

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 58 No. 34

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

June 3, 2009

Community news

Protective gear for motorcyclists

Page 4



Still serving

Former Marines show their colors

Page 8



Around town



Corporate gift lifts memorial

Page 12

Hail and farewell

Garrison chaplain retiring to Texas

Page 10



Win or lose



Bravo Bulldogs turn up heat

Page 21

Army families battle against autism

Diagnosis, treatment leads to sacrifices in lifestyle

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

When he was a baby, Jones Alexander Tubberville suffered from several ear infections and upper respiratory illnesses. His mother, Lori Tubberville, remembers the almost constant rounds of antibiotics that doctor's prescribed for her son's health.

But, soon after his first birthday, Tubberville and her husband, National Guard Staff Sgt. James Tubberville, noticed changes in Xander's behavior that went far beyond anything that an antibiotic could combat.

Their son often didn't respond to stimulation. He wouldn't willingly interact with his parents or older sister. He had uncontrollable tantrums and, at times, would shake his head repeatedly. He had very little language skills.

"I noticed he wasn't picking up words," Tubberville said. "He wasn't playing. He wouldn't look at you when you called his name. He wouldn't let me hold him or talk to him."

At 22 months, Xander had drainage tubes surgically placed in his ears. His parents hoped the tubes would lessen his ear infections and help him hear the words they so desperately wanted him to speak. But Xander's behavior worsened.

"He became so aggressive. He would hurt other kids. He would hurt me," Tubberville said. "He was screaming constantly. His screams were deep and agonizing. He'd throw himself against the wall and self-mutilate. He'd bite me and kick me. We couldn't even get out of the house because I was afraid of what he would do. His sister, Kiersten, spent a lot of time alone in her room away from Xander."

Tubberville's sister was the first who suggested that Xander might be autistic. Tubberville had her son tested and, with a diagnosis to confirm his autism, she started searching for the best treatment for her son. The family found that treatment in Huntsville with Carol Vancil, who has credentials from the Association of Behavior Analysis to provide one-on-one therapy for autistic children; and with Premier Collaborations Child Development Center, a preschool that provides services for autistic children that includes peer therapy and classroom inclusion.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LEARNING HIS NUMBERS— Lori Tubberville works on counting skills with her son, Xander, who is autistic. The Tubberville family is one of a growing number of military families who are moving to Huntsville to receive autism therapy services.

"We sold our house and moved here from Andalusia," said Tubberville, whose family now lives in a small apartment.

"Since we've moved here, Xander is not the same little boy. He is trying to say words. He is counting to 10. He is now attending an inclusive class. He gives us hugs. I never thought he would get this better so soon."

At 3 and a half, Xander and his family are learning how to communicate with each other, despite the autistic barrier that often imprisons its victims in a world of little social interaction. The family is also relying on biomedical technology to control Xander's diet and its effect on his condition.

The Center for Disease Control calls autism an "Urgent Public Health Disorder." Autism is a spectrum disorder that typically begins to manifest itself from birth to as late as 18 months of age with decreasing verbal ability and social interaction skills with increasing repetitive behavior. It is estimated that one out of every 150 children will be

diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, which has no known cause. This rate has grown over the past 20 years by 10 to 17 percent each year, making it the fastest-growing developmental disability. Some military advocacy groups, such as Autism Salutes, place the incidence of autism in military families as high as 1 in every 75 births.

National standards from the American Association of Pediatrics for the treatment of autism call for early diagnosis, 25 or more hours of ABA (one-on-one) therapy per week and inclusion (peer) therapy. Besides therapy, other approaches used to treat autism include nutritional supplements, special diets, testing for food allergies, treatment of intestinal bacterial and yeast overgrowth, and detoxification of heavy metals from the body.

The Tubberville family is one of several local military families with autistic children

See Autism on page 7

An open lane random survey

What are your plans for the summer?

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket



Crystal Crow
AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate
"Well I just had a baby girl 12 weeks ago so spending time with her will be my summer vacation."

Dan Osborn
Aviation Field Maintenance Division
"I just want to do as little as possible and just spend the summer chilling out."



Pfc. P. Tyrell Hales
Explosive Ordnance Disposal student
"I will be graduating from EOD training and then going to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida."

Gena Scofield
AMCOM SAMD
"I'll be watching my stepchildren play AAU basketball and I just got back from a trip to Hawaii."



Quote of the week

It is a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do. □

□ Walter Winchell

Letters to the Editor

Veterans' fund-raising success

VFW Post 5162 would like to thank the Redstone community for helping make our recent Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Drive a huge success. It was gratifying to see the generosity of so many people, especially during these tough economic times.

Once again thanks to the Redstone community for their generosity and support, and we look forward to seeing you all again in November for our Veterans Day Drive.

Jim Carter
quartermaster, VFW Post 5162

Question on helicopter display

Why is there no Black Hawk helicopter on display on Redstone Arsenal? There are UH-1s, AH-1s, H-47, AH-64s, UAVs, missiles and various ground vehicles, but no UH-60.

Ron Bednarczyk

Editor's note: Aviation officials said we are currently below our Army acquisition objective for UH-60s. Approximately 1,760 are fielded vs. the authorized 1,930. Also, there are no unused assets or excess defense articles to use. It will be at least 2012 or 2013 before we can make a UH-60 available as a permanent display.

Hunter sets inspirational example

What an inspirational article "Camp opens unlimited hunting experience," published May 27 in the *Redstone Rocket*. As an employee of LOGSA, I knew about and observed some of Steve Statler's day-to-day challenges. I saw some of his pain. I also got a sense of his determination and strong will that literally moved him forward, one small step at a time.

I would guess that in addition to Steve's physical struggle and limitations, he and his loved ones experienced an overwhelming sense of helplessness and loss. We all have limitations. Steve discovered that it's not a case of helplessness. It's just that we all, at some point, need help.

The remarkable thing is how he has come full circle and then some. Steve found new ways to continue his old hobbies and life passion.

He offers his heart, support and resources as he reaches out to give others experiences they could not have otherwise. How wonderful that his idea is contagious. Other landowners have offered their land and care. I bet all he had to do was ask!

Statler's concept has been therapeutic for him. Imagine the new friendships! Think about the beauty and power of what nature has to offer.

I believe that ultimately we're all here to help. Steve's courage, enthusiasm and spirit invite all of us to find a way to help. "Pay it forward." The possibilities are infinite.

Cindy Brown
Logistics Support Activity

In knots about upcoming conversion to pay banding

Sir, I read with interest your article in reference to the upcoming conversion to the new pay banding being developed here at Redstone.

I am disturbed that this is going forward in consideration that President Obama has ordered a halt of any more conversions into the new system until members of his team can look at the program. Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn has stated in March 2009 that the program will be on hold until reviewed by the OPM. I would like to know why you failed to ask the question as to how the Arsenal can be moving ahead in clear violation to the orders not to. Can you explain this to me? Did I miss something in your article? Or were you not aware that this was the case? I feel that in

all fairness that this question should be addressed to whomever you got your information for the article from. Thank you for your time.

Alan Welsh

Editor's note: Joyce M. Lenoir, deputy G-1 (Civilian Personnel) at SMDC/ARSTRAT, provided the following response. "The article in the March 24 edition of the Redstone Rocket was a report following a briefing on the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System held on March 17 at the Bob Jones Auditorium. DCIPS is a human resource tool authorized under Title 10 giving the Secretary of Defense the authority to hire, develop and retain a diverse, versatile and highly-qualified work force to perform both the defense and national intelligence missions."

"Your reader was correct in stating that the president has expressed his support for examining existing and proposed performance-based pay systems to determine whether they meet the standards of fairness, transparency and accountability."

"The Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel management have announced their intention to delay further conversions of organizations into the National Security Personnel System pending the outcome of a review of the system. However, the administration has let it be known that it is not necessary at this time to put an across-the-board hold on further advancement of other pay-for-performance systems in the federal government, such as DCIPS."

"DCIPS will move forward for implementation on July 19, 2009."

Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

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

Rocket Staff

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

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

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

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

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

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



Name: Art Murtha

Job title: Fire prevention inspector, Garrison Fire and Emergency Services

Where do you call home?
Boston, Mass.

What do you like about your job?

Going home with the feeling that the employees and residents of Redstone Arsenal are safe and our firefighters are safe. That in the event of a fire, no one will get hurt getting out and our firefighters won't get hurt getting in. You've got to go to bed with that feeling, knowing that you didn't miss anything or overlook anything.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to fish and spend time with my grandkids, and keep in touch with my son who's a Marine ready to redeploy to Southwest Asia.

What are your goals?

I have to retire because of age and time in fire service on May 1, 2010. And with 17 and a half years in this office, I hope to leave as much of my knowledge and expertise to the guys that stay behind, the guys that continue the mission. I hope to go to one of the insurance companies as a fire investigator.

What is your favorite type of music?
Country and the '60s oldies.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for May 21-26:

May 21: When a motorist approached Gate 10 improperly displaying a post decal, she was driving with a suspended license. She was issued a violation notice.

May 22: A retired servicemember reported that his wallet was removed from his vehicle while parked at the Post Exchange.

May 22: When a motorist approached Gate 10 lost, he was driving with a revoked license. He received a violation notice.

May 22: A motorist approached Gate 1 lost and driving with a revoked license. She received a violation notice.

May 24: Someone removed several items valued at \$7 from a vending machine at the MWR Car Wash. Investi-

gation continues by DES investigators.

May 25: A resident of the housing area reported that someone threw a rock damaging an upstairs window at her residence.

May 26: Bicentennial Chapel personnel reported that someone removed a computer projector valued at \$1,000 from the Youth Chapel Annex. Investigation continues by DES investigators.

May 26: A Redstone employee reported that his 2005 Jeep Wrangler, bearing a post decal, was stolen in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

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

Violation notices issued: 16 speeding, 4 driving while suspended or revoked, 2 no driver's license, 1 inattentive driving.

Commentary: Don't take time for granted

Soldier-dad cherishes being with his kids

By Spc. RYAN STROUD
59th Ordnance Brigade public affairs

Many times in life we tend to take things for granted. I do it all the time. Like recently, my car's air conditioner was working wonderfully and then, all of a sudden, it just stopped on me. Driving in this Alabama heat is monstrous. I know it could be worse; I'm constantly reminding myself the

glass is half full on this one.

But one of the biggest things I ever took for granted was getting the chance to be with my wife and raise our children.

Upon landing in Kuwait during the fall of 2007, I called my wife and found out she was pregnant with our first child. I admittedly was on cloud nine and racing to tell everyone. Then reality dawned on me – I was going to miss the first few months of my child's life due to the deployment.

At first, I was angry at the Army and wanted to call my congressman

to complain. Then I awoke from my haze and realized I would at least get to see the birth and that, in itself, was important.

I had to remind myself constantly every day of the other Soldiers I was deployed with who were missing out on their children's lives. It saddened me but it was for a greater good. We are Soldiers, this is our job. If we won't sacrifice, who will?

Fast forward many long months later; I was headed home to witness the birth of my son, Elijah. I was

See Time on page 19

Motorcycle riders receive equipment change

New requirements issued for helmet and clothing

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

“People get confused about what they are required to wear,” Garrison safety specialist Keith Coates said of the proper motorcycle riding gear.

“Our Garrison Policy on Personal Protective Equipment clarifies what all riders must use to ensure their safety and follow established guidance from the U.S. Army Garrison.”

According to the recently published Garrison Policy 385-57 on Motorcycle Training and PPE, all riders entering Redstone Arsenal must wear the following:

- A helmet certified to meet Department of Transportation standards and fastened under the chin.
- Impact or shatter-resistant goggles, wrap-around glasses, or a full face shield properly attached to the helmet that meets or exceeds American National Standards Institute

Safety Code Z87.1 requirements for impact and shatter resistance. A motorcycle windshield alone is not proper eye protection.

- Sturdy footwear, leather boots or over the ankle, full-toed shoes.
- A long sleeve shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycle use.
- At all times, all riders and passengers will wear as an outer garment an ANSI-approved reflective and brightly colored safety vest or reflective belt. If backpacks are used, a reflective belt will be strapped around the backpack to provide visibility and reflective illumination.

During June, motorcyclists who are not compliant with the required gear will be reminded at the gates of what is needed to safely ride a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal. Then effective July 1, motorcyclists not in compliance will not be allowed to ride onto the Arsenal until they wear the proper equipment.

Personnel operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle on Red-

stone include military personnel at anytime on or off a Department of Defense installation, all Army civilian personnel in a duty status on or off a defense installation, all personnel on a DoD-owned motorcycle, and all persons operating a motorcycle at anytime while on an Army installation.

In addition to the riding gear requirements, to register a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal, all motorcyclists must complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation approved rider course. Redstone offers two courses free of charge.

The two-day Basic Riders Course is required for all Army personnel who have not previously completed a motorcycle safety course and the Experienced Rider Course. The ERC, a one-day course for current riders, focuses on survival techniques. To request course information, e-mail rider coach Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

For more information, call Coates at 876-3383 or Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper at 876-5331.



Photo by Megan Cotton
IN GEAR— Ralph Harris, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider coach, demonstrates the proper personal protection equipment a rider should wear.

Compete against the best Army artists

June M. Hughes Military and Civilian Arts and Crafts Center is accepting artwork for the annual U.S. Army 2009 Arts and Crafts Contest. The juried show deadline is June 30.

Compete for cash prizes against the best artists and artisans in the Army. Enter your best 2D or 3D artwork.

Each artist can have a maximum of three entries. Categories are: Ceramics, Wood, Fibers and Textiles, Glass, Metals and Jewelry, Mixed Media-2D and 3D, Drawings, Prints, and Watercolor.

Anyone working on the Arsenal is eligible to enter as long as they are active/retired/Reserve military personnel, currently employed DoD/NASA civilians, Redstone/NASA contractors and their family members. Entries can be submitted in novice and accomplished classes.

Original artwork should be submitted to the Arts and Crafts Center for local level competition. Artwork which is selected for advancement to the regional Armywide competition will be submitted via digital files to the contest website. Original artwork submitted for the juried contest will be on exhibit at the Arts and Crafts Center from July through August.

Contest information and assistance is available at the Arts and Crafts Center, building 3615 on Vincent Drive. For more information, call 876-7951 or visit the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation website at redstone-mwr.art@conus.army.mil. The contest website is <http://new.armymwr.com/recreation/art-sandcrafts/default.aspx>.

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:

Comedy Night

Comedy Night returns June 12 at the Officers and Civilians Club. It showcases headliner Dow Thomas, feature act Bill "Bull" Ohse and opener Chris Gorges. Advance tickets are \$10 without dinner and \$18 with dinner. Day of show tickets are \$18 without dinner and \$22 with dinner. For ticket information, call 830-2582.

Block party

Child Youth and School Services Block Party is June 27 from 1-4 p.m. on Youth Center Road. This free event is open to all of Redstone. For more information, call 876-3704.

Dancing lessons

Registration is under way through Aug. 5 for Basic Samba, Mambo and Merengue for \$66 per couple. Classes are Aug. 6 through Sept. 17 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711.

Soldier Show

The 2009 Soldier Show is June 16 at 7 p.m. and June 17 at 3 and 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Tickets are free and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets for the Redstone community can be picked up at the MWR ITR ticket office. Tickets for the general public may be picked up at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce starting June 9.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army
SOLDIER'S PERFORM— Sgt. Dawn Florence, a Baltimore native stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., sings "Jai Ho" in the 2009 Soldier Show.

Expedited Hiring Authority approved for Redstone

New avenue for filling acquisition positions

A newly approved hiring process should help Redstone fill positions which will arrive under base realignment and closure.

As a result of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the Department of Defense has received a new Expedited Hiring Authority that can be used as one source of candidates for filling Defense Acquisition Workforce positions GS-9 or higher, YA-2/YA-3, and comparable levels to include supervisory jobs.

More than 5,000 Redstone positions in acquisition, logistics, engineering and other fields are covered by this authorization, according to Don Dixon, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

For these jobs, Expedited Hiring Authority announcements will replace most Delegated Examining Announcements which are external. These announcements will be open to all U.S. citizens to include current Army employees who wish to apply. Just like delegated examining announcements, these expedited announcements will normally be posted on both CPOL and USA Jobs websites.

Team Redstone partnered with the local unions, including AFGE Local 1858, to develop procedures for notifications and reports. Expedited announcements will be identified with an "EHA" at the end of the announcement number instead of a "D" which denotes delegated announcements. It will also clearly indicate in the announcement that it is an expedited announcement.

EHA does not specify a minimum open period so open periods of one day would be possible. However, for positions covered by AFGE Local 1858 bargaining agreements, the minimum open period will be five calendar days, unless the union is notified in advance of the need for a shorter open period.

As with delegated announcements, employees can register directly with USA

Jobs to get e-mail notifications. Merit promotion announcement open periods and procedures for applying and being considered will remain unchanged.

Larry Sargent, chief of Staffing and Classification Division in CPAC, said base realignment and closure, other hiring initiatives and normal attrition will result in the need for Team Redstone to fill thousands of positions over the next 2-3 years.

Federal law gives managers the option to fill jobs from any of the available recruitment sources. A large number of these positions will be filled by merit promotion resulting in the promotion, reassignments and other placements of existing Army civilian employees. However, since the overall size of the Team Redstone civilian work force will be increasing, Redstone will also need to hire a large number of new employees. There are many external hiring authorities that can be used to hire new Team Redstone employees. Expedited Hiring Authority will provide one more tool that management can consider when filling Defense Acquisition Workforce positions.

Dixon said EHA is not only designed to speed up the hiring process, but will also give managers the flexibility to select from among the candidates, including veterans, determined to be highly qualified. Highly Qualified Criteria must be job-related, consistent with merit system principles, and included in the EHA announcement. There is also an option to participate in job fairs and other recruiting events.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center can discuss with selecting officials the many internal and external hiring options which include the new EHA. The center can assist selecting officials in conducting job analysis, identifying Highly Qualified Criteria and evaluating the applicants.

For more information about the Expedited Hiring Authority, contact your servicing CPAC human resources specialist. *(Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)*

Autism

continued from page 1

who often meet to talk about how to overcome learning and social challenges of the diagnosis.

“The goal for all of us is for our kids to have independent futures and to be mainstreamed,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim French, an Apache helicopter pilot stationed at Fort Rucker whose son, 6-year-old Brandon, suffers from autism.

The need to get the right care for autistic children is so overriding for military families that they often make career, family and financial sacrifices. The Tubbervilles were able to move to the Huntsville area, but James Tubberville makes a weekly commute to Montgomery where he works in National Guard recruiting.

Another local military couple — Becky Jackson and her husband, Lt. Col. Billy Jackson — currently live apart, with mom and son, 4-year-old Lucas, in Huntsville and dad, a Black Hawk pilot and aviation acquisition expert, in Washington, D.C.

“Luke is a full-time job,” Becky Jackson said. “I’m so fearful of pulling up Lucas and transitioning him to another place, especially if I’m not convinced I can get the same services we get here. The teachers here have all learned about autism therapy. The other kids are taught early on about differences and compassion. This is a great environment for Lucas.”

While the Jacksons have made the decision to live apart for now so that Lucas can get the therapy he needs, the French family has decided that retirement is the best solution for their family situation in Huntsville.

“Our goal is to be back together,” French said. “That’s the best thing for Brandon and for our other child, 10-year-old Tyler, and for my wife, Karen. But we will give up benefits.”

French is retiring from active duty in the next few months. The decision will create financial difficulties for his family, including the loss of more than \$25,000 in annual services because Tricare does not pay for autism services

for retiree families. But French said his shift to a stable career that keeps him and his family in Huntsville will be worth it.

“Until we found the services provided here, everything else we tried with Brandon was too regimented, too strict and something he couldn’t adhere to. He was receiving four hours of home therapy each day. But we feared he would become robotic and only do what he was told to do,” French said.

“Each time we would talk about treatment, our goals revolved around his social skills. We had to find an environment where he could be around other kids and adults who would help with socialization.”

In Carol Vancil and Premier Collaborations, the French family found a program that relies heavily on inclusion to help autistic children learn how to behave through modeling and playing. Brandon has two to three hours of one-on-one counseling each day and then the rest of his day is spent in the classroom with other children his age.

French’s retirement not only gives the family freedom to live where they can find services for Brandon, it also frees them from frequent military moves and deployments that are often detrimental for autistic children who must have routine if their condition is to improve.

“When Brandon was born, we lived in Georgia. We noticed his lack of eye contact. But there was no testing available in Georgia, so we waited,” French said. “When we were at Fort Rucker, we took him to a child psychologist who diagnosed mild to moderate autism. We were able to get speech therapy and a lot of support through the Army’s ECHO program. But we really didn’t feel like we found what Brandon needed until we came to Huntsville.”

Often families — both military and non-military — have difficulty facing the diagnosis of autism, even though early intervention helps to combat the disease.

“I first noticed that Luke might have a problem at 12 months when he had no words yet,” Jack-



Courtesy photo

SUPPORTING THERAPY— Members of the Officer and Civilian Women’s Club present funds to the Autism Resource Foundation that will be used to pay for autism therapy expenses for Xander Tubberville. From left are Becky Jackson and Karen French, who each have an autistic child; OCWC’s Kathy Campbell; Leslie Buchanan of Premier Collaborations; Betsy Berman, president of the Autism Resource Foundation; Carol Vancil of Premier Collaborations; Alice Myles and Demy Robley of OCWC; and Lori Tubberville and her husband National Guard Staff Sgt. James Tubberville, Xander’s parents.

son said. “I got a checklist for autism on post, but I convinced myself to wait until 15 months before looking at it further. Then, at 14 months, I realized Luke had stopped looking at me ...

“At 16 or 17 months, we went to the University of Alabama at Birmingham where they had a six-month waiting list for treatment. We started paying for therapy at 22 months before we had a diagnosis that would allow Tricare to cover most of the expenses. When something like this happens, you’re not thinking about the money. You’re just thinking about your child and what he needs.”

While there is no current cure for autism there are effective treatments which can help many children lead independent lives. Whereas most insurance companies and school systems do not provide these levels of early intervention that meet national standards of treatment, Tricare, under the ECHO program, is one

of the few insurance companies that provides support to active duty members in some treatment areas.

“The Department of Defense is on the cutting edge of all this,” Jackson said. “There are people and organizations advocating for us.”

The Army also offers benefits through its Exceptional Family Member Program and Tricare, which provides funds for active duty military for ABA, speech and occupational.

In addition, Army Community Service can help with resources and early intervention programs, and provides funds through its respite care program for babysitting services so parents have time away from their child to take care of business or personal issues.

Support can also come from various community sources. Recently, the Officer and Civilian Women’s Club provided the Tubberville family with \$1,400 to pay six months of inclusion

fees for Xander’s therapy.

And science research is making inroads into understanding autism and providing new treatments for the disease.

“All of us are waiting to see what happens with inclusion,” Jackson said. “So many kids have autism that we will probably see a difference in mainstreaming kids in the future. We want our children mainstreamed because they need the social interaction. But at the same time we don’t want anyone to get hurt.”

There are many organizations that provide support, information and advocacy for autism children, and that are researching the causes and treatments of autism. Those include Defeat Autism Now and Autism Resource Foundation (<http://theautismresourcefoundation.org>). The website for Military Salutes, a blog fun by servicemembers concerning autism, can be found at <http://www.austismsalutes.com>.

Runners show their patriotism on special day

Brothers carry U.S., Marine Corps flags as they participate in Cotton Row Run

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

Two brothers, both avid runners and former Marines, wanted to do something extra on Memorial Day, May 25. They actually started planning on last year's holiday.

They decided to carry flags as they participated in Huntsville's 30th annual Cotton Row Run.

"We're never going to win it, so we wanted to do something to just kind of help remind people what Memorial Day is all about," Nick Kuzy said.

Nick, 46, of Huntsville, carried the Marine Corps flag and wore a kilt with the official Marine tartan. His brother Mike, 40, of Carrollton, Ga., carried the American flag.

They jogged together in the 10K, 5K and one-mile fun run. A woman runner they met at the race volunteered to carry the POW flag in the 5K.

Nick retired from the Marine Corps as a gunnery sergeant in October 2007. He was last assigned with the 200th Regiment, a National Guard unit out of Anniston. He's now an administrative manager for LifeCare of Alabama, an ambulance service in Morgan County. Mike was a Marine sergeant who's now a process specialist for Printpack, which manufactures flexible pack-

aging.

All six of the Kuzy brothers are former or retired Marines. "We all joined in the early '80s," Nick said.

He and Mike are marathoners who like running shorter races for fun. They have run at least 10 Cotton Rows, but this is the first time they carried flags. They plan to make that a tradition. The woman who carried the POW flag in the 5K is the wife of a Soldier. She said she'd meet them at next year's Cotton Row with the Army flag.

"We're looking for as many flag carriers as we can find," Nick said.

He expressed what Memorial Day means to him.

"It's a time for us, now particularly that we're at war, to remember the sacrifices that people are making for everybody here at home," he said. "And the sacrifices they made in the past also."

Mike suggested to Nick the idea of carrying flags at Cotton Row during last year's run. Mike had seen a runner carrying the American flag, accompanied by another runner with the Marine Corps flag, during the Marine Corps Marathon in 2003. It was Mike's first marathon.

Mike would like to get enough runners volunteering to represent every branch of service along with the American flag and POW flag.

"I'm getting too old to run for time," he said. "For 10Ks I would just rather get five or six people out there and let's just have a good nice run and try to remind people what Memorial Day is all about."



Photo by Dave Dieter

TRUE COLORS— Mike Kuzy carries the American flag while his brother Nick has the Marine Corps banner during the annual Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day in downtown Huntsville.

Hail and farewell

Humor follows chaplain into retirement

Garrison's Benson waves bye with a few jokes

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

With a sense of humor that quickly made him a hallmark on Redstone during an abbreviated assignment, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jim Benson said goodbye to the local Arsenal community and to the Army.

After almost 25 years of service, Benson is giving up the military life to return home to his wife, Joanne, who is a special education teacher in San Antonio and his youngest daughter, Samantha, who is in architecture school in San Antonio. He is looking forward to spending the next month or so with an entire family in one house because his eldest daughter, Kate, who is an Army nurse in Hawaii, will be in Texas to attend an ICU medical course.

Having an entire family – their health all intact – under one roof is a blessing to a chaplain who has balanced his commitment to ministering and counseling Soldiers and Soldier families with providing support and care to his daughter Sam, who survived a liver transplant as a baby and lymphoma at age 7.

Benson has been stationed at Redstone Arsenal for 11 and a half months, living in a 24-foot travel trailer at a park near the chapel. He and his goldfish Fred have kept each other company through the family separation.

Other assignments have taken him to Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Lewis, Wash., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Korea, Panama and Turkey. He has served as a brigade chaplain three times and a battalion chaplain twice. He has served various garrisons for 16 years of his career.

"Because of Sam's health, many of my assignments had to be near hospitals," Benson said. "She made it through. But we've seen so many others who did not and to look into the eyes of their parents is so sad. It is terrible to see parents lose a child."

Benson had already served seven years as a Lutheran pastor in Arizona before he joined the Army as a chaplain.

"I received a call from the Lord," he said. "I wanted to go into the Navy. But I had a knee surgery that disqualifies me from the Navy. The Army took me and said 'As long as you can run a straight line, we don't care.'"

Through the years, Benson's job as chaplain has varied in responsibilities from job to job. But the mission has always stayed the same.

"Our primary mission is to provide worship. That's the constitutional justification for our existence. Every Soldier has a right to their freedom of worship," he said. "Besides worship, we primarily focus on command support, community activities and morale issues. We look beyond the worship service to support Soldiers."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LIKE A ROCK— Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jim Benson strikes a pose beside an interesting rock formation outside the Officers and Civilians Club just minutes before his May 27 retirement luncheon. Benson is returning home to San Antonio after nearly 25 years as an Army chaplain.

Army chaplains often are called on for marital and family counseling.

"Most of it requires listening and providing support while people work things out," Benson said. "Stress is absolutely enormous in the Army. Even in peacetime it is the equivalent to the stress of a police officer or a firefighter. Nowadays, with deployments, that stress is even tougher. It takes a toll on marriages and families."

He has especially enjoyed his service at Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville.

"This is a lot like San Antonio," he said. "It's one of those little secrets. It's a city with a little town feel. There is so much here. The smartest people in the world are here and they don't want to leave."

While at Redstone, he has overseen activities at the chapel; preached at Protestant services; provided support for the formation of My Soldier, My Fallen Hero, a support group for military widows; assisted the Girl Scouts with studies for the God and Country award; and supported programs of the Garrison's various directorates.

Of all his duty assignments and responsibilities, Benson said he's enjoyed the people he's worked with the most.

"It's been more work than I ever imagined. But the people have been fantastic," he said. "And the people here at Redstone have been the best. The Garrison staff is the best group of people I've ever encountered. They sincerely like working with each other."

Benson said serving as a chaplain is a duty from God.

McCallister remembers his time with Huntsville Center

Commander retiring with 30 years service

By DEBRA VALINE

Huntsville Center public affairs



Col. Larry D. McCallister

Three challenges faced the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, in July 2006: perceived low employee morale, recruitment of new employees and a need to restructure the work force to meet the increasing workload.

As Huntsville Center commander, Col. Larry D. McCallister initiated actions to address all three challenges.

McCallister, 53, will relinquish command of the Huntsville Center on Friday and retire from the Army following 30 years of service. During nearly three years under his command, the Huntsville Center saw changes in its organizational structure and growth in the workload in support of the Army and the nation.

"Every new organization has challenges, either perceived or non-perceived, by the work force and the commander," said McCallister, who came to the Huntsville Center after commanding the Gulf Region Southern District in Iraq. "I think two of the biggest challenges I saw when I took command were a perception of low morale, and a challenge retaining employees in certain career fields, such as contracting. People were leaving at a fast pace. Another challenge was that the work force was not structured as properly or as efficiently as it could have been to support the customers."

To address these challenges, McCallister supported a number of morale-boosting initiatives, such as a Battle of the Bulge and other get-in-shape programs, a 3K fun run, changes in the annual Christmas Party and revitalized annual organization day picnics.

"We got the Huntsville Center's Activities Association more involved," he said. "In fact, they have reorganized and are very active in trying to bring fun to the work force."

To better organize the command, McCallister commissioned a series of studies to look at how the Center was organized and ways to gain efficiency. Based on recommendations from these studies, the Installation Support and the Program Management directorates were combined to form the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. The Contracting Directorate reorganized into Pre-Award and Post-Award divisions to better handle the huge workload that was coming to include the number of large Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity acquisitions that had to be once again planned and executed.

"Retention has gotten better, in several of our areas of concern, and I think morale has improved quite a bit," McCallister said. "The surveys we commissioned from Fort Rucker, Ala., in 2007 and again in early 2009 showed considerable improvement in morale, safety and happiness in the work force, so the changes must have had some impact."

"If you have the calling, you just need to trust in the Lord," he said. "No matter where you think you are going or what you'll be doing, it will change. God changes it. So, trust in the Lord and pray a lot because you will be tested in ways that are not like anyone else. You are under fire, in a sense, to watch yourself spiritually and physically."

Besides spending time with his family, Benson hopes to continue his other career as a fiction writer. He is already the author of the first book in a trilogy titled "Beneath the Shadows." He also plans to spend time enjoying BBC mysteries and disc golf. And then there's this kitchen remodeling project he has committed to undertake. It seems retirement will be busy for the Arsenal's funniest chaplain.

Garrison intern takes active role

Patton stays busy on and off post

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

Cassandra Patton came to Redstone looking for a way to combine new and different opportunities with service. She found both in the Garrison Intern Program.

"I can't wait to see where the program will take me," she said. "I love meeting all these wonderful people. It's such a great opportunity."

She had worked for years in customer service and information technology in the corporate world and as an instructional specialist for distance learning for Alabama A&M University. Patton joined the intern program in mid-February. Her current rotation has her stationed within Aviation and Missile Command's G-8 office until July.

"I don't know where I want to be yet, but that's the great thing about the program," she said. "You get to go through each directorate and see what sparks your interest."

Patton received her bachelor's in business management from Athens State University. She went on to get her master's from Florida Institute of Technology in human resource management in 2004.

Garrison interns Part 13 of series

Patton leads an active lifestyle. She spends part of her time in the gym and on the golf course. She took up the game about five years ago. She



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE— Cassandra Patton found a way to combine planning for her future with service to her country in the Garrison Intern Program.

likes to keep her handicap close to the vest. While she hasn't won any of the tournaments she has entered just yet, she has turned a few heads.

"I've won the longest drive award in a couple of tournaments," she said. "My drive's about 275 feet."

Patton is active in the community as well. She handles the finances for her church, Morris Chapel Primitive Baptist in Huntsville, and has done so for the last 10 years. She also volunteers. Patton can often be found at the National Children's Advocacy Center. She helps with fund-raisers, but she loves spending time with the children whose families are making use of the center's services.

"I get to babysit while their parents attend classes," she said.

Patton describes herself as a detail-oriented person, but not obsessively so. She is also a little shy, although she says most people would say otherwise.

"I'm kind of reserved at first before I open up to people," she explained.

By coming to work for the Army, Patton is continuing her family's service. Her uncle and brother-in-law are retired service-members. Her mother recently retired as a government civilian after 20 years. Her nephew serves in the Army Reserve. She is looking ahead to what the Army has in store for her.

"It's very exciting," she said. "It's been smooth sailing so far."

Volunteers uplift local middle school students

Program participants tutor eighth-graders

By ROGER KITCHEN JR.
AMCOM G-1

Fourteen students and three instructors from AMCOM's newly created Uplift leadership development training program visited Stone Middle School on May 12 to volunteer their time.

The group tutored students in Stone's reading program and facilitated a series of learning exercises that taught eighth-graders the importance of their choices and how those choices will affect their education and careers.

"I felt like I made a difference in many of the kids just by talking to them and showing concern in their schoolwork," an Uplift participant said.

Uplift is a value based leadership program designed to teach personal leadership through the use of the Army values and application of the Army values in the civilian work force. In addition, the program participants learn to be contributors in their surroundings and look for ways they can positively influence any situation.

Uplift was created to fill a niche within the AMCOM Leader Development Life Cycle which trains individuals to be leaders at the GS-1 to GS-11 levels.

"No matter what level of service an employee is in, leadership is how you do things, not the position you occupy," Tim Grey, G-1 human resources director, said. This program provides 38 continuous learning points and requires a time commitment of seven four-hour sessions, and one eight-hour session. Future classes will be held July 21 through Sept. 3.

For more information about the program, call Jackie Timme at 876-6062. Uplift applicants can enroll by registering through TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

Scientist among top alums in Gator nation

University of Florida honors Dr. Swinson

A top Redstone scientist has been recognized by the University of Florida.

Dr. Mark L. Swinson, chief scientist for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2009 in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Florida's spring awards ceremony.

The award citation read, in part, "For outstanding leadership and management excellence in the fields of engineering and informa-

tion technology for national security applications."

Swinson, who was nominated by the current university faculty, received the award from professor S. Balachandar, chairman of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

"I am humbled to be recognized by my colleagues from my doctoral alma mater," Swinson said.

In addition to having earned his doctorate from Florida, the native of Rockford, Ill., also earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin (Madison). (SMDC/ARSTRAT release)



Photo by Marco Morales

PROUD GATOR— Dr. Mark L. Swinson, chief scientist for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, was named the outstanding alumnus for 2009 in the University of Florida's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.



Photo by Roger Kitchen Jr.

MENTORING— Candice Scruggs of the Program Executive Office for Aviation tutors a Stone Middle School student during the Uplift class May 12.

Corporate gift lifts vets memorial toward reality

More companies, individuals needed to reach \$4M goal

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

A \$300,000 donation has put the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation much closer to its goal of raising about \$4 million to build a veterans memorial in downtown Huntsville's Veterans Park.

The donation, made by the Boeing Company, brings to nearly \$2 million the amount of funds raised by the foundation. A symbolic check for \$300,000 was presented by Boeing vice president Tony Jones to foundation chairman Bill Stender at a ceremony in Veterans Park on Memorial Day. The May 25 ceremony included AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. James Myles, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Rep. Parker Griffith and foundation fund-raising chairman retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet.

"This is a special day ... This day was established for the remembrance of those who died in service, who made their breast a barricade between us and the foes," said Stender, a decorated Vietnam veteran who was named 2008's Veteran of the Year in Madison County for his work on the memorial.

"This is a very special day and a very special place where we will recognize the 360 from Madison County who gave all. This is a place where we as a community will proclaim our heartfelt appreciation."

The memorial will represent three armed forces attributes – courage, the spirit that enables a person to face danger; sacrifice, the ability to forfeit one's interest for another's; and duty, a person's proper function in a common effort.

"These three words define the American Soldier and that's why these three words will be the foundation of this memorial," Stender said.

Jones, a retired lieutenant general, said Boeing's contribution is in line with the memorial's purpose in honoring the sacrifice of all veterans and their families. More



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORTH CELEBRATING— Members of the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation are celebrating the donation of \$300,000 by the Boeing Company to the construction of the veterans memorial in downtown Huntsville's Veterans Park. Attending a ceremony announcing the donation are, from left, foundation administrator Mary Jane Caylor, retired Maj. Gen. Grayson Tate, foundation chairman Bill Stender, foundation fund-raising chairman retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, Rep. Parker Griffith, Boeing vice president and retired Lt. Gen. Tony Jones (in front of symbolic check), Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles.

than 1 million Americans have given their lives in service to the nation since its birth.

"Boeing made this donation because it's the right thing to do and because it's the right time," he said.

Through its donation, Boeing has chosen to support the memorial's educational component that lists all the U.S. military campaigns.

"We are doing that because we all need to understand the sacrifices these veterans and their families endured so we can enjoy freedoms," Jones said.

Boeing also chose to fund the sacrifice statue, which is an element of the memorial.

"Only those who serve know what it means. They make sacrifices on a daily basis," Jones said.

Griffith commended the efforts to build

the memorial, and said, besides recognizing veterans, the memorial also recognizes military families who have experienced "great, great heartbreak and great agony" through the ultimate sacrifice made by their loved ones.

"We recognize that there are no good wars," he said. "But there are necessary wars."

Because of America's military, its citizens – which represent only 6 percent of the world's population – have had the ability to build a nation that is number one in military and political strength, space development, post secondary education, agricultural development of land and the development of medicine.

"Anyone in the world can come to America and realize their potential," Grif-

fith said. "This nation is the greatest experiment in democracy. We must remain dedicated to those who have allowed us to reach our potential."

While Memorial Day is the unofficial start of the summer, its true purpose is to be a day when all Americans remember "those who gave us the right to celebrate freedom, who said 'I will give my life if I have to,'" Myles said.

"Veterans have fought so that you can have the freedoms to be all you can be and that's what makes veterans special."

In combat operations throughout the world, today's Soldiers have made a commitment to the veterans who have come before them, Myles said. Quoting President Abraham Lincoln, he said Soldiers will continue to do their part to protect and defend freedom throughout the world.

Battle reiterated Huntsville's commitment to ensure the veterans memorial is built.

"We are a community that says 'Thank you,'" he said. "A little bit of each of us died with the 360 men (from Madison County) who gave their lives for our country. Our mission is to finish putting up this memorial to those 360 men and all those who have served."

Jones urged other corporations and private individuals to donate to the memorial.

"We need everyone in this community to help to get this done," he said. "Many of our older veterans today are perishing, yet their families are still here. We want something in this community to honor their service" while they are with us and after they are gone.

The foundation has plans to announce other major donations later this summer. The community can participate in raising funds by purchasing license plates, lapel pins and magnetic decals, and by purchasing a \$100 brick paver that will be part of the memorial. For more information, call 533-0180 or visit the foundation's website at www.madisoncountyveteransmemorial.org.

Gates calls on Asian partners for help in Afghanistan

By FRED W. BAKER III
American Forces Press Service

SINGAPORE – Defense secretary Robert M. Gates on May 30 called on U.S. allies in Asia to render more aid to bolster the fight in Afghanistan.

In his opening remarks at the “Shangri-La Dialogue” Asia security summit here, Gates said terrorist groups rooted in training camps along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border have international reach, even to the Asia-Pacific region.

“I know some in Asia have concluded that Afghanistan does not represent a strategic threat to their countries, owing in part to Afghanistan’s geographic location,” he said. “But the threat from failed or failing states is international in scope, whether in the security, economic or ideological realm.”

The secretary cited examples of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia, and said

some are inspired and supported by terrorist groups operating along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

“Failure in a place like Afghanistan would have international reverberations, and, undoubtedly, many of them would be felt in this part of the world,” Gates said.

Gates cited the U.S. administration’s strategy to surge troops and civilian aid into Afghanistan and to take on the threat on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in a unified effort. But, he said, Afghanistan needs more aid to build needed infrastructure, funding to expand the Afghan security forces, and experts to help rebuild the country’s health care, agricultural and education systems.

“The challenge in Afghanistan is so complex, and so untraditional, that it can only be met by all of us working in concert,” Gates said. “All must contribute what they can to a cause that demands the full attention of the international community.”

U.S. monitoring North Korean situation

Nuclear-device test reported May 25

By GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States government — including the Pentagon — is “very closely” monitoring the situation regarding North Korea’s recent nuclear device and missile tests, a senior Defense Department official said Thursday.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama is employing diplomacy and international pressure through the United Nations to persuade North Korea to eliminate its nuclear weapons program.

Obama “has made clear the path in which the United States is going to take to try to resolve these issues,” Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters.

“The record is clear: North Korea has previously committed to abandoning its nuclear program,” Obama told reporters at a May 25 White House news conference, following reports that North Korea had

conducted an underground nuclear-device test earlier that day. North Korea, Obama told reporters, “has chosen” to ignore its commitment to jettison its nuclear weapons program.

As a result of North Korea reneging on its pledge, Obama continued, it will face stronger international efforts to persuade it to comply with U.N. resolutions.

It is believed that North Korea carried out its first underground nuclear test in October 2006.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned North Korea’s May 25 underground test of a nuclear device, as well as its recent missile tests. The United States, she said, is working with the United Nations to convince North Korea to adhere to its pledge not to develop nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, to include ballistic missiles.

Whitman said more-definitive knowledge whether North Korea had, indeed, conducted a nuclear-device test on May 25 could become available during the next several days.

Prep rocket designers get boost from mentor

Rocket Boys from Stone reach national contest

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

As a volunteer, Michael Murphy is having an influence on the future of aerospace.

For the past three years, this engineer has given up many Tuesday afternoons and some Saturday mornings during the school year to help students at Stone Middle School explore the possibilities, limitations and challenges of rocketry.

He has helped teams of students work with computer programs to design rockets, and then select materials to build and fly rockets. He has helped them analyze their flight results and make changes so that future flights are more and more successful.

"When we get a design that we think is close to the goal, we build and then fly it, and see how close we came to our computer model," said Murphy, a fixed wing integration engineer at Redstone Arsenal for the program executive office for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors.

"They are using a lot of skills they learn in the classroom and applying them to real world problems. They get to see how their classroom applies to real problem solving."

This year, Murphy helped the Rocket Boys from Stone become the only team from Alabama to make the finals in the nationwide Team America Rocketry Challenge, the largest rocket contest in the world sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry in conjunction with NASA, the Defense Department, the American Association of Physics teachers and 34 AIA member companies. Out of 653 teams registered for the competition, Stone Middle School's six-member team was one of the top 100 teams selected nationwide based on their qualifying score to travel to northern Virginia in May

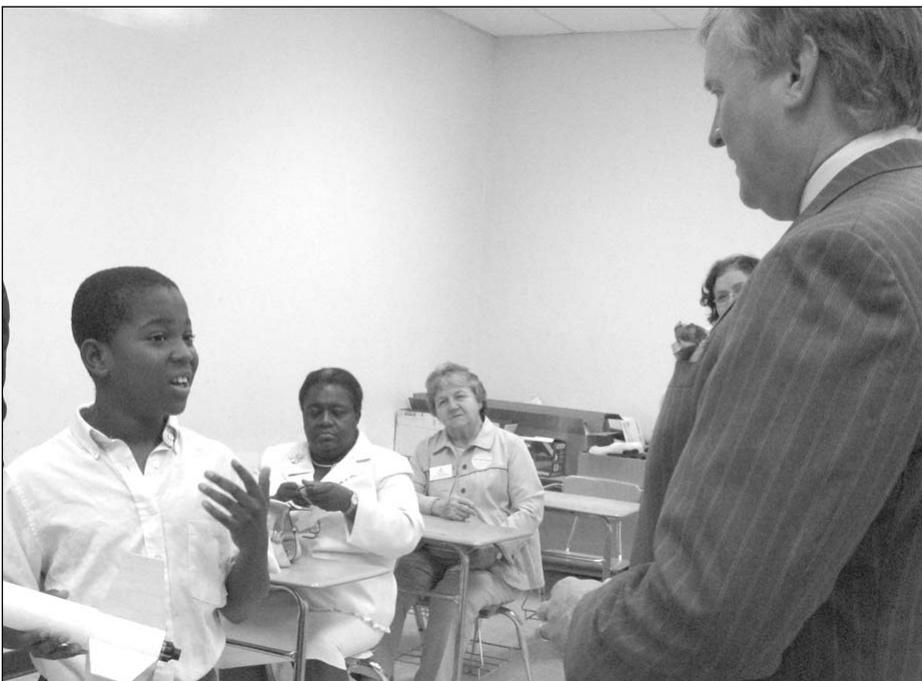


Photo by Kari Hawkins

SIMPLE EXPLANATION— Stone Middle School sixth-grader Elijah Archie explains how a rocket works to Huntsville-Madison County Schools Foundation chairman Scott McLain. Archie is a member of the Rocket Boys from Stone who were recognized by several state and community leaders for being the only team from Alabama to reach the finals of the nationwide Team America Rocketry Challenge.

for the National Fly Off.

The Team America Rocketry Challenge for 2009 was to fly a rocket carrying a raw egg to the target altitude of 750 feet with a flight time goal of 45 seconds. The raw-egg payload had to be transported on its side to mimic the position of an astronaut and could not be cracked or broken when it returned from flight. Although the Stone team did not place in the national competition because of parachute failure, the boys learned a lot about competing, and what it takes to excel in science and math fields, Murphy said.

"They now have the realization that they can compete in academic things that involve math and science as well as any kid going to school in this area," he said.

"At a Title One school that is very, very important because it shows if they apply themselves and work really hard they can break out from where they are in the social economic strata and they can do well. They can get in a good college and get a good job and then they can start living the American dream. That's the most rewarding thing that I find in working with these kids."

A Title One school is a school that has a high percentage of students from low income families.

"These kids come from an environment where they don't have much of an opportunity to succeed," Murphy said. "To break out of that cycle, they need to have success so they know they can compete with the best of them."

That success came March 31 when the team launched their rocket from a cotton field next to McDonnell Elementary School. They met the challenge by flying their rocket 748 feet with a flight time of 45.45 seconds, coming the closest to the

design of a 41-inch-long rocket that has a 70-millimeter booster section and a 2.930-inch diameter payload section. The fully loaded rocket, which carried the raw egg and an electronic altimeter to record height, weighed 1.71 pounds at liftoff.

"We had some faults, of course. In real life there are a lot of things that can go wrong," explained Nelson, an eighth-grader on the team. "At one point, our motors kept exploding and we discovered we had gotten a bad batch of motors. But when we qualified we had no faults and almost a perfect score."

Murphy said a lot of analysis was done by the boys during the year. For instance, at one point they got a rocket to fly to 60 feet. They then had to decide how they wanted to increase the fly height, either by reducing the rocket's weight, increasing its boost or both.

"They had to do a lot of computing and base their design on data from all their flights," he said. "They looked forward to the time we spent together. After our meetings, they would ask 'Are we meeting again next Tuesday?' or 'Can we fly this weekend?' It was fun to watch their excitement and enthusiasm. It is rewarding to actually be able to sit down and talk with boys, and actually teach them about rocketry."

Nelson said the experience was about more than seeing how high and how fast a group of boys can fly a rocket.

"I've learned a lot because I had never flown a rocket before this. And I had to learn how to protect an egg while flying the rocket," he said. "Mr. Murphy was our mentor. He taught us how to do it and he helped us along the way."

The Rocket Boys from Stone have received proclamations and congratulatory letters from Gov. Bob Riley, the Alabama Legislature, the Huntsville City Board of Education, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Sen. Richard Shelby.

"This program is all about the kids. These kids are going to be the future engineers to take our places when we retire," Murphy said. "The goal of this contest is to bolster student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in an effort to attract young people to aerospace careers. If we don't do that, who will do this work and who will understand this technology when we all retire?"

This was the second team Murphy took to the national competition. The 2007 team made it to national and the 2008 team barely missed the nationals. Besides helping the students, he also writes grant requests to get funding for the program. This year, funding was received from UAH Inservice Group, Alabama A&M University, Pratt & Whitney, Huntsville Area Technical Society, Rocketdyne and Optimist Club of Southeast Huntsville.

"We have proven that this is money well spent because these kids are going to be the future engineers and scientists that will work in the aerospace industry," Murphy said. "This is just a payment on the future."



Courtesy photo

TEST FLIGHT— A rocket built by the Rocket Boys from Stone takes off during a Saturday morning test. The six-man team tested several rockets under the mentorship of Redstone engineer Michael Murphy before coming up with a winning design that took them to the national Team America Rocketry Challenge in May.

requirements of 750 feet and 45 seconds, and beating out 19 other teams in Alabama to go to the national competition.

Their qualification score was 2.90 on a scale where 0 is perfect, coming in well below the cutoff score of 17.6 that was needed to be invited to the national competition.

The Rocket Boys from Stone included Anthony Nelson, Mark Bond, Victor Rodriguez, Jackson Myrick, Elijah Archie and Moquin Tonbuavone. Throughout the school year, they redesigned their rocket several times until they came to their final



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TEAM OF WINNERS— Stone Middle School teacher Barbara Murphy introduces the Rocket Boys from Stone during a press conference at the school that recognized the team's success in rocketry. The boys are, from left, Jackson Myrick, Moquin Tonbuavone, Anthony Nelson, Mark Bond, Victor Rodriguez and Elijah Archie. The team was mentored by Redstone engineer Michael Murphy, Barbara's husband.

Author shares her life's stories in poetry

Dailey finds comfort in childhood memories

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

Many people dream of one day seeing their name on the cover of the first book they have written. For most of them, a dream is as far as the idea will ever go. Mary Dailey is living that dream.

Dailey's book, titled "In My Comfort Zone," is a collection of poetry written over the years of her life. Her journey is reflected throughout its pages, from her childhood in Atmore to the present day.

Dailey, who has spent 25 years as a supply systems analyst at AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, is one of 11 children. While her parents were not wealthy, they managed to raise their kids comfortably through hard work and careful money management.

"I come from a very loving and close knit family," she said. "My father was able to provide a comfortable life for us. My mother was a seamstress and licensed beautician. They did a whole lot more with less."

The love of the outdoors she knew as a child fills her poetry with vivid imagery. With her gentle insistence, it's easy to smell the honeysuckle and hear the crickets. She speaks of the haven that still shelters her in moments of need.

"Whenever I face any type of difficulty in my life, I try to think comforting thoughts," Dailey said. "They always take me back to my childhood. I had such a happy childhood. I wanted to capture those memories in this book."

She began writing poetry as a child. Describing herself as a very shy girl, she used writing as a way to express herself. While she overcame her shyness as she grew into adulthood, her passion for writing stayed with her. When it came time to select which poems would go into the book, she had a lot to choose from.

"I had over a hundred," she said. "I started compiling the ones for the book

about four or five years ago."

She decided to divide the book into the four categories of love, life, spirituality and folklore. While the stories she tells are personal, they touch on universal themes. Dailey believes that a poem doesn't always have to be serious. The folklore section tells stories of the people who made life in Atmore colorful.

"One of the poems I love is called 'The Night Junior Lee Turned into a Cat.' It deals with my cousin, who was an alcoholic," she said. "My grandmother had chickens. Aunt Mabel ran a juke joint. They were the people and things that fascinated me."

Because some of her poems talk about real people, some friends cautioned her about using them in the book. She chose to do so anyway, hoping that the people named can see the beauty and humor in the tale.

"Many of them have passed on now," she said. "I've talked to (the families) and they've been happy to see them remembered."

The publishing of this collection is a lifelong dream for Dailey. Seeing the first edition in print was an emotional experience.

"It was such a sense of accomplishment for me," she said. "I can't even describe it. I'm going to leave something for my children that they can pass on to their children."

Her first public event for the book was held where it all began, back home in Atmore.

"I had my first signing there," she said. "It is the comfort zone I talk about in the book."

She is preparing for her next book. She is working with her youngest brother on a novel. While the plot details are still being worked out, she said it will be about love and romance.

She will have a book signing Saturday afternoon from 2-4 at the Huntsville Public Library. She looks forward to seeing "In My Comfort Zone" on more and more shelves. She anticipates it gracing local booksellers soon. Meanwhile, copies of the book are available from Dailey and online at www.lulu.com.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

ATMORE NATIVE— Supply systems analyst Mary Dailey discusses her first book "In My Comfort Zone."

Community honors fallen heroes

Memorial Day ceremony shares patriotism, memories of loss

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Under gray clouds that threatened rain, members of 20 military organizations were joined by hundreds of community residents in a patriotic, emotional and heart-warming ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery to honor local military heroes on Memorial Day.

The May 25 ceremony drew an estimated crowd of 800 attendees, who participated in a program that included patriotic music, the placing of memorial wreaths, a rifle salute, and comments from local community and military leaders. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony was hosted by the Redstone-

Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army and co-sponsored by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

While Memorial Day is traditionally a day to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation, Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said it is also a day when Americans should remember the blessings of living in a country that has never been occupied by a foreign force and that is strong politically, economically and militarily.

"Let us challenge ourselves today to always remember how much we owe to the valiant men and women of the armed forces, those who have served and those who are serving now," he urged his audience.

Crosby said nearly 5,000 military heroes have died since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"All died for a great cause: in defense of our freedom and democracy," he said.

"Today, we remember the sacrifices that Americans have made worldwide in answering the call of freedom. They followed in the footsteps of millions of veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect America and spread freedom throughout the world. Because of their sacrifices, there are fewer terrorists today that threaten America."

Several of Alabama's fallen military heroes were mentioned during the ceremony, including Staff Sgt. Joshua L. Rath of Decatur, Pfc. Ricky Turner of Hazel Green, Pvt. Sean P. McCune of Nauvoo, and most recently Sgt. Carlie Lee III of Birmingham.

"All of these Soldiers typify the core of the Army Warrior Ethos. They raised their right hand and vowed to protect the United States from enemies foreign and domestic," Crosby said. "They were young, full of life and could have done anything else with their lives, but they chose to serve their country instead and gave the ultimate sacrifice."

In the stories of each of these Soldiers is the real meaning of Memorial Day – that, despite the risk, servicemembers continue to commit to protecting and defending the freedoms of America.

"Through all the ceremonies, parades, prayers and speeches, we must make the troops who have died in our wars more than just names," Crosby said. "Let us resolve never to forget the freedoms they have won for us, nor the pain that must be endured by their family members they have left behind."

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Honor Flight president Joe Fitzgerald were also guest speakers at the ceremony.

Military organizations participating with AUSA and the Veterans Coalition in the ceremony included American Ex-Prisoners of War; American Legion & Auxiliary, Buford-Byrom Post 176; American Legion & Auxiliary, Huntsville-Madison County Post 237; Disabled American Veterans, Huntsville Chapter 26; Eighth Air Force Historical Society, North Alabama Chapter; Forty & Eight & Femmes, Tennessee Valley Voiture 1012; Forty-Second Rainbow Division Association, General Harry J. Collins Chapter; Jewish War Veterans of USA, Post 111; Korean

War Veterans Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter 14; Marine Corps League, Brandon-Wilbourn Detachment 820; Military Officers Association, Redstone Chapter; Military Order of the Purple Heart, George Rauh Chapter 2201; U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, Redstone Chapter; Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary, Gentry-Isom, Post 2702; Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary, Post

5162; Military Order of the World Wars, Redstone Chapter; 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, CSA; and GFWC du Midi Woman's Club.

In addition, Boy Scout Troop 400, Huntsville Concert Band, Patriot Guard Riders, Murray Wilton Ministries, Bob Smith Ministries, New Life International and the Veterans Memorial Museum assisted with the program.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HONORING THE FLAG— Veteran John Schantz, commander of the Forty & Eight, stands at attention while the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment marches the U.S. flag into position for the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem during the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 25 at Maple Hill Cemetery.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MUSIC AND FLOWERS— Bagpiper David Williams serenades the participants in the ceremony while representatives of local military organizations present memorial wreaths at a monument honoring Madison County's deceased military heroes.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SAD MEMORIES— During the ceremony, Mike Lawson remembers his two best friends who died in Vietnam.



Photo by Kar Hawkins

PATRIOTIC DISPLAY— Flags fly high overhead as members of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment serve as the color guard for the Memorial Day Ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SALUTE FOR HEROES— James Newell, senior vice commandant of the Brandon-Wilbourn Detachment 820 chapter of the Marine Corps League, salutes the wreath presented by his organization during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery. Saluting with Newell are, at left, Young Marines Cpl. Shawn Herron, and, at right, Young Marines Lance Cpl. Mitchell Stease.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PURPLE HEART— Ken Shepherd, commander of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Geraldine Draper, wife of decorated Vietnam veteran Oscar Draper, present a wreath during the Memorial Day Ceremony. Helping them is community leader Joe Fitzgerald.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TUNES OF TAPS— Post-WW II and Korean War veteran Mike Vaccaro of the American Legion Post 237 honor guard plays taps on his bugle in honor of Madison County's deceased military heroes.



Photo by Kar Hawkins

CONTINUING TO SERVE— Vietnam veteran Willie Van Vector of Hazel Green bows his head in remembrance of the nation's fallen heroes during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery. Van Vector, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, attended the ceremony with his daughter, Kathy Hooper. He was a guest flag bearer of the Patriot Guard Riders. His son, Capt. Jerry Van Vector, is serving his third deployment to Afghanistan and has also deployed to Iraq.

Substance abuse a difficult road to travel

Patients often misdiagnosed because they fail to disclose

By HAROLD B. SMITH III
Fox Army Health Center

Each year, millions of people are seen by professionals – psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, clergy, nurses and doctors for a variety of reasons. Some will complain of a mental illness such as depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety and even psychosis. Some may seek help for marital problems, occupational problems or feeling spiritually empty. Others may complain of sleep disturbances, hypertension, diabetes or stomach problems. Sadly, many are misdiagnosed and harmfully treated because they under report or even completely omit their alcohol or drug usage.

Many professionals are not skilled in assessing for substance abuse disorders and others just don't have the time due to their heavy caseload and as a result, the symptoms may be treated however the cause of their problems remains untreated. The reality is that many mental illnesses such as mood disorders or anxiety disorders cannot be accurately diagnosed or even properly treated as

long as the person continues to use alcohol and/or drugs. Alcohol and drug use often mask marital dissatisfactions or job conflicts. Hypertension, heart problems, diabetes and stomach problems are often a result of years of abusive alcohol use.

There are many names for people who have problems with alcohol or drugs: alcoholic, lush, drunkard, addict, pot head, crack head, pill popper and so on. These for the most part are names or terms that evolve out of a society that has a need to put labels on things they don't understand. Regardless of what you call the problem, there are actually only two distinct kinds of alcohol or drug problems: substance abuse and substance dependence. Substance abuse is most often characterized by behavioral problems whereas substance dependence is characterized by physiological symptoms.

For example, Pvt. Tufguy (fictitious character) is a 20-year-old, single active duty Soldier with only six months of active duty time. His first use of alcohol was at age 19 and he subsequently got drunk. He was arrested and charged with DUI the same evening. The judge presiding over his DUI hearing decided to have leniency because Tufguy had enlisted in the Army on the delayed

entry program and was scheduled to ship out to the MEPS station at the end of the week. During his IET, Tufguy along with two of his battle buddies decided to sneak off post, go to a local bar and have a few beers. All three of them were caught when they attempted to sneak back into the barracks and were subsequently administered Company Grade UCMJ for being FTR (Failure to Repair) and underage and unauthorized use of alcohol. After Tufguy completed his IET, he then moved to his permanent duty assignment and within one month received his second Article 15 when he showed up for PT formation one morning, still under the influence of alcohol.

As bad as all this was, Tufguy did not display the primary symptoms of alcohol dependence – an inability to control his use or an increased tolerance for alcohol. He had the problem of alcohol abuse as evidenced by his DUI arrest at 19, his UCMJ for underage and unauthorized use of alcohol in IET and his UCMJ for being under the influence of alcohol during duty hours. His drinking was a matter of bad choices and immaturity.

On the other side of the coin there is SFC Killjoy (also a fictitious character). He is a 39-year-old, married NCO with 19 years in the Army. He has always made it to work on time and has always performed his duties in an exemplary manner. He says that he drinks alcohol for any number of reasons – when he is depressed because he got passed over for promotion, elated because his oldest daughter just graduated from high school, fearful about his future or concerned about his financial problems. However it wasn't always this way. Killjoy didn't start drinking alcohol until his mid-20s.

He and his wife would have 1-2 beers maybe once every two weeks while visiting friends or at a barbecue. At first, this was just a way of relaxing. Within a couple of months, Killjoy started to find more reasons to drink more often than once every two weeks. The 1-2 beers became 3-4 beers whether or not his wife had anything to drink. When Killjoy and his wife noticed how much beer he was drinking and how it was now starting to affect the household budget, he decided to switch from beer to liquor. His wife takes a lot of emotional abuse when Killjoy drinks. He has never physically hit her, but calls her names and says very hurtful things when he is intoxicated. After a unit ball two years ago, Killjoy was driving drunk and his wife asked him to let her drive. Furious, he stopped the car, leaned across her, opened the door and pushed her out. He then sped away, leaving her stranded on the side of the road.

After these episodes, Killjoy would feel guilty and ashamed and would beg his wife's forgiveness. He vowed to cut down to no more than two drinks per

night. But more often than not he would find himself unable to keep his promises. As things got worse, Killjoy tried to quit cold turkey and was successful for a few days or weeks at a time. He would then convince himself that it was safe to start drinking again. Sometimes he was able to stick to his commitment and have only 1 or 2 drinks but before long, he would again lose control and finish off an entire fifth of liquor. Killjoy found that without his daily use of alcohol, he felt agitated and anxious and had trouble getting to sleep. Sometimes his hands would shake during the day and he felt hot and sweaty for no apparent reason.

Killjoy was suffering from the disease of alcohol dependence as evidenced by his impaired control over his use of alcohol and his repeated attempts to stop drinking. His increased tolerance and withdrawal symptoms showed that he was in the later stages of alcohol dependence.

There is a very fine line that separates substance abuse from substance dependence. Normally if the person who abuses alcohol or drugs is able to make the connection between their problems and their substance use and quit, they for the most part will be OK. Unfortunately, most substance abusers are unable to make the connection and will inevitably cross over that invisible line to substance dependence. Many people absolutely refuse to acknowledge that substance dependence is a disease and may suggest that it is something that people choose to do. Yes, a lot of people may choose to abuse alcohol or drugs however nobody chooses to become alcohol or drug dependent and are often unaware as the disease gradually progresses.

Here at Fox Army Health Center, we have an Army Substance Abuse Program with two licensed and certified addiction counselors – Harold B. Smith III and Patricia Johnson. The ASAP is primarily an outpatient substance abuse program that provides the following services: substance abuse assessments and referrals to the appropriate level of care, individual therapy, group therapy and marriage counseling as it pertains to alcohol or drugs. We are able to provide services to all Tricare eligible beneficiaries to include active duty and retirees and their dependents. Additionally, we provide services to DoD civilians, National Guard and reservists.

Has anyone ever suggested to you that you drink too much or drug too much? Do others who know you have a different opinion about your drinking or using behaviors? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you may very well have an alcohol or drug problem.

For an assessment and referral to the appropriate level of care, call the ASAP at 955-8888, ext. 1942 or 1943.

Health maintenance prescribed for men

Physical activity reduces risks

By RICK STOCK
Fox Army Health Center

As we move into National Men's Health Week, June 15-21, we become more cognizant of the needs of men from a medical standpoint. Due to a number of factors, men's health and well-being are deteriorating steadily. Men are dying seven years younger than women. Men have a higher death rate for every one of the 10 leading causes of death.

Surveys suggest that men take better care of their cars than they do their own health. Nearly 84 percent of men say they've had their car serviced in the past year but fewer than 7 out of 10 had an annual check-up with a doctor during the same period.

One of the major reasons men and women should visit their doctor annually is to be aware of metabolic syndrome or Syndrome X. The dominant underlying risk factors for the syndrome appear to be abdominal obesity and insulin resistance. Insulin resistance is a generalized metabolic disorder in which the body cannot use insulin efficiently. This is why the metabolic syndrome is also called the insulin resistance syndrome.

Metabolic syndrome is characterized by a group of metabolic risk factors in one person which include:

- Abdominal obesity/waist circumference (excessive fat tissue in and around the abdomen) greater than 40 inches in males and more than 35 inches in females.

- Elevated blood pressure, 130/85 or higher.
- Insulin resistance or glucose intolerance (the body can't properly use insulin or blood sugar) — fasting blood glucose of 100 mg/dl or higher.
- HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol) less than 40 mg/dl (males) and 50 mg/dl (females).
- Triglycerides — 150 mg/dl or higher.

Three of these five risk factors is considered metabolic syndrome. Be sure and take this information with you when you visit your health care practitioner for a frank discussion.

The primary goal of clinical management of metabolic syndrome is to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. Then the first line therapy is to reduce the major risk factors for cardiovascular disease: smoking and tobacco cessation, reduce LDL cholesterol (100 or less), blood pressure and glucose levels to the recommended levels.

Lifestyle changes like a mobile over a crib become the important swing factor in making crucial lifestyle therapy interventions for both short- and long-term success. One health change affects the entire spectrum.

Here are the minimum changes recommended:

- Weight loss to achieve a desirable weight with a Body Mass Index score of less than 25 kg/m².
- Increased physical activity with a goal of at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity on most days of the week (visit an MWR gym for guidance).
- Reduced intake of saturated fat, trans fat and high cholesterol foods.

- Read food labels and be aware of the words "partially hydrogenated" and "high fructose corn syrup" on your labels, especially near the top of the ingredients.

When it comes to lifestyle changes, one of the most important is a regimen of physical activity 3-5 times per week for about 30 minutes per session. It takes 21-39 consecutive days of change to form a positive habit or eliminate a negative habit. When it comes to physical activity, there are many psychological benefits promoted including creating an "endorphin high" thus reducing stress levels and modulating a more positive mood level.

Regular enjoyable physical activity has many health benefits:

- Helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints.
- Helps achieve and maintain a healthy body weight. Lowers the risk of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and colon cancer by 30-50 percent.
- For every structured exercise hour per week, a person gains two hours in life extension.
- For more information, contact your health care provider.

For a host of medical assessments and medical information, attend the "Go Blue for Men" Health Fair on June 16 from 9 a.m. to noon in the lobby of Bob Jones Auditorium.

For more information call Rick Stock, community health promotion educator at Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine, at 955-8888 ext. 1443 or e-mail richard.stock@us.army.mil.

From so-called enemy aliens to U.S. patriots

Asian Pacific Americans recognized for helping making this nation great

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

World War II and Korean War veteran Grant Ichikawa has experienced the dramatic change in the lives of Asian Pacific Americans.

During the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ceremony May 27, he related how Asian immigrants were denied citizenship until after World War II. But today Asian Pacific Americans hold top positions in the presidential cabinet, Congress and the military.

"So many great people have done so much to make this country great," Ichikawa said.

He told about how as a young man he and other Japanese-Americans were placed in internment camps after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

"I saw my chance to prove my loyalty," he said. The military needed Japanese Americans to help understand the complex Japanese language.

Upon completing the linguists program, Ichikawa joined the Military Intelligence Service. The wartime service of Japanese-Americans helped lead to the closure of the internment camps; and the government has since taken corrective measures to apologize.

"Sixty years ago we were classified as enemy aliens and last year we were honored as patriots," Ichikawa said. He and other World War II Japanese-American veterans



Photo by Megan Cotton

VETERAN SPEAKER— Grant Ichikawa, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, tells about his military service.

met with President Bush at the White House in May 2008 for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Along with Ichikawa's story, the crowd in Bob Jones Auditorium also enjoyed a dance performance by the Center for Kuchipudi Art, a traditional Philippine Bamboo Dance, a martial arts demonstration by Team Kirage and a Philippine Opera.

"These (cultural) programs are the key to telling the story of where we come from," Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said.



Photo by Megan Cotton

INDIAN DANCE— Performers from the Center for Kuchipudi Art do a classic South Indian dance during the ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Depot constructing children's center

Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., broke ground May 27 for construction of a Child Development Center.

The daycare center was selected out of six prefabricated design concepts. The center will mimic a similar center in Carlisle and will be managed by the Carlisle Barracks.

Depot commander Col. Steven Shapiro said that as Letterkenny continues to grow and continues to be the number one employer in Franklin County they have to continue to meet the needs of their work force. Providing a child-care facility on Letterkenny will help in meeting some of these needs. *(Letterkenny release)*



Courtesy photo

Depot celebration

Corpus Christi Army Depot commander Col. Joe Dunaway and others cheer as the depot goes live May 14 with the Logistics Modernization Program, an innovative enterprise resource planning package specifically designed for the Army. In partnership with Computer Science Corporation, Corpus Christi replaced its 35-year-old logistics Standard Depot System used to manage operations.

■ Soldier values every moment with his children

Time

continued from page 3

nervous, excited, terrified, etc. Once he arrived my life changed; and getting to spend those first two weeks with him was wonderful. I then headed back overseas to Iraq to rejoin my unit, knowing this might have been the last I would ever see him. You never know what might happen over there.

With luck on my side, I made it through Iraq and finally was transported back to Texas after 14 grueling months at war. When I first saw my son, he looked different. He was now 5 months old and clung to his mommy, staring at this stranger who everyone was calling his daddy. He didn't want me to hold him very long and often cried when I did. This broke my heart every time.

Elijah, or Eli as his mother and I call him, is almost 2 and a spitting image of his dad. We spend daddy-son time together and go on adventures, but I still can't shake a feeling of being robbed from his first five months of life. I took always being there for my children for granted.

Recently, my wife delivered our second child, Reagan, in late April.

I took as many days of leave as my company would allow to be with her. She is now just over a month old and I can't believe I'm still getting to see her. For the first time, I'm going to get to experience the first few months of my child's life! Nothing excites me more.

I guess what I'm trying to say is when you're a Soldier in the Army, or any other military branch for that matter, you cannot take time for granted. You could receive orders for a deployment any second. You must make the most of every moment you have with your family and friends. Leave no rock unturned.

Go home tonight and hug your children hard, let them know you care and will never leave them, that you will always be in their heart. I have made it goal of mine to, at least, hug and kiss my children as soon as I get home from work and before they go to bed.

As my daughter grows I plan on making sure she knows I'm here, even if I'm not. I plan on raising her and her brother to know every family meal together or every holiday is special in its own right. I'll never get those five months back for my son, but what I can do now is make sure both my children know I love them with all my heart.

Bravo Company heats up against HHC 59th

Bulldogs get 21 hits in 16-0 shutout win

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

Once the Bulldogs get going, they're hard to stop.

The Bravo Company softball team led HHC 59th only 1-0 after two innings but put on an impressive power display from then on.

The Bulldogs blanked the 59th 16-0 on May 27 at Linton Field. Bravo improved to 7-1 with the postseason tournament just ahead.

"The bats started off slow," Bravo player/coach Steven Hester said. "And the defense pulled us through until the bats got warmed up and then the bats took off."

Bravo scored three runs in the third, nine in the fourth and three in the fifth and final inning. The Bulldogs had 21 hits including eight for extra bases.

"We started off slow but that seems to be our trend," said left fielder TJ Gingrich, who went 3-for-4 with a double. "We start out slow and then late in the second or third we start swinging the bats really well. We always start off pretty good on defense right from the beginning. We shut them out today, so we played defense from the start all the way through."

Cory Fuller pitched a no-hitter with

three walks. And the Bulldogs turned a 4-6-3 double play to erase a leadoff walk in the first. They committed their lone error in the bottom of the fifth.

James Brewer slammed three doubles, reached on an error and scored three runs. Fuller, Jay Gavigan and Adam Weiner had three hits apiece. Andrew Hildreth drove in the first run with a sacrifice fly in the first and added a two-run homer in the third.

"We've got some good momentum going," Gingrich said. "We're looking to finish strong."

HHC 59th player/coach Robert Coppage took the loss for the "Raise up" bunch (4-4).

"We had a couple of people get injured, so we had to make some substitutions," Coppage said. "After that they base hit us. Softball's a hitters' game so they got key hits."

Also on May 27, the Civilian Welfare Fund beat the National Guard 10-0 and Charlie Company blanked the Marines 30-0.

On Thursday night, Charlie defeated Headquarters & Alpha 16-6, Bravo beat NCO Academy 21-4 and Civilian Welfare Fund bested HHC 59th 17-6.

The postseason tournament will begin June 8. Here were the standings entering this week's makeup games: Bravo (8-1), National Guard (8-2), Charlie (6-3), Civilian Welfare Fund (6-3), HHC 59th (4-5), Marines (2-7), Headquarters & Alpha (2-8) and NCO Academy (1-8).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOG UNLEASHED— Bravo's Jay Gavigan gets his third hit against HHC 59th on May 27.

Doctor fills prescription for medicine, music

Army physician moonlights as rhythm-dropping rapper

By Sgt. ROBERT G. COOPER III

Special to American Forces Press Service

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – It’s not hard to find a full-time Soldier who goes right back to work doing something else after the uniform comes off. From entrepreneurial endeavors through self-owned businesses to hobbies-turned-careers, some Soldiers moonlight in their passions no matter how involved their military careers might be.

Maj. (Dr.) Nickolas Karajohn is no exception. As a practicing physician at the troop medical clinic, the 42-year-old Las Vegas native can be found providing medical care to thousands of servicemembers training and working here. But it’s not his warm bedside manner or friendly demeanor that makes him unique.

In his office, he’s referred to as “sir” or “Dr. Karajohn,” but once on stage, he transforms into “M.C. M.D.,” a rhyme-dropping rapper who’s not afraid of the big stage or the bright lights.

“I’m the real doc on the mike,” he said, echoing his dual persona’s motto. “It’s part of who I am and how I’ve grown up. There never should be boundaries in any genre of music — racial, ethical or otherwise.”

Karajohn’s passion for performing began at an early age while he was growing up in a trailer park in North Las Vegas. His first talent was dancing, which led to his forming of a short-lived dance group. It wasn’t until later in life that his love for rhyming began to blossom.

“I’ve been listening to rap since it began, probably about 1980,” he said. “That was when the Sugar Hill Gang came out, along with all the original rappers. I followed the progression of rap music and became interested in 1996 in writing it.

“I was inspired by (rapper Notorious B.I.G.) when his double album came out,” he continued. “That was my inspiration to start writing songs and get in the studio and start recording.”

Despite his love for rap music, Karajohn remained committed to serving his country. “Rap was something I strictly had a passion for, but my main goal was to become a doctor,” he said. “I joined initially as a combat medic in 1996, and then went to medical school at the Ross University School of Medicine.”

Prior to mobilizing here through his unit, the National Army Augmentation Detachment at Fort McPherson, Ga., Karajohn had written 20 songs and released a 13-track album, even opening for rap group Tha Dogg Pound’s Daz Dillinger and Kurupt in 2006. His songs, a combination of East and West Coast rapping styles, he said, reflect on a number of topics.

“I rap about a lot of things,” he said. “I’ve got songs about my life and career, stories, etc. I’m not a ‘gangsta rapper,’ but I’ve got some songs about bragging. I also have some songs that try to relay some message about life.”

Editor’s note: Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III serves in the Camp Atterbury public affairs office.



Photo by Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III

DO IT LIKE THIS— Maj. (Dr.) Nickolas Karajohn, a physician on active duty at Camp Atterbury, is better known off duty as “M.C. M.D.,” a rhyme-dropping rapper from Las Vegas.

Cash bonus to replace 'Stop Loss' for deploying Guard Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. JON SOUCY

Special to American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — A new program that provides special pay for Soldiers deploying past their end-of-service dates is set to take effect Sept. 1 for the National Guard.

The Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay program replaces the "Stop Loss" involuntary extension program and pays a cash bonus of up to \$6,000 to Soldiers in units set to deploy who elect to stay in past their end-of-service date to deploy, said Col. Marianne Watson, Army National Guard personnel officer.

The bonus is not a lump sum payment, and the amount of the incentive depends upon when the Soldier decides to extend his or her enlistment contract, Watson said.

The Army's Stop Loss program has been used since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to extend Soldiers in

critical jobs past the end of their enlistment contract to deploy.

"If you agree to extend from 180 days to 365 days (prior to the mobilization date) we're going to offer you \$500 a month for each month that you're in a Title 10 (active duty) status," Watson said. For those who extend between 179 days and 90 days before the mobilization date, that rate drops to \$350 for each month on active duty.

Soldiers who elect to take advantage of this program would have their enlistment contracts extended for the length of the deployment plus 90 days, Watson said. However, to qualify for the incentive pay, Soldiers must make it through the Soldiers Readiness Processing at the mobilization station.

Soldiers who have an enlistment contract that expires during the deployment and choose not to extend it still may have to deploy.

"We would take a Soldier who could serve a minimum of six months boots-on-ground, plus still keep or maintain 90 days of reintegration," Watson said. "So a Guard Soldier would go to mobilization station for two to three months, they would go to the deployment theater and they would do a minimum of six months boots-on-ground. Then they could come back, up to three months early."

To put it another way, Watson said, "anybody with a (contract expiration date) of mobilization day plus one year, we're taking to theater." But Soldiers may rotate out of theater up to three months early, if need be, to have them take part in the 30-, 60- and 90-day reintegration programs prior to the end of their term of service.

"We said as a reserve component we still need to maintain that 30-, 60-, 90-day reintegration period," Watson said.

For unit commanders, the new poli-

cy provides a way to establish early-on their units' manpower needs for the deployment.

"The Guard program provides stabilization for units in the deployment window," Watson said. "Our goal is to stabilize the organization and lock in the formations for the commander as far out as we can, up to 365 days prior to the mobilization date."

For Soldiers who extend their contracts past the mobilization plus the 90-day reintegration window, standard retention bonuses would apply.

Stop Loss affects just 1 percent of the Guard, and only for limited time periods, Guard officials said. The Army still retains the authority for future use of Stop Loss under extraordinary circumstances.

State personnel offices have more information.

Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy serves at the National Guard Bureau.

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 Saturday 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.

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.

Muscular dystrophy benefit

The Huntsville Firefighters Association seventh annual golf classic to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association is June 20 at the Colonial Golf Course. Cost per player is \$70. For team and sponsorship information call Glenn Benson 828-7842 or Larry Ayers 651-6312.

Redstone fun run

The Redstone community is invited to the Community Fun Run on Friday at 7 a.m. in the PX parking lot. Check-in time is 6:15 to 6:30. Registration is \$10 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is at the Sparkman Fitness Center, Wellness Center, Redstone Fitness Center and Pagano Gym. For more information, call Gaylene Wilson 842-2574 or Sgt. 1st Class Lance Green 876-8648.

Family aviation

Free Family Fun Fly — indoor radio-controlled and free flight aviation — will be held Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m. at Madison United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center Aerodrome, 127 Church St. in Madison. Free loaner Vapor airplanes and MCX helicopters will be available to fly. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 876-5323.

Hiking trail

Join the Land Trust every other Tuesday beginning June 9 for an outdoor learning adventure. "Fun, free and filled with mountain vistas, creatures in water and caves, and beautiful forests," a prepared release said. These events are open to the public but spaces are limited. For reservations and more information, call 534-5263.

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-7910.

Bible studies

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

Veterans group

VFW Post 5162 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion building on Triana between Bob Wallace Avenue and Governors Drive. For

more information, call Robert Davenport 679-3180.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. June 11 at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Jimmy Pember-ton, a longtime Civil War enthusiast and free-lance writer, will speak on "Rousseau's Raid, July 10-22, 1864." Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 858-6191 for more information.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User Group will meet June 13 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 is PC User Group member Pat Layky. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 852-0344.

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. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 2017. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is June 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. This month's luncheon is an award ceremony and the swearing in of new officers with special guest Steve Fisher, AMCOM secretary of the general staff. For ticket information, call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

IT professionals

An organizational kickoff meeting for a local users group of IT professionals will be held June 16 at 5 p.m. at Jacobs Conference Center, 1500 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 100. For registration call Greg 971-5567 or e-mail greg.gindhart@jacobs.com.

Women in defense

The Women In Defense, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will hold a membership reception Thursday from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Marriott Tranquility Base. "Meet MDA Prime Contractors" is the venue and there is no cost to attend. All are welcome; and

See Announcements on page 25



Courtesy photo

Bicycle tour

Cycling enthusiasts take an opportunity to enjoy a ride around Redstone Arsenal during the Marshall Space Flight Center eighth annual Tour d' Arsenal on May 19. The route, approximately 22 miles, began at the NASA Exchange Fitness Center on Morris Road and continued through Test Area 1. More than 100 riders of all abilities participated.



Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

The Sergeants 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 —

VID would like extend an invitation to Redstone's summer hires and co-op students. Please register online at http://ndia-tvc.org/wid_june/.

Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society Chapter) presents "Going Green to the Moon, Sustainable Exploration," a free public lecture by Tim Pickens, CEO of Orion Propulsion Inc., on June 9 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library's auditorium, 915 Monroe St.

For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

Information security

North Alabama Information Systems Security Association will hold an Information Security Seminar on June 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dynetics, 1002 Explorer Boulevard. Keynote speaker Jonathan Pettus, Marshall Space Flight Center CIO, will present "The State of Information Security at NASA." Other topics include: FBI - Identity Theft, PKI for Dummies and Security Professionals, Hacking Demonstrations, and Healthcare Information Security. Security professional will earn 8 Continuing Professional Education credits for attendance. Cost is \$20 for ISSA members, \$25 for non-members. Fee includes breakfast, box lunch, snacks and the opportunity to win a grand prize. Space is limited to 125 attendees. For more information, e-mail infosecseminar@northalabama.issa.org.

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

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus

Rocket Announcements

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

See **Announcements** on page 26



Photo by Ron Garrett

International visitor

Lt. Col. Nail Almaitah, left, of Jordan visits Austin High School on May 7 where he meets Lt. Col. James Walker, the JROTC officer in charge. The Redstone Arsenal International Military Student Office took Almaitah to speak to the students about Jordan and hear from them about America.



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

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/>.

Vacation Bible school

Redstone Arsenal will join churches across the nation with their annual Vacation Bible School, June 8-12. The Bible school will meet daily from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Students from kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to register for the week's activities by calling Rad Reavis 842-6874. Volunteers are also needed. This promises to be a fun-filled week of learning about the experiences of the characters in the Bible.

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.

High school reunions

Arab High class of 1999 will reunite Aug. 22; Huntsville High graduates of 1989 will gather June 20; Grissom High class of 1999 will get together Aug. 15; and 1979 Lee High grads meet July 25. For registration information call Reunitus, Alabama's complete reunion source, at 877-823-4141 or visit www.reunitus.com.

Cadet program

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

Army training

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

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

Interactive feedback

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

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 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.

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. For ticket information, call SB Productions 278-8862 or 683-3083.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop has plants, jewelry, baseball cards, collectibles, books, toys, clothes, household goods and more. The store offers everyday discounts of 50-75 percent. Visit building 3209 on Hercules Road on Tuesdays 9-4, Wednesdays 9-4, Thursdays 9-5 or the first Saturday 10-2.

New Employee Orientation

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>.

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.

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/RENMO9/>.

Astronomy group

Von Braun Astronomical Society holds planetarium shows every Saturday night at 7:30 at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. Telescopes are open after the show if weather permits. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free to VBAS members. For more information, visit www.vbas.org.

Army birthday

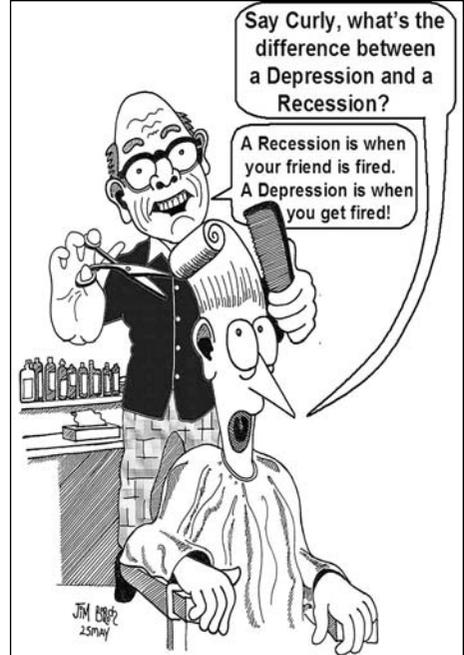
This year the Army will celebrate its 234th birthday. To commemorate this milestone the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter for the Association of the U.S. Army will hold a celebration June 9 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with the dinner at 6:30. The winners of the 1st Sgt. John Ordway award will be announced and recognized. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles will be the guest speaker. There will also be a special recognition of the Year of the NCO. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$275 per corporate table of eight. For tickets call Donna Palumbo 655-5147 or e-mail dapal@bellsouth.net.

EEO awards

Nominations are being accepted for the Garrison Equal Employment Opportunity Manager/Supervisor/Employee Awards. The awards are to recognize a manager, supervisor and employee who have made a significant contribution to the accomplishment of EEO program goals. Directors, managers and supervisors are encouraged to submit one nomination for this annual award. Nominations must be sent to the Garrison EEO office by Friday. Winners will be announced in July. For more information or to submit a nomination, call EEO specialist Woody Patrick 876-9259 or e-mail woody.patrick@us.army.mil.

Leadership awards program

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chap-



ter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association Inc. announces its eighth annual Leadership Awards Program on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Big Spring Room, 800 Monroe St. Tickets are \$45 per person. Reserved tables are \$500. This event recognizes outstanding leaders in the Huntsville-Madison County community for significant contributions in their professions, to their community and Alabama A&M University. Honorees include Linda Brown, chief of human resources division, Center Support Directorate in the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center; and Irene Lloyd, assistant deputy chief of staff for resource management, Space and Missile Defense Command. A jazz luncheon featuring Dependable Music Group will be held to commemorate this year's event. For tickets or more information, call 852-4052.

Employment briefing

A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a Federal Employment Briefing on Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The information provided will help participants to understand the federal application process. Topics will include recruitment sources, Resumix procedures, candidate evaluation and the referral process. This session is open to all military ID card holders. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397.

Alabama A&M alums

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter Alabama A&M University Alumni Association Inc. will hold its third annual Picnic on the Hill and Membership Roundup from noon-4 Saturday on the Quad of A&M campus (in front of the Chambers' Building). All alumni, spouses, children and friends of Alabama A&M University are invited. "Show your school spirit, dress in maroon and white, and bring your lawn chairs," a prepared release said. "Food and beverages are free. All we need is you." Please enter the campus at the

main entrance on Chase Road. For more information, call Erica McClain 679-5633 or C. Lamar Sterns 679-8961.

English classes

Weatherly Heights Baptist Church offers free English classes, with a special invitation to families new to the Huntsville area. Summer classes are June and July at 6:30 p.m. Fall classes start Aug. 19 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, call Becky Harchanko 656-3173 or Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, 1306 Cannstatt Drive, at 881-6882.

Translation services

Free translation services and immigration information are available to active duty military by contacting Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. For more information, call 876-5397.

Children's camp

Camp Merrimack is an arts half-day camp July 27-31 for children ages 3-12. The camp is open to children with special needs including Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, autism and others. Cost is \$40 per child. For information, visit the website <http://www.merrimackhall.com/artscamp09.html>.

Book signing

Mary Dailey will be signing copies of her book "In My Comfortzone: A Collection of Poetry and Writings by Mary A. Dailey" on Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at the Huntsville Public Library. The book contains four categories of poetry: Life Experiences, Folklore, Love and Spirituality. The cost of the book is \$12. Book previews and ratings are available at www.lulu.com. Dailey is a supply systems analyst for the AWCFC Acquisition Management Branch.

Summer reading

The Summer Reading Program for kids through age 18 is starting this week at the Post Library. The program runs through July, culminating in a recognition ceremony at the end of the summer. Pick up your reading log at the Post Library on Redeye Road and receive credit for 25 free pages each time you check out books. Call 876-4741 for more information.

D-Day celebration

A D-Day Celebration sponsored by the Tennessee Valley chapter of Honor Flight is Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Education Building at U.S. Space & Rocket Center. All veterans and the public are invited. It will include a Bronze Star medal presentation by AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles to three World War II veterans.

on behalf of a family member who died in WW II. Organizations wanting to participate in the ceremony should e-mail Max Bennett at max.bennett@gdc4s.com.

Animal fund-raiser

A New Leash on Life Inc. is throwing a party to help homeless and abandoned animals. You can help this non-profit organization raise money to build an animal sanctuary which will provide a safe place for homeless, sick and injured animals until they can be placed in foster or permanent homes. The annual "Wine & Dandy" event is 6 p.m. June 28 at the Chef's Table Restaurant, 2030 Cecil Ashburn Road in Huntsville. Music to be provided by 5ive O'Clock Charlie; and there will be a silent auction. Tickets are limited and may be purchased daily at Valley Animal Hospital in Jones Valley or from A New Leash On Life, at the Jones Valley PetSmart on Saturdays. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. For more information, call 489-PETS or visit www.anewleash.org.

Gardens tour

Tour nine private gardens in the Old Town Historic District in downtown Huntsville on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. All are within easy walking distance and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at In Bloom, Railroad Station Antiques, Dallas Mill Deli or Five Points Hallmark. Tickets will also be available the day of tour. Free parking will be available at Holmes Street Methodist Church. Rain date is June 14. For more information, call 603-6076.

Intern networking

Beginning this month, the National Education Partnership Alliance will hold a series of events in the Redstone community that will provide pertinent work force information and networking opportunities to current and future young professionals of the region. This series, known as Technology and Government in your Future, will be held every Friday from 9-11 a.m. throughout the summer from June 5 through July 31 (no seminar on July 3). The eight classes will offer summer hires, co-ops, and interns information about the Huntsville community, career opportunities and networking. The NEPA series will include speakers from a variety of Redstone and community organizations, such as the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and Oak Ridge National Laboratories. While some sessions are specifically targeted to one particular organization's young professionals, overall the program is open to all local co-ops, summer hires and interns. Admission is free. The June 5 event is part of a local conference at the Huntsville Marriott. For more information, visit <http://www.huntsvillealabama.com/sercec/register.htm>.

Army community

The staff of the Army Community Service invites all of the members of Team Red-

stone to drop by the ACS building 3338 on Redeye Road at 11 a.m. June 18 for a celebration/open house in honor of Armed Forces Week. The ACS staff will be on hand to provide information about the service and support that ACS provides to the Redstone community.

Rose show

The Huntsville-Twickenham Rose Society will hold a Mini/Mini-Flora Rose Show on Saturday at the Parkway Place Mall. Competition is open to all rose growers and entries must be made from 7-10:30 a.m. on the first floor of Parkway Place. Miniature/mini-flora rose arrangements will also be displayed. The show is free and will be open to the public from noon-4 p.m. For more information, e-mail greenmt-nroses@comcast.net.

Deployed work force

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Redstone Arsenal operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. The fourth Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for the fall. This ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments during the time frame of April to August 2009. Additionally, those who were not able to participate in the last three ceremonies — held April 7, Sept. 18, 2008 and Jan. 22, 2008 — are invited to participate in this ceremony. For more information, call Jeanna Reitmeier 876-5302 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

Project management

MTS, a registered education provider as certified by the Project Management Institute, announces two new courses beginning in June. Courses are taught at the MTS Conference Center in Perimeter Park. Both new courses — "Good Project Schedules Help to Ensure Project Success" and "Earned Value Management is Good Project Management" — are introductory level and require no previous experience. For more information and to register, visit the website <http://www.mts-usa.com/training>.

Veteran caretakers

Veteran caretakers are invited to a one-day seminar to learn about various disorders, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injuries and other neurological disorders June 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2500 10th St. The seminar is sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. For more information, call Kathy Hooper 508-6150 or Joyce Ortiz 852-1797.

Gospel concert

Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will present "Sisters in Praise" featuring the Delta Choir in its 12th annual gospel concert Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, 3020 Belafonte Ave. For more information, call Briggittie Fletcher 876-5207.

PUT YOUR
suggestions or comments on

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

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

COL Robert M. Pastorelli
and the
Garrison Staff

Go online to make a submission
<https://ice.disa.mil>

ICE INTERACTIVE
CUSTOMER
EVALUATION

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

CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Voice of the Customer

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