. Besides helicopters, military aircraft – including the Army's C-12 transport and reconnaissance airplane and the T-34 trainer airplane – will be on display.

“We are augmenting our normal fleet of aircraft with additional aircraft from Fort Rucker and other places,” Darrow said. “Our experimental test pilots who actually conduct development testing will answer questions about what we do in the test arena to support the guys in combat missions. Our flight test engineers will also be available to talk to guests. The work they do makes them the backbone of our efforts.”

ATTC employees hope the open house will educate the Arsenal community on all aspects of aviation testing. All details have been worked out to accommodate a large number of visitors. For instance, parking for the open house will be available in the parking lot adjacent to hangar 4832 at the southeast corner of the airfield. From there, visitors will be able to easily walk to the open house or they can take a shuttle bus that will be provided.

“It's important to us to make our aircraft available to the Redstone Arsenal community so that they can experience what we are doing here and they can talk to the flight crews that fly our aircraft over the community,” Darrow said. “This is our outreach to the community.”

Soldier mental health a priority at Fox

Behavioral Medicine reaches out with counseling, coping skills

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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The health of the Army relies on the abilities of its war fighters.

Soldiers who are sick, injured or incapacitated in any way cannot be at their best in executing the Army's mission to support and protect the cause of freedom and the interests of the United States around the world. A healthy Army means its war fighters are healthy in all ways – both physically and mentally.

It's the mental health of the war fighter that is the central focus of Fox Army Health Center's Behavioral Medicine Division. And that focus is becoming broader and deeper as more Soldiers visit BMD to seek help for problems associated with deployments, working in a high-risk environment and dealing with the stresses that can come with wearing the uniform.

"Our mission is to treat active duty. This is our foremost mission," said Karen Scott, a licensed professional counselor with BMD. "Because of deployments, we've really ramped up in the number of active duty patients that we see. For that reason, we don't have services for family members and retirees right now. We are focusing all our efforts on helping the active duty Soldier."

Toward that end, BMD is now located in a newly-renovated second floor area of Fox Army Health Center, where there are offices and meeting rooms for Soldiers who are counseled either individually or in a group. BMD offers psychiatric and counseling services, group therapy, family advocacy and sexual assault counseling, drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, smoking cessation programs, post-traumatic stress disorder counseling, and traumatic brain injury diagnosis and treatment. During national Mental Health Month in May, BMD is encouraging all Redstone Arsenal Soldiers to consider their mental health and to seek out help if they have symptoms of a mental health issue.

"Mostly right now we are seeing Soldiers coming back from deployments, and they have a variety of issues they are dealing with," Scott said. "They may have sleep issues, combat stress issues, drinking problems, memory loss, marital problems and all the other issues and problems that can



Photo by Kari Hawkins

COUNSELOR— Karen Scott, a licensed professional counselor, is one of several professionals on staff at Fox Army Health Center's Behavioral Medicine Division who provides counseling for Soldiers dealing with mental health problems related to deployments, to working in a high-risk environment and to the stresses that can come with wearing the Army uniform.

come with deployments. We want these Soldiers to come in and see us. We can help them get settled down pretty quickly if they only come see us."

Soldiers – both active duty and Reserve/National Guard — returning from a deployment are required by the Army to go through a 180-day assessment, during which they are regularly monitored and counseled in regard to mental health issues. All Soldiers must have a routine physical health assessment through Fox's Warrior Medicine Clinic. But Soldiers returning from deployment must have post-deployment assessments at 30 days, 90 days and 180 days.

"Oftentimes, we will get referrals from the Warrior Medicine Clinic. But Soldiers can also come by self-referral. Some will tell us their wife wants them to come in because they've changed. Some will come because their commander or first sergeant or co-worker referred them," Scott said.

"If Soldiers are having problems, they have 180 days after their return from a deployment to get the help they need. If they are injured in any way in the line of duty – either physically or mentally – then that care can continue beyond the 180 days."

All Soldiers, regardless of whether or not they have deployed, may seek treatment at Fox's BMD. Soldiers over-

whelmed by feelings of fear, guilt, shame, anger, depression and anxiety, or who suffer from mood swings, panic attacks, loss of spirituality and feelings of suicide should contact BMD.

"Even if they are worried about feeling these things, they should let someone know," Scott said. "Soldiers need to take care of themselves. They need to eat right, get plenty of exercise, avoid drugs and alcohol, and let someone know if they are having problems coping with their feelings."

When they first visit BMD, Soldiers undergo a behavioral health assessment.

"The Warrior Medicine Clinic addresses physical symptoms," Scott said. "What makes us unique is we work up front with the Soldier to establish a rapport that lasts all through counseling. Through our work with them, we want to help them understand why they are having trouble remembering things, sleeping, communicating with their spouse and reconnecting spiritually."

Soldiers who are willing to seek out mental health counseling often see the benefits right away, Scott said.

"If they come in to us, we work with them to get their symptoms under control and then we help them address their issues," Scott said. "We like to get their families involved in the counseling. We know how to help them if they let us."

Scott has been a counselor at Fox Army Health Center for more than 20 years. She has herself served in the Army in the mental health field, as have other professionals on staff. She has been active in counseling Soldiers throughout the past seven years of occupational contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The counseling Soldiers receive at Fox's BMD is inclusive.

"We look at the entire Soldier. We want a full perspective of what they are dealing with," Scott said. "We want to use all our services to help them get healthy."

"Even if we are seeing them for mental health issues, we also look at other things that could be going on with them. If they've had exposure to different chemicals or if they have hearing loss, we get them together with occupational health. If they are having mood swings, our psychiatrist can provide them with the medications to help."

The stigma often associated with mental health counseling is not as much of a barrier to treatment as it once was.

"We've seen a lot of changes since 1980," Scott said. "It used to be that officers at the lieutenant colonel and colonel

ranks didn't come in to see us. Now, it includes all ranks. Soldiers are coming in no matter what their rank and getting the help they need.

"They've accepted that if they've been deployed then, of course, they're going to have sleep problems and be all keyed up. And lack of sleep can cause irritability, memory loss and relationship problems. Soldiers are realizing that behavioral medicine is part of whole health, and if they are not sleeping well or if they are all stressed out, it will affect their physical health."

Current Army policy and the movement within society for people to be proactive about their health have also helped to overcome the stigma.

"The physical health assessments are really working in catching things. Soldiers are more educated and more aware. Commanders are insisting their Soldiers get the help they need," Scott said.

Soldiers are also realizing that "in combat they have to numb themselves to what is happening just to survive. But once they are out of the war zone, they need to reconnect with their feelings. And sometimes feelings of anger and anxiety and sadness can be overwhelming," Scott said. "The healthy thing to do is to get the help they need, not to ignore the problem."

Often, Soldiers don't want to talk to their spouses or other relatives about their experiences because they don't want to expose their loved ones to their personal trauma. BMD provides them with the "safe place" where they can share their feelings and work through their trauma without the worry of being judged or having to deal with another person's negative reaction.

"We are trained professionals who know how to deal with trauma and how to help the Soldier deal with trauma," Scott said.

BMD uses several techniques to help Soldiers regain their mental health.

"Sometimes it's just about normalizing things for them," Scott said. "It's about feeling normal, feeling better, feeling healthier and feeling safer. We urge Soldiers to come in and see us just one time and see what it's like."

"We know it's hard to come through our door. It's hard to get over the initial anxiety. We respect that and treat them with dignity. But once they do come here, they are usually glad and will refer others to us."

For more information on BMD and its services, call 955-8888, ext. 1032.

Identification card section keeps busy deck

Serves about 155 customers daily

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
 Staff writer
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In order to access Redstone, use a computer or shop at the Commissary, everyone must have proper identification. To get that, you have to visit the ID Card Section at the Military Personnel Office, building 3494.

The office does a high volume of business. Ronnie McDaniel, installation adjutant general and Military Personnel Office chief, estimates that 130-170 people are served by the office each day.

"For the month of March, we had 3,273 customers," he said. "That's 155 customers on average per day."

While everyone requesting a CAC is required to schedule an appointment, the office does accept walk-ins for other forms of identification, mostly retiree and dependent civilian identification cards. They are given a number and worked in the order that they arrive.

"They take a little less time to do than a CAC card, but often they have two or three dependents in a group," McDaniel said. "Lots of cards are being done."

Friday has the largest volume of traffic.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

SATISFIED CUSTOMER— Laura Buskirk thanks verifying official Donna Evans for processing her Common Access Card.

It is usually the day that sees the highest amount of retiree and dependent traffic. McDaniel said that the office is working hard to offset those issues. The num-

ber of CAC appointments available on Friday has been reduced to keep appointments from backing up.

"We have 75 appointments open Monday through Thursday," McDaniel said. "Friday we have about 56. We cut it down so that we can accommodate everyone."

On an average day, he estimated that

most people will only spend 30 minutes in the office from the time they sign in until they leave with their new CAC. The card process takes about 15 minutes, most of which is waiting for the computer processing of card information.

"The system is connecting from here out to California to validate the information in the system," McDaniel said. "The new CAC system that went into place in March 2008 has more requirements and more information."

Team Redstone has the ability to schedule CAC appointments up to 60 days before their card's expiration. That large window allows them to choose a day and time that works for them instead of making a last minute dash to the ID office.

"We prefer that you don't wait," McDaniel said.

He also asks that those coming to the office be patient. Appointment times in the office are similar to those at your doctor.

"Having an appointment means that we will take care of you on that day," he said. "You know that if you walk into a doctor's office with an appointment at 10 o'clock that they're not going to call you back right then. If we're not busy, we will. If we are busy, then we see you as close to your appointment time as possible."

The ID Card Section has six verifying officials working to process cards. It is open from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 842-2415 or 842-2416.

Army speeds testing of robotic systems

By **MIKE CAST**
 Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Army has traditionally acquired weapon systems through a process that can take several years, but the ongoing fight in Afghanistan and Iraq has shortened the time frame considerably.

Robotic systems that can save lives on the battlefield are getting into Soldiers' hands more rapidly than ever before, and the Army Developmental Test Command is transforming its business practices to support that effort.

James Johnson, DTC executive director, said test and evaluation to support rapid fielding of both manned and unmanned systems have been streamlined in recent years.

"In a traditional program, we would test in a hot, cold and tropical environment, and maybe do a lot of other environmental testing," he said. "For some of the rapid acquisition programs, we have left out testing in the cold, for instance, and left out the tropics. So we know fair-

ly well how systems are going to behave in Iraq or Afghanistan."

Developing test reports for acquisition program managers and Army evaluators also has become a speedier process. Instead of issuing a "pass/fail" report for many of the systems the Army needs, ATEC provides reports on their capabilities and limitations. The command also deploys testers to the theater of operations to help the Army Test and Evaluation Command assess how systems perform there, Johnson said.

"Because we are not getting to do as much testing as we would necessarily like on this end, we are sort of catching up to the equipment out in the field," he said. "We're seeing how the equipment is operating, and we're providing expert advice to the Soldiers who are operating that equipment. That is quite different."

Rapid acquisition is not the only issue DTC is working to address. Keeping costs down for test customers is a key objective of the command, Johnson said, noting that DTC is constantly tackling the challenge of reducing costs to customers.

Structural integrity program keeps Pave Hawks in air

By BRIGITTE RODRIGUEZ

Corpus Christi public affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — The first HH-60G Pave Hawk modified via the Structural Integrity Pilot Program rolled out of Corpus Christi Army Depot during a ceremony April 7.

The director of aircraft sustainment for U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces and Combat Search and Rescue, John Adams, was at the depot to accept the pro-

TOTYPE Structural Integrity Pilot Program Pave Hawk presented to the Air Force.

“These are special aircraft,” Wayne Duffy, CCAD Air Force liaison, said. “Their mission is combat search-and-rescue. They go in to rescue airmen and wounded Soldiers. If necessary, they can fight their way in and fight their way out.”

Because the future of the next Combat Search and Rescue project to replace the HH-60G fleet, CSAR-X, is awaiting results of the Quadrennial Defense

Review, this small fleet of 101 Pave Hawks will have to extend their service life and workload.

“There’s no longer a timeline for when we’ll actually replace the HH-60 and get a new platform so that’s why this SIP is all the more important,” Duffy said. “We’re going to have to extend the lifetime of this aircraft.”

SIP is designed to prolong the life of the aircraft through a structural upgrade that either replaces or modifies parts on

the airframe.

“Basically, we do 100 percent replacement or structure integrity of this aircraft to make it last another 10 years or so,” Daniel Prado, depot production manager, said.

Pave Hawks are highly modified versions of the Army Black Hawk helicopter. The in-flight refueling probe is a noticeable addition to the Pave Hawk. Not so apparent is the upgraded communications and navigation suite.

Can-do approach puts weapon on Kiowa Warrior

Avenger

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ability to penetrate lightly armored vehicles and an effective range of 1,500 meters, quickly became the most viable option for the Kiowa helicopter and the MOPP Shop took the lead on integrating it to the Kiowa helicopter system.

“When you get an Operational Needs Statement from a commander in theater it goes on a fast track,” McCauley said. “It means we have a deficiency need that has to be filled quickly. This ONS said the machine gun on the Kiowa helicopter was inadequate and unreliable, and that an alternative was needed. The old gun was so unreliable that it became known as a ‘one-shot wonder’ and totally unsuitable for the Kiowa’s scout mission. The ONS went directly to the Pentagon.”

At the time the M3P was being considered for a solution for the Kiowa, the Army’s decision to reduce the total number of fielded Avenger air defense systems made it an available alternative.

“The Avenger system was being phased out because there is no current air threat,” McCauley said. “They were being turned in and some 800 guns were being taken off and put in storage.

“The guns were in various stages of readiness. But they were also government-owned. Instead of developing something new, we decided to take a proven system and adapt it and save money.”

Once the machine gun was chosen, it needed a mounting system (platform) that would attach it to the Kiowa helicopter. The MOPP Shop competed with two military contractors in developing a mounting system.

“As work on a firing platform progressed, it became apparent to us that we weren’t so sure that the military contractors would have the platform that was needed for the job,” said Gary Henry, chief of the MOPP Shop’s Sustainment Support Division, Integrated Materiel Management Center.

“Through a combined effort, we came up with a platform to mount the gun on the Kiowa’s universal weapons pylon. Our platform design is solely based on the talents of the guys in our machine shop. Without that platform, our gun would not have been selected.”

The Kiowa’s M3P system uses the existing Kiowa Warrior ammo can, the Avenger feed chute and a simple, lightweight mount designed by the MOPP shop. The new mount attaches the M3P directly to the Universal Weapons Pylon (UWP) and eliminates a cumbersome gun cage assembly.

Test data from fielding with the

7/17th showed that the MOPP Shop’s mount and gun system was durable, reduced the noise level by 48 percent and dropped the weight of the system by 65 pounds.

“The loss of weight was a big plus because it means you can put more gas or more ammunition in the helicopter,” Bill Cannon of the MOPP Shop said.

“Every pound saved reduced the cost by \$20,000 per pound over the life of the helicopter,” added Ron Bridges of the MOPP Shop. “We increased reliability in combat with rebuilt guns from the Avenger.”

In addition, the gun is positioned higher up, more forward and further out than the older system, reducing blast pressure effects on the helicopter fuselage and resulting in less noticeable noise for the pilot. It is also easier to remove from the pylon, making it more accessible for loading, maintaining and troubleshooting.

To ensure the guns performed flawlessly in theater, Staff Sgt. Jim Journigan and Joe Lane from the Kiowa Warrior Product Office led teams of subject matter experts to deliver, install and train personnel on the operation of the new weapons on site at each location in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Transportation in a combat zone is not routine. The fielding teams had a significant challenge delivering this equipment to multiple remote locations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We relied heavily on their resourcefulness to

make mission, and they did not disappoint,” McCauley said.

So far, 130 M3P machine guns have been fielded in theater. A total of 380 guns will be fielded to supply the entire fleet of Kiowa helicopters. Plans are also going forward to supply a Tennessee National Guard unit with the new gun system.

Since mid-January, 30 M3P guns used on Kiowa helicopters in theater have fired more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

“The report from theater is there are no gun problems now with Kiowa helicopters that have the M3P,” Bridges said. “Pilots come back raving how accurate it is and how dependable it is.”

Cannon, Dennis Bayless and Ricky Davis, all from the MOPP Shop, have also traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to provide training on the M3P machine gun to both maintenance personnel and pilots.

“We had to make sure the pilots knew what to expect because the rate of fire is so much higher with the M3P,” Cannon said. “The old machine gun had a rate of fire of 700 rounds per minute. The M3P has a rate of fire of 1,025 to 1,100. That’s 18 rounds per second.”

The machine gun is now so popular that PEO for Aviation is facing a new problem – adding an uptempo to the gun’s maintenance requirements.

“There is a new demand on parts and maintenance for these guns that we have to support,”

McCauley said.

“We are reusing mechanical parts from the Avenger systems. But we also have to establish a source for future parts. The Cruise Missile Defense System office is working on a long-term source for parts and repairs. Logistical support for the system has grown and now there is a need for the logistical tail to make this program successful for the long term.”

McCauley said the teamwork from all the Army organizations involved with the Kiowa Warrior machine gun solution resulted in getting a more effective weapon system into the hands of Kiowa helicopter pilots in record time.

“We were able to work quickly on getting the new gun system fielded because of the close proximity of Fort Campbell, Redstone Arsenal and Fort Rucker. That proximity allowed increased face-to-face coordination and provided increased ability to adapt to the inevitable integration issues,” McCauley said. “Fred Alcorn from the Kiowa Warrior Product Office and the team from the MOPP Shop worked on site at Fort Rucker’s Molinelli Range to smoothly execute flight testing.

“But even more important was that the co-location of the Kiowa Warrior Product Office with Redstone Arsenal’s design, test and air worthiness organizations significantly enhanced coordination and support of the war fighter in theater.”

Project manager learns value of hard work from his mom

One of 16 children in military family

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Center public affairs

One Huntsville Center project manager attributes his success to his mother's work ethic.

Jeff Fagan is a project manager in the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Facilities Repair and Renewal Division. Prior to coming to the Center, Fagan was a civilian architect at Mobile District. He also retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force after serving more than 24 years.

Fagan has a captivating and moving story. Not so much because his family has been the focus of numerous articles featured in *Parenting*, *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, and receiving a spotlight in the *Air Force's Airmen* magazine or the *Birmingham News*. It is not because in 1997, the family was placed in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the most children to graduate college — 15 to be exact!

The size of Fagan's family wasn't due to a blended family situation. Fagan said it was a true blessing to be the 10th of Dan and Helen Fagan's 16 children. The children, now ranging in age from 40 to 64, all grew up in a small four-bedroom house in Bessemer. Fagan said his mother has always been the driving force behind his determination to succeed.

"My mom was always one of my biggest supporters. Through her strong support, the thought that a young black man growing up in a poor environment could not succeed never entered my mind," Fagan said. "The stereotypical opinion of many during that time would not be the life I was destined to live."

Fagan said his mom followed a self-taught philosophy that he calls the "Fagan Formula to Success." He said his mom believed that success must be ingrained in a person's mind when they are young. She used this value system for successes as a safeguard to protect her family and herself.

"My mom would say to me, 'the key to success is education, hard work and a desire to reach your goal.' I never forgot her words or the profound difference it made in my life," Fagan said. "My mom's motto is that you don't have to be the 'smartest,' but you must be willing to work hard for whatever you want."

Fagan said he used his mom's wisdom throughout his life. The work ethic passed on to him and his siblings by his mom helped them to succeed in college, the military and in his current role at the Center.



Courtesy photo

GOAL SETTERS— "My mom would say to me, 'the key to success is education, hard work and a desire to reach your goal,'" says Jeff Fagan, a project manager at Huntsville Engineering and Support Center. With him is his mother, Helen.

Fagan manages several projects on his team, and says he uses the wisdom of his mom to do so.

"Jeff takes this internal drive he indicates he picked up from his mom to help his team," Allen Shelvin, FRR division chief, said. "He is certainly a valued member of the FRR program. In a short time, he has picked up numerous Army and Air Force projects totaling approximately \$20 million. Just recently, he volunteered to be the project manager for some new projects related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These projects will be very important for our program."

Fagan said his mom is also a very patriotic woman, supporting the troops who serve the U.S. in the armed services at every possible opportunity. She encouraged her children to consider joining the military.

"Mom took the military service seriously. She felt we had a duty to serve our country, give back to society," he said. "She knew the military held many opportunities for young men and women, and encouraged us to join the military and give back to society."

Fagan and eight of his siblings took her advice seriously, and joined the military. After graduating from Tuskegee University, Fagan joined the Air Force; and four of his siblings served in the Air Force, two in the Army, and two in the Army Reserves. Altogether, the siblings have served 155 years military service.

"Although not all of my siblings served in the military, they all excelled in their chosen fields. They've pursued some pretty interesting careers, too," Fagan said. "They have entered the fields of criminal

Alice Myles relates challenges of military family life

Spouses

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meant to be. Jim fell in love with Army aviation. He fell in love with being a Soldier and leading Soldiers. I felt the same way. You know what they say – ‘Recruit a Soldier, enlist a family.’”

Their plan from the get-go was for Jim Myles to remain a Soldier “as long as it was fun,” she said. And, as the couple went from assignment to assignment, there was always a new challenge that kept Jim Myles happy to wear the uniform.

“It didn’t matter. Whatever he wanted to do, I was there with him. We went with the flow of it all. We’ve been very blessed,” Myles said.

But the years as a military spouse did lead to changes in the way Myles viewed her life, her family and herself. Through 21 moves, countless assignments and deployment separations, and sacrifices to the mission, Myles said the key to the success of her marriage and her role as a military spouse has been keeping the focus on the healthy relationship that she shares with her husband.

“It’s not about where you live, but who you live with. No matter what, a marriage

has to be about each other. The focus has to be on the couple. Everything comes from that,” she said.

“Military spouses serve with their Soldier. Spouses have to be in the same state of mind as their Soldier. You serve together. It’s not just about the Soldier, even though he wears the uniform.”

There has never been a time during their service when Myles has regretted her husband’s commitment to the Army and the nation. Yet, there have been plenty of trying times, times when Myles had to dig down deep for the fortitude to live the life of an Army spouse.

One time, when Jim Myles was deployed for 13 months, his wife was particularly challenged with the circumstances.

“Our son (Jim, now 32 and living with his wife and their two children in Georgia) was 9 or 10 at the time. His dad being gone left a big gaping hole in his life. And then his dog passed away,” Myles recalled. “It was the same kind of challenge that all military families face. Your Soldier’s gone, and things happen and you have to deal with it.”

Another time, when the family was stationed in Panama and Jim Myles deployed to Guyana, Myles spent many days and nights worried about her husband.

“He was told ‘Pack your bags and

you’re out of here.’ I didn’t know where he was going. There was no contact,” Myles recalled. “I didn’t know if he was safe. There were several deployments like that.”

Through many moves, Myles, who is basically a shy person, has learned how to become part of the community wherever she happens to be living.

“Life in the Army has been a tremendous opportunity,” she said. “I call myself a community volunteer. Wherever we go, I jump into the community and do what I can. Wherever we are, that’s our community.”

Myles has seen the Army change in its attitude toward military spouses and military families. Today, there is more communication with spouses, and more attention given to spouse and family needs. There are more Army programs aimed at providing spouses with support and resources. The Army Family Action Program has implemented hundreds of changes that have benefited spouses and families. The Internet, web cams and instant messaging all make it easier for spouses when their Soldier is deployed.

The Army has learned what every spouse knows – as long as they feel connected to their Soldier’s unit and they know their Soldier is safe and OK, then they can more easily handle the demands of managing a household and a family on their own.

“It is better than it used to be. But being

separated is never easy,” Myles said. “If you feel connected to the unit and there is communication, that makes it better. If you know your Soldier is OK, then you can go about the business of taking care of life.”

She has also seen Americans show a deeper appreciation for servicemembers and their families. But even though the Army and Americans are better at supporting and appreciating spouses and families, Myles is concerned about the loss of Soldiers who leave the Army because of deployments that take them away from home too often and too long.

“We’re losing a lot of middle leadership level Soldiers because of the deployments,” Myles said. “There is a tremendous strain on families who have to endure multiple deployments. It’s hard on families who have a sense that they’ve done their time and they want their Soldier at home.”

And yet, Myles feels any struggles are offset by the benefits of being a military spouse.

“Every generation has its challenges. It’s not an easy life,” she said. “But it’s always been interesting. It’s never been boring. My husband and I are in this together. There’s a sense of commitment to something bigger than ourselves. Like other military families, we are not in this for anything but service to others. It’s a life of sacrifice.”

Financial fitness classes on ledger

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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In the best of economic times, personal finances are tricky. With the current state of the economy, they can seem impossible to manage. Army Community Service is offering free classes to the Redstone commu-

nity to promote fiscal fitness. The Financial Matters workshop returned to Redstone last month. The second installment is May 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ACS. The topic of the day will be retirement planning, a subject heavy on many people's minds these days. "We do six months of classes with one workshop each month," Kathleen Riester, ACS program

manager, said. "You don't have to come to all of them. You can just come to the ones you're interested in." ACS is partnering with Regions Bank for the workshop series. Light refreshments will be provided. The workshops are free to the Redstone community. Participation is open to anyone with installation access, allowing civilians

and contractors to benefit as well. Future workshops are scheduled for estate planning on June 9 and Stock Market & Investments on July 14. Riester said community interests determine workshop subjects. "We are looking for feedback from the community for future topics," she said. In order to participate, regis-

tration is required through www.redstonemwr.com. You can choose which of the scheduled classes you wish to attend. "Seating is limited, so we need everyone to register," Riester said. "We don't want to have to turn anyone away." For more information, call 876-5397 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

■ Smith family dealing with their Soldier's deployment

Mom

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In 2007, the Army, through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, instituted the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant, to recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices Army families make every day and to acknowledge that the strength of Soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

Today's Army spouses are community leaders, careerists, mothers, fathers and Soldiers. According to Army statistics, about 59 percent of enlisted spouses and 28 percent of officer spouses are under age 31. About 56.3 percent of Soldiers are married with 8.7 percent of Soldiers married to another servicemember.

Smith appreciates the support she receives from the Army. She is also appreciative of the neighbors who often come to her family's aid, especially Army retiree John Smith who has taught her son Ben

how to use a weedeater and has offered to give him driving lessons.

Smith also relies on the support of her church, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Her faith keeps her strong.

"I do a lot of praying," she said. "I thank God for my neighbors, for my church family and even for the strangers who don't know me but who want to help.

"I'm proud to be the wife of an American Soldier. We are a fortunate family that has a lot of support."

Smith was born and raised at Fort Rucker. Her husband was also raised in the military. The couple were high school sweethearts. She has lived the changes that the Army has made in support of spouses and families.

"To me, the Army is giving military spouses and their families a lot more support today than they did when my mom was an Army wife," Smith said.

But that support can't erase all the challenges Smith must face while her husband is deployed.

"Michael was really our rock when he was home. He would get the kids to all their activities," said Smith, referring to

their older children's sports and church programs.

"With him gone, I'm just so busy there just isn't any stopping moments in my day. It's hard. But I don't want to burden Michael with that. When your spouse is so far away in Iraq, you just don't want to complain to him about things. You want to be upbeat."

On the plus side, the busyness of family life keeps Smith from spending too much time contemplating her husband's deployment and the risk involved in serving in Iraq.

"If I didn't have the children, I'd be a wreck," she said. "I'd always be worrying and my hair would fall out."

The family communicates with their Soldier daily by Internet and instant messaging. Each has their own way of coping with their Soldier's deployment. While mom stays busy with managing the household and the two youngest children, Ben deals with dad's absence by playing basketball, Miya spends time alone in her room and Michaela concentrates on improving her gymnastics skills.

"They've learned how much they miss their dad," Smith said. "You don't miss

your water until your well runs dry. Sometimes we take things for granted. The children see how much harder it is for us to stay organized and to do things when he's not here. He's the missing link of this family. They've learned to help out. They'll tell me 'I got your back, mom.'"

The family does escape from the loneliness of missing their Soldier by taking short trips away from home to see an attraction or to visit relatives and friends in Enterprise.

Smith has also learned to accept help where it is offered.

"So many people want to reach out and help," she said. "We need to use that support. If someone tells me they will help, I will take them up on it. Now, I do ask and I do expect. I've learned it's OK to ask people for help."

Smith said it is important to stay connected to other military spouses, even if it means joining a military spouse support group online.

"You need to find somebody else to connect with who will keep you on the right path and who understands what you are going through," she said.

Tears of loss and thanks follow vets on Honor Flight

Trip honors both living and deceased of WW II

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The tears still flow easily when Judy Loncaric talks about her parents and their symbolic trip with the Honor Flight program on April 25.

The trip was symbolic because both of Loncaric's parents have died, her father in 1984 and her mother this past August in St. Louis. They were represented on the trip to the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., by their burial flags. Their flags were among 18 that were flown to the nation's capitol on F-16s and then presented during an Honor Flight ceremony at the memorial.

The tears Loncaric sheds are both in sorrow and gratitude. She mourns the loss of her parents while, at the same time, she is



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HONOR FLIGHT FLAGS— Judy Loncaric is proud that the burial flags of her parents, both World War II veterans, were able to fly together on the April 25 Honor Flight trip to the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. The flags were part of a ceremony at the memorial.

thankful for the World War II veterans who still proudly stand firm for their country and for the many volunteers from north Alaba-

ma and the D.C. area who make the Honor Flight trips possible.

"It was nice to finally recognize the veterans who sacrificed so much to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others around the world," said Loncaric, who participated in a ceremony April 24 in which the burial flags were presented to the F-16 fighter pilots and then again in an April 26 ceremony when the flags were returned to her.

"We saw a few of the World War II veterans at the Friday ceremony. They stood so proud."

Loncaric, who works for Lead AMC Integration Support Center, first learned about Honor Flight through a *Redstone Rocket* article. She later learned about the burial flag program at a Huntsville Symphony Orchestra fund-raiser for Honor Flight.

"It was a privilege to participate in the honor flag ceremony on behalf of my parents who served our country," she said. "There was great pride and satis-

faction Friday night and Sunday morning for all those who attended as we recognized the accomplishments of many World War II veterans."

Loncaric's father, Robert O'Neill Lowery, was a Tech 5 in the Army, serving in both the European and North African theaters from 1941-45. Her mother, Army Air Force Cpl. Agnes Marie Lowery, served in the American theater from 1943-45.

"They met during the war. They got married in the service," Loncaric said. "But they never really talked about the war. When you start reading about the battles and what they went through you truly understand why they didn't want to go back to those memories. When they came back from war, they had to look forward to a better life."

The 18 burial flags were honored in a ceremony at the WW II memorial by the 125 veterans

Flight

continued from page 16

and the guardians and other volunteers who made the April 25 Honor Flight.

"It was a wonderful day. We did, though, have to deal with unseasonably warm weather," Honor Flight organizer Joe Fitzgerald said. "The veterans all had a great time. It was the time of their lives. We had a lot of older veterans on this flight, including the oldest at 94. We also had several in bad health. Two were terminally ill with one only having two weeks to live and the other only six weeks to live."

The old age and frailty of WW II veterans is the reason why organizers are anxious to get them on an Honor Flight to see their memorial, which was opened to the public 60 years after WW II. The April 25 flight was the seventh Honor Flight since the program started in 2007. So far, 754 veterans have participated in the program.

Two more Honor Flights are planned for the fall. The September flight is nearly paid for, but, at a cost of \$100,000 per flight, organizers are still trying to raise funds for the October flight.

Considering the health conditions of most WW II veterans, 80-year-old Bruce Wilson of Sheffield was in pretty good shape for Honor Flight.

"I was the baby of the trip," he joked.

"But I was in good company because we had the oldest on the flight."

Wilson volunteered to serve when he was 16. He served with the Army during the occupation of Japan from 1945-48.

Wilson attended the burial flag ceremonies before and after the Honor Flight trip, and participated in the flag ceremony at the memorial. His wife, Joann, and her son were also there for the Huntsville flag ceremonies. All three honored Joann Wilson's first husband – WW II veteran Marine Cpl. Charles Fraser who died in 2007 – whose burial flag was part of the ceremonies.

"That was the greatest honor for me as far as I'm concerned. My wife asked me to participate in the programs," Wilson said. "At the Marine memorial, I was asked to render the prayer. That was an honor that you don't ever forget."

While Wilson was the youngest on the flight, John "Red" Hall of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was the oldest at 94.

"I couldn't tell a bit of difference between my age and the age of the other veterans," Hall said. "There was some up in their 80s."

Hall was drafted in the Army and served in Burma, China and India.

"I was proud to be where I could serve," he said. "We were mostly in danger all the time. We didn't know what was ahead of us."

Both Wilson and Hall complimented the Honor Flight volunteers for a "wonderful" and "fantastic" trip. Their appreci-



Photo by Mike Mercier

HEARTFELT RETURN— World War II veteran George Wiseheart receives a handshake from a well-wisher upon the return of Honor Flight on April 25. Wiseheart was among 125 WW II veterans who made the flight to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II memorial.

ation was also felt by their families and caretakers.

"He was excited and tired when he came back. All of them were," said Rachel Adcock, who is Hall's caretaker. "The whole idea of Honor Flight is unbelievable. It's unreal that people have volunteered and taken on this responsibility. It was planned from top to bottom and all the veterans were well taken care of. I knew he'd be safe, that he'd be well taken care of. All he's talked about since he's been back is the WW II memorial and the other memorials he saw."

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justice, education and business, to name a few — my mom is proud of all of them."

Fagan said his mom still supports the military, even though most of her children are retired now. Each year she holds a special Veterans Day program, honoring veterans from the local community. She spends an entire year preparing a big program. She has the kids from the school sing patriotic songs; students from local ROTC programs participate as well. It has become a good tradition within the community, and gets media coverage.

Fagan said he and his siblings have often encouraged their mom to retire — for good. However, Helen Fagan insists that continuing to work is good for her. Fagan said he is now working on a second retirement, the first one being from the military service. He plans to continue working for a very long time, and attributes this longevity in the work force to his mom's example.

"In reflection, my wife and son have added tremendous value to my life, and both are very instrumental in helping me to reach my goals. However, it is my mom who taught me the importance of hard work," Fagan said. "She doesn't know the meaning of the word 'stop' when it comes to work. The strong work ethic established by my mom has been the foundation for my successes in life, and I owe them all to her."

Garrison intern returns to Army service

Retired Soldier starting over

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Garrison intern William Howard is new to the intern program, but not the Army. In fact, he feels right at home. He is working his first rotation with the transportation section of the Directorate of Logistics.

"I joined the Army when I was 18," he said. "After four years I went into the Guard to do my Reserve time. I missed it so much I went back to active duty and stayed in for another 20 years."

Howard spent the majority of his military life in missile maintenance. He passed through Redstone a few times for training, but fell in love with the area while stationed here in the mid-1990s.

"I bought a house here then," he said laughing. "Of course, as soon as I bought the house I left on orders."

He returned after retirement, working as a contractor in Black Hawk sustainment for about four years. He had begun college while in the Army, but had been unable to complete his degree due to deployments and field duty. As a contractor, he had the time to complete a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College on Redstone.

Garrison interns

Part 9 of series

While being a contractor on post put him back in proximity with the military, Howard still wanted to make the transition to the permanency of government service.

"I wanted that security, that stability," he said.

He also wanted to be specifically at Redstone. In fact, he turned down another job at Anniston Army Depot to take a spot



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

NEW CAREER— William Howard is settling in to Garrison intern life in the Directorate of Logistics.

in the Garrison Intern Program.

"I didn't want that commute," he said. "Here, there are so many opportunities."

Adjusting to being one of the new kids on the block has been a challenge.

"It feels very weird being a 'new' anything," Howard quipped. "I'm a grandfather. It's difficult to feel like you're starting over at this point in your life. But it's good to be learning the new things going on and getting back up to speed on others."

Howard has four grown sons, two of whom are deployed in the Middle East — one as a contractor and the other as a Soldier. He is also proud of his seven grandchildren.

He spends his free time at church and with his wife, Velma. He is restoring two classic cars and enjoys fishing on his boat.

"Fishing is a relaxing thing for me now," he said. "I used to be into bass fishing and things like that. Now I just like to get out in my boat and go."

PX opens doors to local vendors

While the economy may have forced some retailers to scale back on merchandise or services, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is actively seeking the assistance of local businesses to increase the product selection troops and their families find at the Post Exchange.

"Some shoppers drive up to 40 miles or more to come to the exchange," PX general manager Carl Carpenter said. "The addition of local, small, minority, women- and veteran-owned businesses can help provide the diversity, value and innovation to further enhance their shopping experience."

Partner businesses, called concessions, operate in AAFES-provided space, primarily in the retail mall area. Benefits include contracts based on a percentage of revenue, a variety of space and merchandising setups and the convenience of

being located with the anchor retail store and food outlets. AAFES will also assist in marketing and promoting partner businesses to help maximize awareness on and around Redstone Arsenal.

"Despite the current economic condition, exchange shoppers continue to demonstrate a strong demand for new and unique merchandise," Carpenter said. "Partnering with AAFES provides local businesses exposure to a great deal of foot traffic as well as the opportunity to serve military families who are protecting our freedom."

For more information on how to partner with AAFES as a concessionaire, call PX service business manager Ann Mims at 883-6100 or visit http://www.aafes.com/pa/selling/NTB_Page.htm. (PX release)

National Guard softball team keeps rolling

Two-time defending champs beat Bravo in showdown

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The action was intense on the field. There was smack talk from fans on both sides, but all in good fun.

The defending champion

National Guard faced runner-up Bravo Company in an early season softball showdown Thursday night at Linton Field.

"The umpires did a real good job keeping it under control," National Guard pitcher Joe Cox said.

And the National Guard won 14-10 to improve to 5-0. The Bulldogs fell to 2-1.

"Our pitching was awful tonight. I walked several players.

I was struggling, couldn't hit the corners. But my defense behind me was awesome," Cox said.

Left fielder Jeremy Thompson and left center Anthony Rusnak led the National Guard defensively. Leaders at the plate included Jonathon Boyd, who went 3-for-4 with an inside-the-park home run, a double and two RBIs. Fred

Allen had a triple, double and three RBIs. Cox had an inside-the-park home run, triple and three RBIs.

"Bravo hit very well," Cox said. "But overall our defense won that game for us."

In Thursday's other games, the Marines edged Headquarters & Alpha 5-4 and HHC 59th outslugged NCO Academy 12-9.

On April 28, the National Guard beat HHC 59th 18-7, Marines defeated NCO Academy 13-10 and the Civilian Welfare Fund dropped Headquarters & Alpha 16-6.

On April 27, Bravo beat Headquarters & Alpha 20-4, Civilian Welfare Fund defeated the Marines 24-4 and HHC 59th outslugged Charlie 22-17.



Photo by Dana Cox

ON ATTACK— National Guard player/coach Rodney Henshaw bats against Bravo Company in Thursday night's win.

Stars honor military on Mondays

The Huntsville Stars baseball team, in conjunction with NetwoRx of Huntsville, is honoring all military and DoD employees and their families this season at Monday home games.

On Military Mondays, the Stars will offer \$1 admission to all fans presenting a military ID card at the box office at Joe Davis Stadium. The offer is available to all active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retirees, family members, civil servants, government contractors and their guests.

Servicemembers will be honored before all Military Monday home games with re-enlist-

ment, awards, promotion or swearing-in ceremonies. Military units can also participate in Color Guard and national anthem performances. Interested units should call 882-2562 to make arrangements for ceremony participation.

The Stars, the AA affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers, play their home games at Joe Davis. The Military Mondays include May 11 at 7 p.m.; May 25 (Memorial Day) at 1 p.m.; June 1 at 7 p.m.; June 15 at 1 p.m.; June 22 at 7 p.m.; July 6 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 17 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.; and Sept. 7 (Labor Day/last game of season) at 1 p.m.

Check out this event to learn your actual health

Annual health fair
scheduled May 12

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
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Health isn't always something you can see on the outside. Factors such as cholesterol, blood sugar level and bone density can have a bigger impact on a person's actual health than what the eyes can pick up from just looking at someone. Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation will hold a free health fair for the Redstone community next week.

"We do it every year in May," Gaylene Wilson, FMWR sports and fitness director, said. "May is health month."

The annual event is May 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705, located just off Aerobee Road. It offers free screenings for cholesterol levels, blood glucose, bone density and blood pressure. Each test only takes a few minutes.

"All testing is free," Wilson said. "Anyone who can access Redstone is welcome."

In addition to the screenings offered, vendors from the outside community will be on hand to provide health and fitness information and products.

"We have local hospitals, clinics, doctors, chiropractors and safety experts," Wilson said. "It's all community, health and fitness related. You can get lots of information."

Door prizes will be given out by both event organizers and vendors throughout the event.

"They will give out products and certificates for their services," Wilson said.

Even those who think they are healthy are encouraged to attend. Wilson said people could be surprised by the results.

"Each year we find that there are people who learn they may have high blood pressure, high cholesterol or high blood sugar," she said. "A lot of the times they are not even aware of it."

A simple, free screening can tell attendees that they may need to see their doc-



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

SPREAD THE WORD— Sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson shows a sign for the health fair slated May 12 at Redstone Fitness Center.

tor for further testing and treatment.

"The screenings give people a baseline. We then encourage them to go see their doctor," Wilson said. "They may have a problem that they were unaware of. Maybe they need medication. It's important."

The free testing can also save people money while educating them about potential health issues. Bone density testing becomes increasingly important as people age.

"It's a great opportunity to come out and get the testing at no charge," Wilson said.

The event is always popular. Last year saw 200 attendees. Because testing takes a few minutes to complete, Wilson encourages attendees to be patient and time their visits well.

"The cholesterol lines get busy. If you want to get your cholesterol checked, I recommend coming early," she said.

Blood donations recruited to help the military

The Armed Serves Blood Program will hold a blood drive Friday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center.

The Armed Services Blood Program is a Department of Defense program that enables military members and their families to show support for one another in a concrete, meaningful way. Giving blood to the ASBP allows you to be there for friends, neighbors and comrades-in-arms when they need you most. Giving blood to the ASBP allows you to help save the lives of Soldiers.

Though there are civilian agencies that also collect and process blood, the ASBP

is the only one operated by the military to meet military needs. Those who donate blood through the ASBP directly support their friends in need at military medical treatment facilities at home and troops deployed worldwide.

Donors from all services, government employees, retirees and military family members are eligible to help others in the military community by donating blood through the ASBP. For more information on eligibility, call Rick Lumzy at 706-544-9427 or visit the ASBP website at www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Osteoporosis disease deemed bad to the bone

May is National Osteoporosis Prevention Month. Every 20 seconds, another American breaks a bone as a result of osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a debilitating disease in which bones become fragile and are more likely to break. It has been called the "silent disease" because there are often no symptoms until the fracture occurs. In most cases, osteoporosis can be prevented and treated.

Osteoporosis leads to 1.5 million fractures every year in the United States. Low bone density can be identified, and preventative steps can be taken before osteoporosis and fractures occur.

According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, osteoporosis and low bone mass are estimated to be a major public health threat for almost 44 million U.S. women and men age 50 and older. That figure represents over 55 percent of the people age 50 and over in the U.S. One out of every two women and 20 percent of men over 50 will have an osteoporosis related fracture in their lifetime. Each year, 80,000 men have a hip fracture and one-third of these men die within a year.

Some of the risk factors include: small body stature, advancing age, family history of osteoporosis, early menopause, eating disorders, low calcium intake, lack of exercise, cigarette smoking, alcohol abuse, and long-term use of corticosteroids (drugs for conditions like asthma and arthritis).

Tami Centeno, Community Health Nurse (CHN) at Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine, said people can lower their risk factors.

"Probably the most important things you can do are eat foods high in calcium and Vitamin D, get plenty of exercise, be tobacco free and limit alcohol use to no more than one alcoholic beverage per day for women and no more than two for men," she said. "Building and maintaining strong bones are an integral part of lifelong health and independence."

Facts and figures about osteoporosis include the following:

- While people over 50 get osteoporosis most often, it is important to start preventing it when you are young. We begin losing bone mass at age 35 and it accelerates as we get older.

- The national cost of treating fractures is estimated at over \$13 billion each year.

Osteoporosis doesn't have to be a major public health threat. Early detection is easy. Preventive Medicine at Fox advises everyone to ask their doctor or health care professional if they should have a bone density scan to detect loss of bone mass. The scan is safe, quick and painless. Several treatment options are now available to treat osteoporosis. Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine will be conducting free bone density screenings at the FMWR Health Fair on May 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center.

For more information on osteoporosis, call Centeno at 955.8888, ext. 1444 or go to the National Osteoporosis Foundation's website at www.nof.org. (Fox Army Health Center release)

Officials stress precaution, not alarm for flu outbreak

H1N1 flu is a respiratory disease caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get H1N1 flu, but human infections can and do happen. H1N1 flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

In late March and early April, cases of human infection with H1N1 flu viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio. Other states have reported cases of H1N1 flu infection in humans and cases have been reported internationally as well. CDC and local and state health agencies are working together to investigate this situation.

Federal, state and local health departments and Redstone Arsenal are paying close attention to H1N1 flu trends and are confident that protocols and treatments will be effective in treating it, just as they are in treating normal seasonal flu. Local facilities' preparations include coordinating additional support as needed.

"It's important for you all to understand that there is no cause for panic or alarm," Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, Army surgeon general, wrote in his blog.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

IMPORTANT PRACTICE— Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 15-20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. Try to stay in good general health. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food. Try not to touch surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.

"Antiviral drugs are available in the event you become ill; and there are preventive measures you can take to stay healthy."

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

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.

Walkathon

Walk4Hearing, sponsored by the Huntsville Delta Zeta Alumna and the Hearing Loss Association of America, will be held May 16 at the Bridge Street Town Centre, Huntsville Hospital Walking Trail. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the walk at 10. Goals are to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds to provide information and support for people with hearing loss. For more information, go to <http://hlaa.convio.net> and click on Huntsville.

Free football camp

The fifth annual Walter Jones Football Camp is June 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jones Estate, 2699 Jeff Road in Harvest. Walter Jones, an offensive tackle with the Seattle Seahawks, has recruited coaches and players for this free football camp who have exhibited the experience,

leadership, enthusiasm and ability to teach football. Registration for the camp is May 16 at Dicks Sporting Goods, 6275 University Drive. Parents must accompany their child for registration. Enrollment is limited to 200 players age 8-13 and 200 players 14-18. Walk-ons on the day of the camp will be limited to 20 per age group.

Golf tournament

The John Stallworth Foundation golf tournament is June 19 at Hampton Cove Golf Course. Four man scramble format. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and the tournament at 8. Team registration deadline is June 12. For more information, call Freeda McDowell 536-8050.

Softball fund-raiser

A poker run, presented by North Alabama Explosion Fastpitch Association, will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Athens National Guard Armory. Grand prize is \$500. For more information, call Cheston Powers 874-2805.

Golf benefit

The Logistics Data Management and Maintenance Branch is sponsoring a golf tournament May 17 at the Redstone Links to benefit Army Emergency Relief. The tournament, in scramble format, has a shotgun start at 8 a.m. For more information, call David Newton 876-2585 or Robert Bray 876-5919.



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 heal-

ing 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.

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 Alphonella McRae 313-1957.

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.

Blue star moms

Mothers of active duty, Reserve or honorably discharged servicemembers are invited to the first meeting of the new chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. on Saturday at 9 a.m. at Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek (off Highway 72, behind Providence). For more information, call Terry 658-0594 or Rhonda 679-2895.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter will have its annual picnic meeting May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NASA picnic grounds. Tickets are \$8 for members, \$9 for non-members. There will be bingo, cake walk and lots of door prizes. Raffle tickets will be sold at \$1 each for additional drawings. For tickets call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User Group will meet Saturday at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. An Internet Special Interest Group starts at 9:15 a.m. The general meeting will start at 10:45 and the speaker will be Gwen Smith from the Huntsville-Madison County Library. Smith will show how to use the Digital Media Zone to download free digital books, music and videos from the library. Bring your laptop, library card number and your password and you can download the necessary software during the meeting. For more information, call Eunice 658-9175.

Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table meets May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. The Olde Towne Brass will present a program on "Civil War Music" with an emphasis on music that was played during the 1864 Union occupation of Huntsville. The music will come from the band books of the Union Bands, including the 1st Brigade Band, which was stationed in Huntsville during 1864. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will hold its monthly outreach luncheon May 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. Carol Shreve of Fayetteville, Tenn., a professional singer and songwriter, will tell how certain decisions can lead to amazing transformations. There's free childcare for ages 6 and under off-site. Reservations, essential for the luncheon and for childcare, are due by May 14. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

Engineer society

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will have a luncheon meeting

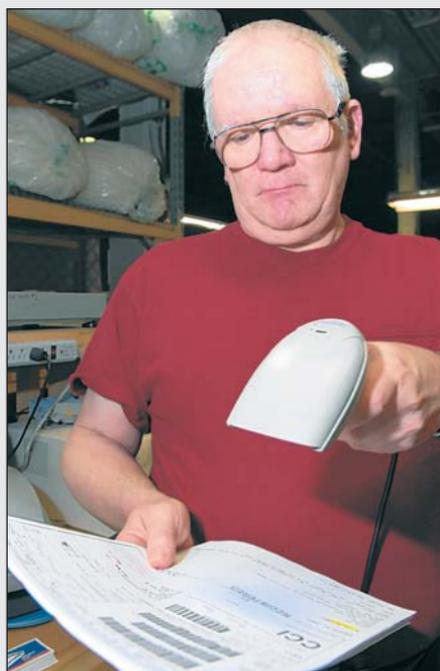


Photo by Steve Grzedzinski

Document scan

Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., mail machine operator Robert Manini scans a shipping document into the United States postal mail machine. The Shipping and Packaging Branch's 14 employees pack, ship and store communications security equipment, supporting mission requirements worldwide.

today at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Research Hall on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. Dr. Jian Han, faculty investigator for the Hudson Alpha Institute, will talk about automation in molecular diagnostics. The cost is \$10. The meeting is open to the public. For information call James Denson 883-2531.

Transportation group

A representative from the Alabama Department of Transportation has been invited to speak to the May meeting of the North Alabama Transportation Foundation. NALTF meets May 13 at the Heritage Club, 111 Washington St. The noon lunch meeting cost is \$15 for non-members of the foundation. For reservations or more information, call executive director Kurt Furst 890-8544, ext. 14.

Air defenders

The Air Defense Artillery Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will have a luncheon May 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Bob Woods, commander of 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, Texas. Cost is \$15 per person or \$120 for a corporate table of eight. Reservations are due by noon May 11 by calling 837-5282, ext. 1524, or e-mailing janett.beasley@sparta.com.

Rocket Announcements

Test Week tutorials

Test Week 2009 Conference, June 2-4, is now in TIP, catalog number F93TESTW. The ITEA-sponsored tutorials in conjunction with the week include Unmanned Systems Autonomous Testing, F93USAT; Surviving and Striving with Customers in Downtown Economy, F93STC; Distributed Testing Lessons from JMETS and TENA, F93DTLJT; and Metrics for Managing and Improving T&E Capabilities, F93MMITEC. For more information, call Sherry Hilley 842-6715 or visit www.test-week.org.

Logistics tools workshop

Logistics Support Activity and the Council of Logistics Engineering Professionals announce the 2009 Life Cycle Logistics Tools Workshop and Users Group Conference and Seminar, May 12-14 at the Holiday Inn, downtown Huntsville. It is expected to draw more than 200 logistics professionals interested in growing their knowledge and expertise as well as taking advantage of the tools and software LOGSA has to offer. Registration fee is \$199, which includes catered lunches all three days. Redstone Arsenal employees register through TIPS under the course title "Life Cycle Logistics Tool Workshop and Users Group," catalogue number F93LCLT. For more information or to register, visit www.logisticsengineers.org.

Tactical missiles conference

The 11th annual AUSA Tactical Missiles Conference is May 18-19 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. This conference is to provide an open forum for the presentation of current and future Army tactical missile programs in a collaborative

government and industry environment. For registration and information, call Tom Newberry 922-9300 ext. 131 or e-mail tommie.newberry@irtc-hq.com.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9435 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include

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Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Fond remembrance

The parents of Zachary Guidry stand in front of a decorative stone etched with their son's name during a tree dedication ceremony April 17. Zachary Guidry and Omar Santiago were teens at Child and Youth Services who died recently, one from a car accident and the other from illness. Two dogwood trees were planted at CYS in celebration of their lives.

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

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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. 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?

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Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Revved up

Jack Roush, CEO of Roush-Fenway Racing, poses with Soldiers and signs autographs April 27 at the dining facility. His Redstone tour included visits to the Prototype Integration Facility and the Software Engineering Directorate to learn about the latest technologies he can implement to make race cars safer.

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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.

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 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.

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.

Mr. Man Premiere

SB Productions has completed the selection process for the final two exceptional men needed to complete the lineup and compete in this year's Mr. Man Premiere. The 11 contestants selected include two doctors, an Army officer, Navy officer, Air Force reserve recruiter, Madison police officer, Madison fireman and Marine, research analyst, minor league baseball player, engineer, and an engineer student from abroad. The Mr. Man Premiere has been produced since 1981 on both a local and international level. The 2009 competition is scheduled Sept. 19 at the Marriott Hotel near the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Seating is limited and tickets will become available June 1. For more information, call SB Productions 278-8862 or 683-3083.

Volunteers sought

Volunteer opportunities are available at the Thrift Shop. For more information, call 881-6992.

Thrift Shop job

The Thrift Shop is accepting applications for bookkeeper, a part-time position. Salary will be discussed at the interview. The applicant must have knowledge/experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Word/Excel. Pick up applications at the Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, during regular business hours — Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednes-

days 9-4 or Thursdays 9-5. The application deadline is May 12. For more information, call the shop 881-6992.

New employees

The New Employee Orientation for civilian employees is June 9 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation. For more information call Latoya Davis Ragan 313-0286 or Jessie McCray 876-4803, CPAC human resources specialists. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by June 8 in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

Job interviews

Many employers are changing how they screen resumes and conduct interviews. Come learn what employers expect and how you should prepare. This interview session will help you to present yourself with confidence and ace the interview. It will be held Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Seating is limited and military spouses have first priority. To reserve a seat, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

Public speaker

Judge Roy Moore is guest speaker Friday at 7 p.m. at The Olive Branch, 175 West Park Loop in Huntsville. For more information, call Pastor Reggie Whiddon 895-9550.

Interpreter wanted

The Huntsville City School System seeks a volunteer who speaks Gujarati to assist

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). They are open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Children's camp

Camp "I Can" Underwater Adventure, offering sensory experiences through play and exploration for children ages 5-10, is June 15-19 and again July 13-17 from 9 a.m. to noon at 2075 Max Luther Drive. Cost is \$250 per week. To register call 852-5600.

Breakfast with boss

The AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter will host a Breakfast with the Boss on May 13 featuring keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation. Call 721-8755 for reservations and more information.

Youth orchestra benefit

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra members invite everyone to join them at the Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurants on Thursday. "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. As a special treat this day, the Huntsville Youth Orchestra's Novice and Intermezzo String Orchestras will be holding open rehearsals on the patio of the Providence Cheeburger restaurant from 5-7 p.m. Come and listen to the fun our students have playing with their friends in the orchestras." On Thursday, Cheeburger Cheeburger is donating a portion of all profits from both its restaurants to support the Youth Orchestra. Cheeburger Cheeburger has two locations: 5000

Space tribute

Space pioneer Konrad Dannenberg died Feb. 16 at age 96. HAL5 (National Space Society Chapter) and his family, friends and colleagues will gather to remember Dannenberg on May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library's Main Auditorium, 915 Monroe St. Due to space limitations at the library, RSVP is necessary by May 11. Call 881-9564 or e-mail membership.HAL5@gmail.com.

Family aviation

Indoor radio-controlled and free flight aviation, rain or shine, will be held May 17 from 1:30-4 p.m. at Madison United Methodist Church Christian Life Center Aerodrome, 127 Church St. in Madison. There will be free buddy box flight training and also loaner Vapor airplanes and MCX helicopters available to fly. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 876-5323 or e-mail jim.marconnet@us.army.mil.

Aviation open house

Team Redstone personnel and their family members are invited to the Aviation Technical Test Center open house at Redstone Airfield on May 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. In addition to aircraft displays and facility tours, the test center will provide a one-hour presentation on current and future test capabilities at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. A deli sandwich lunch will be available for \$8 per person. For lunch reservations, call 842-9520 by May 11. For interested family members, the aircraft displays will remain available until 3 p.m.

Call for papers

This is a call for papers for the Research and Evaluation of NEMS/MEMS Workshop Sept. 8-9 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, e-mail angie.cornelius@us.army.mil or visit the workshop website <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/SMAP-CENTER/Conferences/RENM09/>.

Embry-Riddle courses

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the summer 2009 term, May 31 to Aug. 2. Courses include Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Fundamentals of Project Management, Av/Aero Industrial Safety Management, International Business, Marketing, and Human Factors in Aviation Safety. Deadline to register is May 29. Call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center building 3222 or access the website <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>.

Days of remembrance

Team Redstone will conduct a Days of Remembrance observance Friday at 1 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. "Never Again: What You Do Matters" is the



Courtesy photo

Surprise donation

The 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion held its first Family Readiness Group fund-raiser cookout April 24. The group exceeded its fund-raising goal and donated food and drinks that were unused to the Breaking Free Rescue Mission.

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theme for the 2009 observance. Holocaust Remembrance Day, known as “Yom Hashoah” in Hebrew, is a day to remember the millions of victims of Nazi’s Germany genocidal policies. Guest speaker for the event is Charles Stein, who was born Nov. 28, 1919 in Vienna, Austria.

World trade day

The 26th annual World Trade Day luncheon, co-sponsored by the North Alabama International Trade Association and the Madison County Commission and presented by Taos Industries, is May 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Huntsville. For more information, call NAITA at 532-3505.

Wild game cookoff

The Limestone Chapter of the Alabama Wildlife Federation will hold its first Wild Game Cookoff at 5:30 p.m. May 19 at Canebrake Club in Athens. “The event is an excellent time for sportsmen and women and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy some good ol’ fashion fun and fellowship, and it is a fabulous time for backyard chefs to show off their culinary skills,” a prepared release said. For more information, call Greg Lambert 998-0057 or Lee Noah 990-2095.

New Reserve unit

The Army Reserve Sustainment Command is seeking Reserve officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs to support AMC G3, AMCOM, LOGSA and DCMA mis-

sions at Redstone Arsenal. ARSC has officer vacancies for captain through colonel in Logistics, Acquisition, Intelligence, Force Protection, ORSA and Aviation career fields, as well as branch immaterial positions. Warrant officer vacancies include 151A, 154EG, 350F, 351L and 920A/B positions. NCO positions for staff sergeant through sergeant major include 31B, 35F/X, 42A, 51C, 88N/Z and 92A/F/Y. There are also opportunities to mobilize at Redstone Arsenal or deploy worldwide in support of AMC and DCMA. For more information regarding these opportunities to drill at Redstone Arsenal, call Lt. Col. Hawkins 313-9772, Lt. Col. Allison 895-1121 or Lt. Col. Williams 313-9594.

Warrior weekend

The Semper Fi Community Task Force of North Alabama and Fox Army Health Center will host 20 wounded Soldiers for a weekend of relaxation and fun in the Tennessee Valley on May 15-17. The weekend will include a Heritage Club reception with entertainment by country star Randy Travis, a tour of the Space & Rocket Center and tickets to the Arsenal’s Sugarland concert, and a Semper Fi/Army Strong fishing tournament. To make donations in support of this event, mail them to SFCTF, P.O. Box 2291, Madison, AL, 35758, or visit any Redstone Federal Credit Union or Wachovia Banch branch, or visit the SFCTF web site at <http://sfctf.org>.

