

Redstone Rocket

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Ordnance school prepares for move

Merritt commands 59th/OMEMS
which goes in 2011 to Fort Lee, Va.

By KARI HAWKINS
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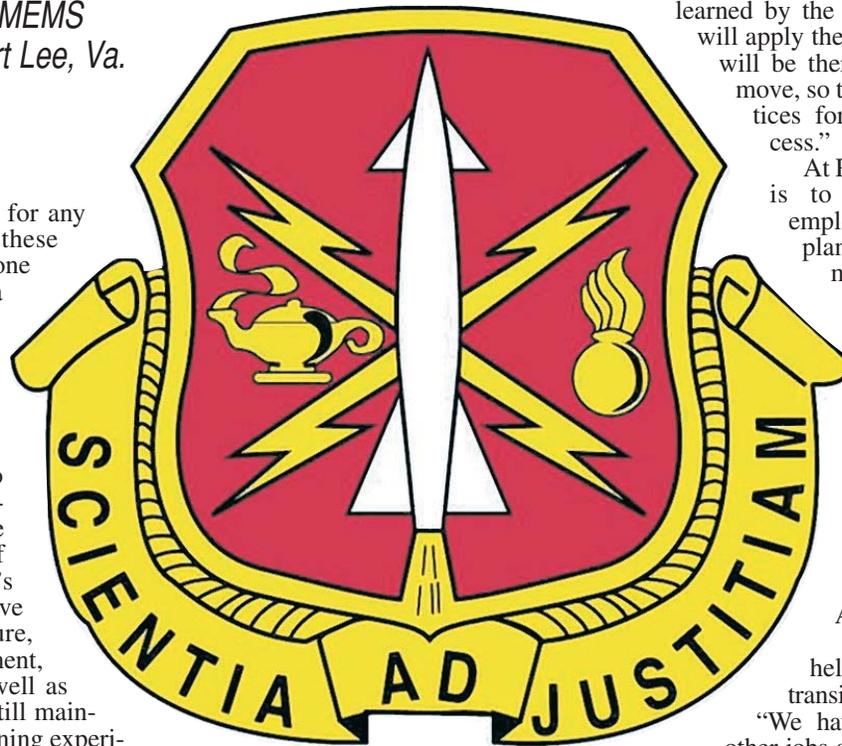
Moving is a way of life for any Army family. But these days, moving from one post to another has taken on a whole new dimension for Col. Lee Merritt and his command staff at the 59th Ordnance Brigade/Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

While the brigade's move to the Missile and Munitions Center at Fort Lee, Va., is still more than a year away, the spring of 2011 looms large on Merritt's radar as he reviews plans to move office and classroom furniture, training and simulation equipment, and instructional supplies as well as staff and students – all while still maintaining the educational and training experiences provided by OMEMS.

"Our first goal is to continue to provide quality training with feedback from the field. We want to train Soldiers so they will be prepared to hit their unit on day one of a deployment and fight and win our nation's battles," said Merritt, who will be the last commander of the 59th/OMEMS at Redstone Arsenal.

"At the same time, we need to be preparing to execute BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations) and move to Fort Lee. We will have lots of great facilities there that will give us more capability because they are built to meet our needs at today's standards. And, third, we need to take care of our people, both civilian and military, primarily because of BRAC. Anytime you have such a large organization move it impacts a lot of folks."

There are about 1,100 military and civilian personnel from the 59th/OMEMS who conduct and support 39 military occupational specialties in the areas of munitions management, explosive ordnance disposal, electronic and missile maintenance, and test measurement and diagnostic equipment arenas. Each year, the staff at Redstone trains about 6,000 Soldiers, who are assigned to the 832nd Ordnance Battalion. Since its inception in 1952, OMEMS has graduated more than 190,000 students.



The 59th was first constituted in 1943, with units serving in World War II and the Korean War, and 20 campaigns. It was deactivated in 1992, and reactivated at Redstone in 1994 when it merged with the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, becoming the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School/59th Ordnance Brigade. In 2002, the school was renamed the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School/59th Ordnance Brigade. The 59th/OMEMS also includes about 200 staff and support staff assigned to the 73rd Ordnance Battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga., and training detachments at Fort Bliss, Texas; Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; and Fort Sill, Okla.

As part of the BRAC moves, the 61st Ordnance Brigade (Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., will merge its 11 military occupational specialties with the 59th/OMEMS.

"The 61st is in the process of moving to Fort Lee now. When they merge with us, we will grow another battalion of the 59th," Merritt said.

"We do have a good plan that will allow us to move in a compressed time frame without skipping a beat with our training of Soldiers. But we will take the lessons

learned by the 61st as they move and we will apply them to our organization. They will be there nearly a year before we move, so they will know the best practices for making the move a success."

At Redstone, Merritt's objective is to keep the organization's employees updated about BRAC plans. He is hosting town hall meetings every three months, and the command staff has met with every OMEMS employee to discuss moving to Fort Lee or staying at Redstone. The 59th has published a booklet of resumes of its employees who want to remain at Redstone after the move. The booklet has been made available to other Arsenal organizations.

"It's important to try to help your civilians during a transition like this," Merritt said. "We have civilians leaving us for other jobs all the time and that's part of the challenge of BRAC. Next year, we will train almost 11,500 Soldiers in all our locations, and we've got to have the staff to support that, even though we are moving. This is truly a team of contractors, civilians and military working together to provide quality Soldiers to meet the requirements of our Army."

Merritt knows what it's like to be in a support role to Soldiers. He assumed command of the 59th in June, following a two-year assignment where he stood up and commanded the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Riley, Kan.

"It was an idea from our commanding general (Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin). We worked with local businessmen on the project," Merritt said. "It was a program that allowed Soldiers, while they were on duty, to do work that would reintegrate them and let them build skill sets that they didn't get in the Army so they could transition back into civilian life."

"Anytime you leave the service and make the transition, it can be difficult. But when you have injuries, it is even more traumatic. The program was designed to ease some of their fears and let them know they still can be a valuable member of their community. It helped them find jobs and gave them the skill sets to find those jobs quickly and easily."

See **Move** on page 7

An open lane random survey

What's your favorite classic sitcom?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Jeff Terry
Sports and Fitness
"Seinfeld, just because it reminds me of New York City, how crazy people are there (laugh). And just because it makes humor out of nothing, just everyday living. Just like they say it's a show about nothing. But really it's the characters that make it successful. You've got crazy people that are friends. Seinfeld's a comedian, but they're all just as funny."

Gary Braden
AMCOM G-6 (Information Management)
"I would have to say Good Times. I like the catch phrase: 'Dy-no-mite!'"



Patricia King
PX vendor
"Sanford and Son, because of his character. He was the opposite from Archie Bunker."



Marinita Haq
PX vendor
"The Golden Girls. I'm like one of them (laugh)."



Quote of the week

'Has anyone ever told you you look exactly like Al Pacino? You know, 'Scent of a Woman'? Hoo-wah! Hoo-wah!
— Seinfeld

Letter to the Editor

Shedding light on traffic signal pattern

I request a traffic engineer review the traffic light pattern on Mills, Marshall and Neal Road. I come in on Rideout/Research Boulevard, left on Toftoy, left on Mills/Marshall Mills, then go left on Neal to work (around 6:30-6:45 a.m.). There is often a half-mile backup at the light to turn left at Neal Road (I have to wait 3-4 stoplight changes). It seems to have gotten a lot worse the past few weeks – I'm not sure if the signal light time was recently adjusted so there's equal time for each direction or some other cause for the problem. There seems to be over a 10-1 ratio of traffic coming from this direction turning left/going across as the other directions combined. Obviously this probably isn't an issue after 9:30 a.m. as most of the work force would have arrived.

I suggest the light time be adjusted (at least between 6-8 a.m.) to reduce a growing bottleneck/delay, or else put in sensors (although the light might stay the same for a while due to the heavy traffic volume coming from one direction).

There is a construction speed limit sign on the road by the new AMC building listing 25 mph (regular speed of 40 mph). There has been very little if any work done the past few weeks (due to rain, etc.). It looked like someone partially turned the 25 mph sign to the right. Does the 25 mph speed limit sign apply 24 hours daily or only when there's construction work actually going on? It looks like the road expansion/construction might be ongoing for months before completed.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for bringing this situation to our attention. The Directorate of Public Works has addressed your concerns as follows:

"The traffic detectors which control the light signals were damaged in the recent construction on Mills Road. The problem has been corrected and the signals are now cycling properly.

"The 25 mph speed limit was required on a temporary basis due to AMC headquarters construction adjacent to Martin Road. The temporary speed limit reduction has been removed. It is likely there will be future temporary speed limit reductions for the safety of construction workers and traveling public.

"Thank you for your concern and interest in making a safer Redstone."

Letter policy

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

Driver unnerved by U-turn at gate

I am writing about a serious situation concerning Gate 9 turnaround for Goss Road during high traffic times, making this turnaround extremely dangerous simply because of traffic volume. You literally take your life into your own hands to get into traffic. This is unacceptable. Before someone has a fatal accident trying to make this U-turn, how about putting in traffic lights at an appropriate spot so traffic stops for others to make this u-turn safely? This is not an idle request. Someone will be hurt if this is not addressed. Then the consequences for all parties will be severe for everyone, including the base which may suffer for not addressing this problem sooner. Please, if at all possible, find out if this will be dealt with. Everyone's safety is at risk until this is done.

Jackie Richards

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Public safety is of utmost priority in the design and maintenance of the roadway system on Redstone Arsenal. The Garrison Directorate of Public Works strives to meet this goal by adhering to engineering standards as established

See Gate on page 5

Man wants advice after meeting child

I would like folks to think what they would and should do. I am a 60-plus-year-old man. A few days ago during daylight, I was shopping at a Huntsville supermarket. On leaving the store, a little girl aged about 7 tops, called out to me asking would I like to pet her dogs. She had two very heavy, short English bulldogs. I noticed that there was no other person about, so I sat with her petting the dogs until her father came out of the store. It was about 10 minutes. She told me, "Here comes my daddy." And I left.

What would you have done?

Name withheld by request

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Spc. Joshua Flavius

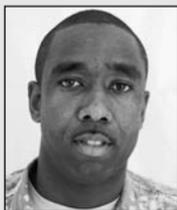
Job: BIDS (Biological Detection System) maintainer, 326th Chemical Company

Where do you call home?

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

What do you like about your job?

I like that there's no limit in growth. The sky's the limit. I can expand and learn within this job field, that I can give back to the community. We sample particles in the air, making sure that it is safe to train or to perform the mission.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like fishing. I play music – sax and drums. And I play pool. And I like cooking.

What are your goals?

My goals are to eventually own my own business – which would be property manager and be an instructor or teacher.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?

To see my entire family out of debt, because I'm all about family. I have one son, Josiah, age 3.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 24-30:

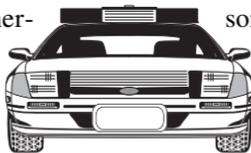
Sept. 24: A Soldier was arrested by the Tuscaloosa Police Department as a deserter. The Soldier was released to Redstone Police and transported to Fort Knox, Ky.

Sept. 25: A worker reported that his car window was damaged while it was parked at the Sparkman Center parking lot.

Sept. 25: A Soldier forged the name of another Soldier on a credit card receipt for delivered pizza.

Sept. 28: A Soldier reported that his car was damaged while parked at the Pagano Gym.

Sept. 28: A Soldier reported that



someone entered his wall locker and stole \$80.

Sept. 30: A worker reported that his government issued Blackberry phone and personal Apple iPhone were stolen from building 5309.

Sept. 30: Three subjects who approached Gate 9 were found to be illegal immigrants. After coordination with Immigration Customs enforcement agents, all three were denied entrance to Redstone Arsenal.

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

Violation notices issued: 6 speeding, 3 expired tag, 1 inattentive driving, 1 expired driver's license, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 failure to yield, 1 open container.

Gate 9 accelerates morning traffic flow

Highest-volume entrance goes to 2 guards per lane

Averaging 8,900 vehicles daily, Gate 9 on Rideout Road/Research Park Boulevard is the busiest of Redstone Arsenal's six gates. The Garrison has taken a step to improve its traffic flow.

Thursday brought an increase to two guards per lane at the gate during peak traffic hours from 6-8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

"That's our highest traffic volume gate," Maj. Roger Triplett, operations offi-

cer at Directorate of Emergency Services, said.

"Safety and security are still paramount," he said. "But we're trying to do this to expedite getting citizens to work."

Drivers can also help speed the process by having their badge out and ready for inspection. And when the driver ahead of you stops at the first guard, you should move forward to the second guard.

Redstone Arsenal's other perimeter gates include Gate 1/Martin Road east, Gate 3/Redstone Road, Gate 7/Martin Road west, Gate 8/Goss Road and Gate 10/Patton Road.

Workers urged to pace success of annual giving campaign



Photo by Skip Vaughn

KICKOFF— Honorary chairman Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, speaks during the kickoff Sept. 30 for the Combined Federal Campaign.

Tennessee Valley CFC seeks \$2 million goal

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

The 2009 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign got off to a rousing start Sept. 30 – complete with a drum line and an agency fair.

The annual fund-raising drive continues though Dec. 11 with a \$2 million goal.

“It’s our one effort we have that we come together and say we want to make a difference. And let’s pull together and make a difference collectively,” said honorary chairman Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

He addressed the kickoff celebration Sept. 30 in Bob Jones Auditorium. Entertainment was provided by the Bob Jones High School drum line and by 13-year-old

Lindsey Jones of Central Middle School.

Guest speaker Dr. Delbert Baker, president of Oakwood University, encouraged everyone to give their voluntary contribution. An avid runner, he likened the “helper’s high” from giving to the “runner’s high” from running.

“I challenge you to get out of your comfort level, to give till it hurts, to give until it begins to feel good,” Baker said.

Some 16,701 federal, military and postal employees in 47 agencies in a seven-county area will be asked to voluntarily contribute to the campaign. The counties include Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan in north Alabama and Lincoln in southern Tennessee. CFC includes 177 local charities and 2,400 national and international charities.

“It truly takes all of us to ensure the success of our campaign,” CFC coordinator Donna Johnson said. The kickoff celebration was followed by an agency fair in the Sparkman Center parade field.

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:

Hunter safety

Outdoor Recreation sponsors Hunter Safety Orientation classes. You must attend one of these classes to be eligible to hunt on Redstone Arsenal. Classes are Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m. at Heiser Hall. For more information, call 876-4868.

Jazz night

George West and the Uptown Jazz Band, featuring Shelly Williams, will perform Oct. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Enjoy a night of entertainment and a dinner buffet. Dinner is at 6 p.m., and the show follows at 7:30. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For more information or tickets, call 830-2582.

Golf championship

The 2009 Senior and Junior Club Championship is Oct. 10-11 at 8 a.m. at the Links at

Redstone. The \$60 fee includes cart, refreshments, hole contest and prizes. The \$15 fee includes refreshments, hole contests and prizes; juniors will walk. The format is 36 holes of USGA stroke play, Senior and Super Senior in the senior division, two age groups in the Junior Division, 11 and under play nine per day, and 12 and above play 18 per day. There are Men and Ladies and Boys and Girls Divisions — lots of ways to win. For more information, call 883-7977.

Cookoff/scramble

The fourth annual Chili Cookoff and Golf Scramble is Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. at the Links. Four-man teams compete in a scramble format then enjoy homemade contest chili. There is a \$20 fee per person, plus green fees. Each group must enter a pot of chili for the contest. Flight will depend on number of players. There are prizes for hole contests, flight prizes; and first, second and third place in the Chili Cookoff. For more information, call 883-7977.

Rule honors service of military spouses

Offers improved hiring opportunities to compensate negative impact

Under a new personnel rule that took effect Sept. 11, certain military spouses now have a federal appointment eligibility authorized by Executive Order 13473. Eligible spouses include a spouse of a member of the armed forces serving on active duty who has orders specifying a permanent change of station; a spouse of a 100 percent disabled servicemember injured while on active duty; or the un-remarried widow or widower of a service member who was killed while performing active duty.

Eligible spouses have two years from the date of the PCS orders; the date of verification that the active duty spouse is 100 percent disabled; or the date of documentation that verifies the military servicemember was killed while on active duty to be considered

under this appointment authority.

For consideration, eligible spouses must apply to a job announcement, which will be posted at www.cpol.army.mil. Make sure that you update your "Employment Categories" in the Supplemental Data of your resume and that you are EO 13473 eligible. Spouses may also apply to announcements that are open to the public.

Further details on this new EO 13473 appointing authority can be found at the following web address, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19340.pdf>.

Certain spouses may also be eligible for registration in Program S (DoD Military Spouse Preference Program), Priority Placement Program on their next PCS move, on or after Sept. 11, 2009. For this determination or any other questions, you may call the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Emily Morgan at 313-1766. *(Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)*

■ Alternate route to Goss Road advised at peak travel times

Gate

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by Alabama Department of Transportation, American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, and the Federal Highway Administration Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The installment of signalized traffic control at a median crossover of a divided highway is not a customary traffic control measure according to established transportation engineering principals. A warrant, or cause, to install a signalized intersection would be justified in the case of limited sight distance, and/or a high percentage of crossing (U-turn) traffic relative to the traffic volume

on the primary roadway. Furthermore a traffic signal should not be installed if it will seriously disrupt progressive traffic flow.

"Motorists travelling inbound to Redstone Arsenal through Gate 9 can expect heavy northbound traffic during peak afternoon travel times. Significant wait times can be expected when making a U-turn at the median crossover in order to access the Goss Road area. DPW suggests an alternate route to access Goss Road from off-post during peak afternoon travel times, such as using Gate 8 via Patton Road.

"Thank you for your letter concerning the safety of traffic flow on Rideout Road. Your observations and comments are always welcomed."

Tucker settles into security assistance command

He joins longtime friends in Redstone community

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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While becoming commander for an organization during a BRAC move might seem stressful, Brig. Gen. Christopher Tucker is already feeling at home at U.S. Army Security Assistance Command. He is surrounded by friends, both old and new.

As a self-proclaimed Army brat, Tucker spent his early childhood moving from post to post with his family. His father retired from the Army after 28 years, taking a job teaching military science at The Citadel in South Carolina. As the youngest of five boys, Tucker got to have one experience the rest of his brothers didn't.

"I was 6 years old then," he explained. "So I got to go to grammar school, high school and college all in the same town. So I really grew up in Charleston."

He and his friend, Tim, spent their time together. Both attended The Citadel, where their fathers worked, and joined the Army at roughly the same time. Their first assignments were together as well.

"He was a forward observer for the infantry company in which I was the executive officer," Tucker said.

Now, he is working down the road from his old friend.

"He's now (Brig.) Gen. Tim Crosby, the PEO for aviation," he said. "He's the oldest friend in the world I keep up with. We went to high school together and college together. I was in his wedding. It's a small world."

He also had the pleasure of working



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

AGENDA TALK— USASAC commander Brig. Gen. Christopher Tucker discusses his afternoon schedule with executive assistant Barbee Moomaw.

closely with AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles along the way.

"I was the head of U.S. Army Operational Test Command at Food Hood, Texas. I got to work with a lot of tremendous units and Soldiers during those two and a half years," Tucker said. "General Myles was my boss there for the entire time. So he and I go back a few years together, too."

With the comfort of old friends nearby, he has begun the work of seeing USASAC to the end of its move from Fort Belvoir, Va. He is impressed with what he's seen

from the people here.

"This is an outstanding place to work," he said. "I knew they were good, but I didn't realize how good until I saw all of the things the work force does for our nation and our Army. And they're doing it in the midst of all this transition."

He sees his job as creating stability and keeping the course while the last changes fall into place.

"It's incumbent on the leadership to look for opportunities for stability and keep the organization focused on the mission while they go through these transi-

tions," he said. "That's my responsibility: purpose, direction and motivation."

From past experiences with the organization, he admitted he had high expectations. He hasn't been disappointed.

"My first experience was when I became the program manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program," he said. "It is a subordinate unit of USASAC that reports through them to Army Materiel Command."

Now, he is ready to help guide them into the next era at Redstone.

"A large number of our folks moved from Fort Belvoir. They moved their families and moved their homes — new house, new school, new everything," Tucker said. "But they also kept the job going simultaneously. We've had new people join us from the area and other organizations. In essence, we're building a new family here with Redstone."

Tucker is looking forward to life at Redstone. He's grateful of the opportunities the Army has afforded him.

"I've just been blessed with these amazing opportunities that many people just don't get," he said. "I'm happy to be here with people I already know and people I'm getting to know."

He and his wife, Mary Ann, have two adult children. Their son, Matthew, lives and works in Orlando, Fla.; and their daughter, Jacqueline, is a sophomore at the University of Texas.

Tucker's hobbies include jogging and playing golf.

"Running is a great stress reliever. Now that I have an iPod, I can run all day as long as I have my music," he said. "Golf is a purely fun thing to do, but I'm not a great golfer. Actually, I'm a hack. I love it, even if I'm not very good."

Move

continued from page 1

The WTU and, now, his command at Redstone, are ideal jobs for a Soldier's Soldier who is determined to make a difference as an Army leader. Growing up in Seaford, Del., Merritt always wanted to be a Soldier.

"My mom will tell you that for the longest time I wanted to join the Army," he recalled. "I always thought it was a noble profession. As I got older, I also saw it as a way to get some skills, go out and

see the world, and get some opportunities. It offered a lot more than the opportunities I had living in a small town in Delaware."

Although he began his military career in 1986 as a chemical officer and an armor platoon leader, Merritt transferred to the Ordnance Corps early in his career, serving as a mechanical maintenance ordnance officer and, currently, as a multi-functional logistician.

"I've worked in positions at the tactical, operational and strategic levels," Merritt said. "Everywhere I've worked, I've just loved being around Soldiers. And coming here to Redstone Arsenal, I can't help but be motivated because I see all

these young Soldiers. They join for lots of different reasons. But they are so full of energy, they want to learn and they want to go out and do great things. They still have that spark in the eyes."

Merritt served with the 24th Forward Support Battalion as a shop officer and then as a division class IX accountable officer, the position he held during his first deployment to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He has served in officer positions with the 3rd Division at the Division Materiel Management Center and with Bravo Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, both in Germany; at the Ordnance Center and Schools, Aberdeen Proving Ground; with the 201st Forward Support Battalion and at the Division Materiel Management Center for the 1st Infantry Division in Germany. In 1997, he returned to Germany, where he served as the support operations officer for the 201st Forward Support Battalion; and then as chief of the Division Materiel Management Center in the 1st Infantry Division.

Merritt again deployed in wartime as a supply and services officer and operations officer for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command during Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 and 2; and then, again in 2006-07, as commander of the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

"Between four deployments, I've seen the Army push responsibility for operations down to smaller and smaller units," Merritt said. "Compared to 10 years ago, decisions that were being made by captains and sergeants first class are now being made by sergeants and staff sergeants. And they're making those decisions and executing those decisions extremely well because of their training."

He agreed that deployments are hard on families, including his own wife Anjela and their three children. But he also said the tremendous community and church support his family received made the deployments more manageable.

Merritt, who joined the Army at a time of relative peace, is amazed by the young people who are joining today's Army.

"The great thing about today's Soldiers is they know their chance of deployment is high, but they join anyway and then they re-enlist," he said. "Even in a high up-tempo environment, Soldiers are com-

mitted to staying in the Army and prepared to be the best they can. It's truly a testament to our society. The Soldier stands for something and that's what people see."

The wartime environment seems to deepen commitments, strengthen bonds and focus Soldiers.

"When they know they're going to war, they listen a lot better," Merritt said. "Most of our instructors are combat veterans and our Soldiers want to learn everything they can from them."

"Today's Soldier needs to be a team member. They need to know how to be technically and tactically proficient in their skills. We spend quite a bit of time talking about Army values. It's not about what your values are. It's about living the Army values every single day, 24/7."

Besides being physically fit and highly trained, effective Soldiers also must be motivated.

"That's easy when it's sunny and 70 degrees," Merritt said. "But it's not so easy when it's 130 and you're wearing body armor and carrying a 70-pound rucksack and you've been up for 20 hours. We put stressors on our Soldiers so that they build their ability and confidence as they prepare to go down range."

The Army, he said, offers a job for anyone who wants to be a Soldier.

"Find out the job you want to do, research it and make an informed decision. There are so many job skills in the Army that there is something for everyone," Merritt said. "There is something that you will enjoy in the Army. I can guarantee that. It's a matter of finding out what you like to do and pursue it. If you love it, it won't feel like a job."

In the few months he's been at Redstone, Merritt has come to appreciate the strong working relationship between the 59th/OMEMS and other entities at Redstone. He's also become familiar with the community and the supportive relationship it has with Redstone Arsenal Soldiers.

"This community really cares about Soldiers," Merritt said. "We will really miss that. But at the same time, we are hopeful that the Fort Lee community will be as strong in its support of Soldiers. It will be tough, no doubt, for us to leave Redstone and the community. There is definitely a strong connection here and it will be sad day when we finally start our move."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PLANNING ON CHANGE— Just as he gets comfortable in the commander's office at the 59th Ordnance Brigade/Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, Col. Lee Merritt has set his sights on implementing plans for the move of the organization to the Missile and Munitions Center at Fort Lee, Va. Merritt and the command staff are working on plans to move the 59th/OMEMS during a six-month window in 2011 while, at the same time, maintaining the school's high level of Soldier instruction.

New unmanned aircraft system readies for future combat

The Extended Range/Multi-Purpose MQ-1C unmanned aircraft system – the Army's newest UAS – is undergoing successful testing in Iraq in preparation for near-term use in combat.

The system, designated QRC 1 since it is the first system to demonstrate Quick Reaction Capability, is designed to provide combatant commanders with a much-improved capability to conduct long-dwell, wide area reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. QRC 2 being deployed summer fiscal 2010 will include an attack capability.

“The ER/MP is the immediate answer to an ever-increasing demand from commanders for greater range, altitude, endurance and payload flexibility,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Messer, product manager for medium altitude endurance systems in the UAS Project Office. “We’ve designed this system for reduced information cycle time enhancing overall battlefield awareness for commanders who are faced with making split-second decisions in combat daily.”

Congress directed the early deployment of two ER/MP sys-

tems to Operation Iraqi Freedom to support operational needs.

“The Department of Defense has given us the flexibility to field less-than-100 percent solutions now, allowing us to give Soldiers better technology immediately while we continue to enhance and upgrade the systems,” Messer said.

The operators testing the new ER/MP have been pleased with the results. When fully deployed, each system will include 12 aircraft, will support 10 key Army divisions and be responsive to the lowest level of command for dynamic tasking.

“This aircraft has multiple capabilities to support the war fighter and is flown by the war fighter,” Chief Warrant Officer 3 Frank Volpe said. “This truly is the next generation UAS for the military.”

Next year the QRC 2 will deploy giving commanders the additional capability to carry and launch up to four Hellfire air-to-ground missiles. The soldiers who will operate the QRC 2 in combat began their training Oct. 1 at the UAS training center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. *(Unmanned Aircraft System release)*



Courtesy photo

SKY WARRIOR— The Extended Range/Multi-Purpose unmanned aircraft system is the first to demonstrate Quick Reaction Capability.

Recruiting friends to beat breast cancer

Donna Johnson continues battle through benefit Ribbon 5K run

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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On Oct. 17, Donna Johnson will be blessed, once again, by Redstone Arsenal co-workers who want to join her team.

Many of them will be friends she has met through her work. Others will be friends for the first time.

For the third year, Johnson, the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign coordinator, is working to recruit Arsenal employees to join her team – the Redstone Roadrunners — during the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run on the third Saturday in October.

“Last year, I had 65 members join me for the Liz Hurley 5K run. Some of those people I didn’t even know because I had put out the notice about it to the entire Redstone community,” Johnson said.

“So this year, I’ve set my goal for 100. For the past two years, we’ve won the award for the most team members in the government category. I want us to win that award again.”

Although getting a win for the Arsenal team is always good, Johnson’s real goal is to raise funds and awareness for the battle against breast cancer. Each runner/walker who signs up on her team pays \$15 to participate. Others, who may not be able to attend the event, can also make donations in the team’s name.

“The event is so much fun. I absolutely love people and I absolutely love helping people,” Johnson said. “My husband has been pastor of Poplar Creek MB Church in Athens for 15 years. Before that, he served 20 years in the Army. Giving has always been a part of my life. God wants us to give and to help others. This event brings all that together for me.”

Since its inception six years ago, the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run has raised more than \$1 million for breast cancer awareness, diagnosis and education through the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund. The



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ONGOING FIGHT— Many Redstone Arsenal employees know Donna Johnson for her work as the coordinator for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, especially during October when CFC fund-raising is in full swing. But this month is also special for Johnson because of the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. For the third year, Johnson, a breast cancer survivor, is recruiting Arsenal employees to be members of her Redstone team. The team has won the top award for the past two years for the largest number of team members in the government category.

Oct. 17 event is co-sponsored by the Huntsville Hospital Foundation and the Huntsville Track Club at Huntsville Middle School. It includes a Men’s 5K run at 8 a.m., a Women’s 5K run at 9 and a Survivor’s Walk at 10. There is also a memorial/tribute luminary display planned for the evening of Oct. 16.

Hurley, a local news anchor and motivational speaker, established the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund after going through her own personal battle with breast cancer. That battle has been shared by Johnson.

In November, 22 years ago, Johnson, a 28-year-old military wife and mother of two young daughters living in Germany, was diagnosed with breast cancer during a routine physical.

“I was the first person in my family to be diagnosed. I was blessed because my doctor caught it at an early stage,” she said.

A partial mastectomy and several weeks of radiation therapy followed her diagnosis. Through it all, Johnson stayed strong with the help of her faith, family and church congregation.

“It was sort of a lonely time because my mother wasn’t there with me. I didn’t tell her until a year later because we were so far away in Germany,” said Johnson, whose daughters were 8 and 2 at the time.

“It was my faith in God that enabled me to stay focused and to fight this. God, my husband and my church family gave me the strength to get through what had to be done. God gave me the courage to get through it.”

Even so, Johnson did not talk much about her cancer during her battle. With a job, young children and all the activities that come with running a household, she didn’t have the time or the emotional toughness to discuss her condition or treatment with her husband and friends. Rather, she kept most of the battle to herself, beating it with prayer and her strong faith in God.

“I kept it to myself. I started growing my faith. I had to stay positive or I would have broken down,” she recalled. “Two weeks after my treatment, I was back at work. I give the credit for that to God. I stayed positive, grew my faith and kept my mind off what I was going through.”

A year or so after her diagnosis and treatment, Johnson was able to talk more freely about her experience as a breast cancer survivor. Yet, prior to each doctor check-up, Johnson would wonder if the cancer had come back. Five years after diagnosis and treatment, when doctors consider a patient cured, Johnson was elated to be labeled a “survivor.” Today, Johnson willingly shares her story with anyone who asks.

“Anyone can be diagnosed with breast cancer. There doesn’t have to be a family history of it before it will happen to you. Age doesn’t matter either. Young people are getting cancer,” she said.

“The important thing is to be aware of your body, get physicals and stay on top of your health. Hopefully, we will find a cure and a way to prevent this disease.”

Ten years after treatment, Johnson had reconstructive surgery.

“Every year, technology’s advancing by leaps and bounds,” Johnson said. “At one time, a cancer diagnosis meant death. That’s not the case anymore. We’re promoting awareness and prevention and, hopefully, someday a cure.”

On the evening and morning of the walk, Johnson will enjoy greeting friends and making new friends.

“There’s usually a group of us who meet up at the site in the morning so that we can start the 5K run together or walk together during the Survivors’ Walk,” she said. “There are information booths, food vendors, children’s activities and entertainment, so it’s a lot of fun. The route they have for the 5K takes you along some beautiful areas downtown. There are people along the route who are waving and cheering you on. There’s a lot of hype that keeps you going. It’s a beautiful experience.”

The Survivors’ Walk, which takes place on the track at Huntsville Middle School, is a walk of success for Johnson and others who have won the battle against breast cancer. It is also a testament to their commitment to stand up and help others facing the same battle.

“There’s a high that I get, a helper’s high, a feeling you get when you’ve helped somebody else,” she said. “It’s all about helping others. It’s a great feeling to do something to help make a difference. We are all working toward the same goal – and that is to raise money to fight breast cancer. I hope I help pave the way for a possible cure.”

Editor’s note: To register for the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run or to make a donation, visit its website at <http://www.lizhurleyribbonrun.org>.

Garrison interns take management development course

The Garrison's future leaders are learning the essence of a model organization.

Model-Netics, a comprehensive management training and development program, is a required course in the Garrison intern program. The Basic Course of Model-Netics consists of 151 management models that function as guides to thought and action. The course is usually taught in 20 sessions in a classroom setting totaling about four hours.

Fourteen interns were recognized as Model-Netics graduates during Thursday's quarterly intern luncheon with Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The graduates included Shannon Allen, Candra Buchanan, Kara Carter-Price, Diane Corlew, Penny Davis, Seong Dobbins, Christine Easterwood, Sonya Fultz, William Howard, Mary Johnson, Shannon Lott, Vera Ousley, Cassandra Patton and Marlana Zene.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this group," Carter-Price said in a presentation to the luncheon's 50 attendees.

Model-Netics instructor Kathy Watkins, certified by the Main Event Management Institute, serves as Garrison intern program coordinator. She works for Analytical Services Inc.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ALL SMILES— Shannon Allen, a wildlife ecologist intern in the environmental management division of Directorate of Public Works, receives her Model-Netics graduation certificate from Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark. At far right is Kathy Watkins, Garrison intern program coordinator.

NCO Academy gives local youngsters lesson of hope



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

MUCH APPRECIATED— 1st Sgt. Delwin Underwood, BNCO branch chief at the NCO Academy, hands over a check for \$600 to the Harvest Youth Club while the club's children shout "Thank you!"

Soldiers raise money and visit kids of Harvest Youth Club

By Spc. RYAN STROUD

59th Ordnance Brigade public affairs

What started out for the Soldiers of the NCO Academy as a simple afternoon of fund-raising became a lesson of hope and inspiration to a group of children at the Harvest Youth Club.

A few weeks ago, many NCO Academy Soldiers spent their weekend washing cars to help raise money for the club. On Sept. 17 the same Soldiers had the chance to visit the children.

The Academy raised \$600; and the club will use the money to pave the back lot behind the club's main building. The paved area will give many of the children the chance to play games and learn how to ride bicycles, according to executive director Melvin Allen. He said the money raised by the Academy will be matched by Old Navy, bringing the total to \$1,200.

Once the Soldiers arrived at the club, the children were called to their assigned rows and stood at attention. They performed military facing movements and then sat quietly. The Soldiers were impressed by the well-disciplined children.

But the visit wasn't for the Academy Soldiers to brag about their accomplishments; it was to meet with the kids and give some guidance toward school, teamwork and life.

"It's important to be here. We need to let these kids know that school is extremely important," said Sgt. Nicolette Pringle, 114th Signal Battalion, who is a student at the Academy.

"A good way for us to show these kids that school is imperative is to have an adult, a Soldier and a NCO, like myself, to show them that even we are still in school," she said. "We need to show them there's never a time where we're not learning. We can show them there's always

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Leaders pay tribute to families of fallen servicemembers

By GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – American servicemembers who've perished in the nation's wars "died for the ones they loved," the U.S. military's top officer said Sept. 26 at a special ceremony held on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

"It is for the loved ones like you that our fallen were willing to lay down their lives, so that each of you could achieve your hopes and dreams. Dreams shared by Americans across the ages; dreams for a peaceful world without fear," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told hundreds of people attending the

fourth annual "A Time of Remembrance" ceremony.

The annual "A Time of Remembrance" ceremony honors military members who died during the nation's wars, as well as their families and veterans. It is sponsored by the White House Commission on Remembrance, established by Congress in 2000.

Scores of children of military

members who'd died during operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom received the commission's Gold Medal of Remembrance at the ceremony. Gold Star Mothers who'd lost a son or daughter who'd died in service to the country were invited to attend the event.

"Life should always be about doing what we love in honor of

the ones we love," Mullen said to the fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, other relatives and friends who grieved for their lost loved ones.

Mullen was accompanied at the ceremony by Army Chief of Staff George W. Casey Jr. and other senior military officers.

"As a former commander and as the Army chief of some of the brave men and women that we're honoring today, I want the families to know that I carry the burden of their loss with me every day," said Casey, who'd lost his father, when Army Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Sr., commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, died in a helicopter crash in Vietnam's central highlands on July 7, 1970.

■ Harvest Youth Club members see Army role models

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something to learn and they should continue to expand (their minds) even as they become adults. We also can show them the teamwork is the key to success. I was telling the kids that we all worked together as a team to raise the money for the youth center. We were showing them that if you work together, you can accomplish more."

"We were telling the kids that we held a carwash, where one person was hosing down the cars, one washing, one drying, and so on," said Sgt. Scott Aumiller, a student at the Academy and the father of three children. "We all pitched in and helped raise the money for these kids. It was all teamwork."

Said Pringle, "My mother always told me, 'One hand always washes the other.' I want to share that with these kids. I want to lead by that example and show these children how to be an outstanding man or woman. You never know, with this little bit of help and guidance, we might have influenced one of these kids to become a doctor who cures cancer or even the next president. This is why we need to keep facilitating education and to help out these programs who want to guide and lead our children to better futures."

Fund-raising projects and special interest from the community help the club's children the most, according to Allen.

"Five years ago, we started out with 32 kids," Allen said. "Out of those 32, we only had nine who made the A-B-C honor roll. Today, we have over 100 kids and about 98

percent make the honor roll. It's all from the hard work of our staff and the support from our local community which has helped us get to where we are today.

"I think one of the motivations to help these kids strive and succeed is what we experienced and observed today – having people from the community who have been kids before, who have sat in the same seats that these kids have, have gone through the same things these children have gone through, and they were here today to say, 'Hey, I made it and this is how I made it. I made good grades in school. I might have come from a single-parent home, but I succeeded. Today I'm in a uniform and I'm a Soldier, and if you put your mind to it, you could be one of us, a successful person, too,'" Allen said. "I think this is a life changing moment for these kids. A lot of these children come from those situations that we read about in the newspapers and that we see on television."

Army wife finds fulfillment in helping Soldier families

Quality of life program manager knows life as military spouse

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Nicki Swindle knows what Army family life is all about. With her new position as the quality of life program manager at Army Community Service, she is sharing the lessons she has learned with the Redstone community.

Swindle grew up on an Army installation. Her father was stationed at Fort McClellan and Anniston Army Depot during her early childhood. Later, he took a government civilian job that had him working at those same locations.

"I feel like the Army was my home," she said. "My mom worked in the mess hall. My father served in Vietnam and took a civilian job after that. One of my parents always worked on the fort or the depot."

Now, as an adult, she is married to a Soldier and raising four kids.

"My husband is stationed here with the 59th Ordnance Brigade," she said. "We have one kid in college and three are still at home."

The military has always played a prominent role in her life. She grew up knowing that she wanted to work with



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

WORKING FOR FAMILIES— Nicki Swindle, quality of life program manager at Army Community Service, gets ready for Army Family Team Building classes.

Soldiers. How she did that has changed over the years, however.

Swindle worked in the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center for three years as an item manager. She found

great satisfaction in knowing that she was supporting the men and women in the field. Inspired by her father's example, she decided she wanted to do it a little closer.

"My dad deployed several times as a civilian. He'd been doing it since Desert Shield and Desert Storm," she explained. "I felt that even though as a spouse I had served in my own way, deploying was something I needed to do."

The job she ended up doing in Iraq wasn't exactly what she had planned.

"When I got over to Iraq, as it happens with a lot of civilians, they needed me to do a different job," she said. "Because of my past experience, instead of being a logistics management specialist, I was the public affairs officer for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade."

Even with a deployment under her belt, Swindle still felt like she should be doing more. After some soul searching, she realized that the problem wasn't how much she was doing. It was where her efforts were being expended. She wanted to be working with families.

"My work wasn't fulfilling me. I liked supporting the Soldiers, but I wanted to work with families," she said. "I had a calling to do it."

The first available opportunity to work with Soldiers and families would require a little personal sacrifice. The job would involve a significant pay cut.

"I got the job as a family readiness support assistant for the 59th Ordnance Brigade. It meant taking a demotion," she

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said. "It went from a GS-11 to a GS-6, temporarily. It was a big step but it was something I needed to do. Through that I was able to come here when this position became open."

In September, she came on board at ACS. Under her new hat, Swindle manages several key programs that focus on military families and their civilian counterparts.

Swindle manages the Army volunteer corps. She plans to finish work on how volunteers are distributed by reorganizing the information on openings. She hopes that will mean everyone needing volunteer support will find it easier to get.

"Cathy Hays had started work on a job bank before she left this position. I'm trying to finish it," she said. "When volunteers come to us and ask what we have available, I want to be able to show them exactly what we've got."

She also handles the Army Family Action Plan, the problem-solving program that gives voice to the concerns of those who live and work under the Army's policies and regulations. In fact, Swindle

says that she is still taking applications for this year's delegates.

"October 27 and 28 is the AFAP conference at the ROCC (Officers and Civilians Club)," she said. "We're still recruiting. The link for the paperwork is online. You can e-mail it back, fax it back or bring it to ACS. It really is your opportunity to make a change."

Currently, she is very busy with Army Family Team Building. She has spent the last week with instructor training, gearing up for level one classes beginning Oct. 20. It covers three nights from 6 to 9 p.m. She has been pleased with the turnout for instructors, but wants to see more people take advantage of the classes.

"I think that every Soldier, whether they're new to the Army or not, should go through it with their spouse. I think DA civilians and contractors, and all their spouses would benefit from it," Swindle explained. "In level one we teach about the Army, the lifestyle and the culture. Soldiers who have been in for 20 years can still learn something. Everyone can take away something new."

Swindle is always looking for new ways to support families. She is pursuing two master's degrees, one in human services with a con-

centration in marriage and family therapy, and the other in family life education. She and her husband work together teaching marriage classes at their church. While attending a seminar, they found that some of the issues unique to military couples are not fully addressed, so they have decided to do something about it.

"We're writing a book together," Swindle said. "When my husband retires from the military, we hope to open a marriage retreat for military couples."

She sees healthy relationships as the core on which a Soldier, and a mission, is built.

"When I was at Fort Lee (Va.), they talked about 'For want of a horseshoe nail, the horse was lost.' That really had a big impact on me," She said. "The military couple is that horseshoe nail. If you don't have a good relationship and a good bond, then everything else can fall apart. For want of a good relationship, you lose the Soldier, then you lose the mission and then you might lose the whole war. I feel the military couple is pivotal to our very freedom."

For more information on volunteering, AFAP or AFTB, call Swindle at 842-8375 or e-mail nicki.swindle@conus.army.mil. Applications to be an AFAP delegate are available online through redstonemwr.com.

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Environmental team cleaning up past mistakes

Post repairs damage from bygone eras

By KARI HAWKINS
 Staff writer
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Corroded air filters and disintegrated pieces of gas masks mar the natural beauty of a once popular fishing and swimming hole on Redstone Arsenal.

But it's not what's above the water in the quarry at the corner of Neal and Mills roads that worries environmentalists Terry de la Paz and Wes Smith.

It's what's underneath.

An underwater video camera has revealed chemical drums and ordnance on the floor of the quarry pond. What the camera doesn't reveal is if those chemical drums actually hold substances that could damage the environment.

"It will cost four to five million dollars to get the drums and ordnance out of the water and to clean up the site," de la Paz said. "But if there is a chemical warfare agent in those drums that we have to dispose of, then we will have to figure out how to destroy them and that will cost a lot more."

"The problem is we don't know and it's a big risk. We have to plan on the drums having chemicals in them until such time as we can prove there's not."

Redstone Arsenal is one of the Army's top three installations for the number of contaminated sites that have to be restored based on the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

"We've had a cleanup program here since the 1970s that originally started with the DDT cleanup with Olin Chemical Corporation activities," said de la Paz, chief of the Installation Restoration Branch, Environmental Management Division, Directorate of Public Works, Garrison.

"In 1994, Redstone Arsenal was on the national priorities list for cleanups that must follow superfund requirements and the requirements of the state's hazardous waste permit. Since then, we've done a lot of investigative work and some remedial work."

In August, a 10-year, \$350 million Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CLEANUP SITE— With piles of corroded air filters and disintegrated gas masks in the background, environmentalists Terry de la Paz and Wes Smith review plans to clean up the once popular fishing and swimming hole located near the corner of Neal and Mills roads. It is one of more than 150 contaminated sites on the Arsenal that will be investigated and remedied as part of a 10-year cleanup contract.

cleanup contract was awarded to Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure Inc., of Baton Rouge, La., for the investigation and remediation of more than 150 contaminated sites on the Arsenal that have been designated by the Installation Restoration Program. The contractor has until 2014 to either remedy or have remedies in place for these contaminated sites. The Installation Restoration Program is overseen by de la Paz and Smith, a contracting officers representative with the Corps of Engineers, Savannah, Ga., district.

Currently, 24 sites have been remedied, and five sites are undergoing treatment.

The contaminated sites herald back to the early days of Army activities on the nearly 40,000-acre Arsenal, which then consisted of the Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot, Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Ordnance Plant.

"The chemical warfare activities in the past made a mess out here," de la Paz said. "Some contaminated sites are in remote

areas, some are in active areas. The ones near people are the ones we are most concerned about."

All contaminated sites have been verified as areas where chemicals were manufactured, stored or released. These areas have been fenced off and clearly marked as "off limits" to the Arsenal population. A few sites are currently being remedied under a previous contract with Shaw E&I. One is near building 5435, the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Activity headquarters on Fowler Road, where digging and cleanup work is being done to remove soil containing arsenic and mercury. The other is off Digney Road near the Fox Army Health Center, where lewisite, a chemical warfare agent, was produced during World War II.

"The chemical turned out to be too unstable. It was difficult to use in warfare. But they did produce a lot of it out here. They filled ton containers and drums with it," de la Paz said. "When it breaks down, it is part arsenic

with mercury as a byproduct. It breaks down very easily and metal is left behind in the soil."

None of the contamination sites on the Arsenal are considered dangerous. They do, however, become dangerous when soil from the sites is dug up or ingested.

"You wouldn't want to find these kinds of contaminations in a neighborhood where children play," Smith said. "But, as long as the soil is not disturbed, they are safe."

Even though child's play is not part of the Arsenal mission, some of the contaminated sites have been chosen for future building construction, making it vital that the Garrison remedies the sites quickly.

"We are prioritizing the sites that are near people or that involve land the Arsenal needs for its mission," de la Paz said. "A lot of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) facilities have been placed in areas that are not contaminated."

"But with one-third or more

of Arsenal land set aside as wetlands, a lot of the buildable areas have been used. Those sites used in the '40s for manufacturing and ordnance facilities are still the best land we have. So we need to clean them up to support the Arsenal mission."

For instance, an area near building 5400 (McMorrow Labs) that was once used as a sanitary landfill has been given high priority for cleanup because it's needed in fiscal 2011 for a new parking lot and building.

Sites can be cleaned up sooner if time critical removal actions are deemed necessary. That was the case in an area near the Software Engineering Directorate where new construction was planned, and at building 5681, Program Executive Office for Aviation, where force protection measures had to be put in place around the building.

The new contract with Shaw E&I involves only one contractor in an effort to streamline efforts and combine clean-up efforts, de la Paz said. Shaw will investigate the Arsenal's contaminated sites, determine which sites can be grouped together in a work package and how best to remedy the contamination.

"With the new contract with Shaw, we will see a lot of investigation work going on at our contamination sites. There will be drill rigs. Employees will be taking ground water samples and soil sample," de la Paz said.

"Congress and DoD program goals are to have all environmental sites cleaned up or a remedy selected for them by 2014. That gives our contractor five years to do investigation, to decide on remedies and to get some areas cleaned up. At each site, they will be looking at how widespread the contaminant is, how deep it is, who is coming into contact with an environmental contaminant and how much harm it is causing."

Shaw has until 2019 to complete the cleanup program. The company will use several different techniques in their operations, including thermal treatments and chemical injections that decontaminate soil. If metals are found in the soil, then it will be stabilized, removed and shipped to an appropriate landfill.

October observed as Energy Awareness Month

By VANESSA ENNIS

Resource efficiency manager

Redstone Arsenal spent more than \$62 million in utilities for fiscal 2009. With enormous utility costs such as these, it is common for individuals to think their small contributions to saving energy would not impact the amount of money spent on utilities.

According to the Plans Analysis and Integration Office, there are more than 33,000 people working on Redstone Arsenal. If each person saved just one kilowatt-hour per day, there would be more than \$825,000 savings in taxpayer dollars.

So, how can you save a minimum of one kWh per day? Powering off just one of the following at the end of the day will save more than one kWh per day: comput-

er, monitor, laser printers and copiers. Also, turning off one fluorescent light fixture in areas such as offices, bathrooms, break rooms, storage areas, etc. can save more than one kWh per day.

Other ways to save energy are: Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Turn off nonessential and decorative lighting, especially in unoccupied areas. Use task lighting to directly illuminate work areas instead of area lighting.

Plug all office equipment, radios, cell phone and mp3 chargers, and other personal electronics into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use. These devices draw energy 24/7, even when switched off.

Thank you for helping save energy and money on Redstone Arsenal.

Letterkenny future leaders tour AMCOM headquarters

Program makes investment in building bench strength

Seventeen students from Letterkenny Army Depot's LIFT Leadership Program class attended a staff ride Sept. 14-16 to Redstone Arsenal.

The staff ride purpose was to familiarize the program participants with Aviation and Missile Command headquarters and Redstone Arsenal, as well as spotlight the outstanding leaders from AMCOM and Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa. Program participants had the opportunity to tour featured areas within the arsenal, and participate in a leadership panel comprised of AMCOM and depot leaders.

The Aviation and Missile Command is taking steps to ensure the command has the bench strength it needs to fill its civilian leader positions in the future, not only locally at Redstone but also at its depots. Beginning in fiscal 2008, the AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources) began deploying a customized version of the Leader Investment for Tomorrow program to the depots. Key to participant success is developing leadership skills and competencies that can be applied in the workplace.

The program focuses on such leadership competencies as Army values, lead-

ing change, emotional intelligence, leading across the generations, decision making, goal setting, stakeholder management, time management, communications, briefings and ethics. Learning occurs through a mix of learning methods to include assessments, mini-lessons with group interaction, assessments, guest speakers, application with a depot-specific class project, and a staff ride.

"I thought the tour through the AMRDEC was an excellent experience showing what other agencies are doing and how they fit into the larger AMCOM picture. The work that is done by them was extremely enlightening," said Lee Graef, electronic measurement equipment mechanic supervisor, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity.

"I was very impressed with our trip to Redstone," Gary Rodgers, supervisory police officer at Letterkenny Army Depot, said. "It gave me an insight as to what our leadership has done for Letterkenny and what needs to be done in the future. I love the passion that everyone has for their jobs."

Program participants gained leadership insight in understanding the strategic integration of people, technologies and facilities as part of understanding the larger functional life-cycle picture at Redstone. (AMCOM G-1 release)

■ Cleanup program to continue through 2019

Environment

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Although the Garrison is overseeing the clean-up program, the work falls under the Army Environmental Command, commanded by Col. Maria Gervais.

"One of the reasons the Army Environmental Command was set up was because there were thousands of sites within the Army that were contaminated," de la Paz said. "Most of these are cleaned up now. We are one of the last installations to rem-

edy our contaminated sites because we have such a huge number of them.

"The Environmental Command first focused on installations that had a smaller concentration of contaminants and were easier to clean up, and on installations that were being BRACed or closed and eventually turned over to land reuse authorities. Once our fencing went up around our sites to prevent imminent danger, we became a lower priority."

Now, Redstone is a top priority, de la Paz said, and contaminated sites will be cleaned up and made available once again for the Army's mission.

Physical fitness class just for women

Arsenal's Joe Martin offers morning exercise routine

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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For an hour every weekday morning, Joe Martin is a ladies' man.

He spends that hour coaching, encouraging, directing, timing, advising and joking with about 30 women who have committed themselves to an "adventure in exercise" at 5:30 in the morning in the parking lot of southeast Huntsville's Weatherly Elementary School.

Martin, a recreational specialist and personal trainer at Pagano Gym, is soft spoken, easy to smile and double easy to blush. He does a lot of blushing during that early morning hour when he is totally outnumbered on the exercise field.

"Show some respect this morning, Joe!" quips one of his students while the group works through a weightlifting routine to the infamous "Respect" by Aretha Franklin.

As he instructs the group to pump up from their chest with weights in their hands, Martin tells them to keep the weights close together during the whole exercise.

But he doesn't get by with that instruction easily.

"What's close together the whole time?" one of his students asks, to a round of laughter.

And, of course, Martin blushes.

"See what they're doing to me. Their goal is to embarrass me. Their favorite pastime is to see me blush," Martin says to a bystander. "Those arms are getting tired. But the push-ups are still coming."

Martin started Huntsville's first Adventure Boot Camp for Women in August. The nationwide program trains and certifies its instructors in fitness training, nutritional counseling and motivational training. Each four-week boot camp provides 20 days of workouts designed to result in 3 to 5 percent reduction in body fat, five to 12 pounds weight loss, 25 percent improvement in strength and endurance, a one to three-inch decrease in the midsection, and better self-confidence, posture and relaxation.

"I wanted to give women in Huntsville an option rather than just going to an old gym setting and doing the old treadmill," Martin said. "There's no reason to dread your workout every day. We keep it fun with variety. There are different challenges and we keep the mood light."

Before each boot camp, Martin does a pre-assessment of his students, setting their personal goals. Each boot camp ends with a post-assessment. In between, the students attend boot camp three to five



ADVENTURE BOOT CAMP— Joe Martin, who works as a recreational specialist at Pagano Gym, spends an hour every weekday morning encouraging and coaching women into better physical fitness in the parking lot at southeast Huntsville's Weatherly Elementary School. Martin leads Huntsville's first Adventure Boot Camp for Women.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

days a week, doing conditioning that includes push-ups and planks, short distance running, jump roping, hiking, weightlifting, circuit training, pilates, obstacle courses, fitness kick boxing and sports yoga. They also play basketball, flag football and other sports.

"Three days you are going to get good results. Four days will be better," he said. "But you will be really awesome with five days. That's a huge commitment, but it's going to pay off. We use a variety of activities in the workouts so the women don't get bored and so their bodies don't adapt to doing the same thing."

At Weatherly, the women have access to a track, grass court, playground, benches, basketball goals, sidewalks and a well-lit parking lot, all elements Martin fits into a variety of exercise routines. Just down the street is Latham United Methodist Church, which provides an indoor location for bad weather days.

Although it is boot camp, Martin's approach isn't that of a yelling, whistle

blowing, in-your-face platoon sergeant. He is in control and does command what exercises the women will endure and works to make sure they endure them with the correct form. But he does his job with finesse, humor and an accepting attitude.

"This is about encouragement," he said. "People have so many things in life that can bring them down. This gives them something positive. It's more building up. There's no breaking down. It's all positive. They come for the positive experience."

More than anything, "boot camp" refers to getting back to the basics of exercise, getting outside and focusing exercises on large muscle groups that burn more calories. Exercises are designed to fit and tone the body, firming rear ends and thighs, flattening the stomach, reducing body fat and increasing stamina.

Martin's positive exercise experience goes a long way for a group of women from all age groups and varying backgrounds.

"We have all shapes, sizes and abilities," Martin said. "Everything is at your own pace. We have one woman who is a marathon runner who wants to increase her upper body strength. We have others who have not exercised in years. Each brings a little bit of their own motivation to camp. I just kick it up a little bit for them."

Martin enjoys the fun and camaraderie of coaching women to better physical fitness.

"Women are perceptive and they will listen to advice. They have a great work ethic," Martin said. "They are willing to try new things. I actually think they're a little bit tougher than men. And this is the only time I can tell a whole group of women what to do."

For more information about Huntsville Adventure Boot Camp for Women, visit Martin's website at www.huntsvillebootcamp.com. The camp does include a fee, and participants need to bring their own exercise mat, set of hand weights, water bottle and running shoes.

Iranian nuke facility is 'illicit,' Gates concludes

By GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Revelations that Iran has covertly been building an underground nuclear-fuel processing plant belie the Iranian-government's denials that it is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said on the Sunday TV talk show circuit Sept. 27.

"We've been watching the construction of this facility for quite some time and one of the reasons that we've waited to make it public was to ensure that our conclusions about its purpose were right," Gates told host John King on CNN's State

of the Union program.

President Barack Obama said Sept. 26 in his weekly address that intelligence data has convinced the United States, the United Kingdom and France "that Iran has been building a secret nuclear facility to enrich uranium."

The Iranian's actions, Obama said, present "a serious challenge to the global nonproliferation regime, and continues a disturbing pattern of Iranian evasion."

The United States and other members of the international community suspect that Iran is processing nuclear fuel to be used to construct nuclear weapons. Iran already has a uranium processing plant in Natanz.

Know the liability rules regarding rental vehicles

By ERIKA McPHERSON
Chief of claims

Have you ever wondered whether you should buy insurance when you rent a car for official travel? Government travelers on TDY are often authorized rental vehicles to perform their official travel. Questions often arise about what happens when a TDY rental vehicle sustains damage. This article informs you, the government traveler, how to limit personal and governmental liability should rental vehicle damage occur.

The first rule to be aware of is that renters do not have to purchase the supplemental insurance the rental car company offers because the government is already insured under the agreement it has negotiated with most of the major domestic and overseas car rental companies. Under this contract, government renters will not be subject to any fee for loss and in the event of an accident will not be responsible for loss or damage to the vehicle except in limited circumstances. Personal accident insurance or personal effects coverage may be offered to a renter, but is not required for renting a vehicle.

Secondly, the rental company must maintain in force, at its sole cost, insurance coverage, which will protect the United States government and its employees against liability for personal injury, death and property damage arising from the use of the vehicle. This coverage includes collision damage to the rented vehicle.

Finally, under the contract, the rental car company assumes the entire risk of loss of or damage to the rented vehicle itself. This includes towing costs, administrative costs, and loss of use from any and every cause whatsoever, including: casual-

ty, collision, fire, malicious mischief, vandalism, falling objects, overhead damage, glass breakage, strike, civil commotion, theft and mysterious disappearance.

Unlawful or unauthorized activities, however, could make the renter liable for damages. The rental car company will not be responsible for the losses caused by the following: the vehicle is obtained by fraud or misrepresentation; the driver is under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs; the vehicle was used for an illegal purpose or used to tow another vehicle; the vehicle was used inappropriately, such as for hire or racing; or the vehicle was loaned to an unauthorized driver.

In the event of an accident or if damage to a rental vehicle occurs, immediately notify Bank of America for vehicles rented with a government travel card. Notification must be given within 20 days of the incident. Next, notify the rental car company and police. Try to obtain a police report and get information from the parties involved in the accident or incident.

Last but not least, report the damage to your supervisor. An accident or incident occurring while you are engaged in official duties is considered to have occurred while acting within the scope of employment. For damage occurring within the scope of employment, the bill may be paid from organizational TDY funds if it is not covered by the government contract or government travel card. Your supervisor should prepare a statement documenting your scope of employment at the time of the incident.

If you have questions about claims for reimbursement of damage to a rental vehicle which was rented pursuant to official orders, you may call the Claims Office at 876-9006.

Redstone 10K runners pleased with results

Overcast, dry morning graces first-year event

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

The feared thunderstorms stayed away and 70 runners took advantage of an overcast, dry morning at the first Redstone 10K on Sept. 26.

It was a particularly good day for winner Sean O'Donnell and the top female finisher Lisa Burger.

O'Donnell, 44, of Huntsville, won in 38 minutes and 11 seconds. He's a logistics analyst for contractor VT Group in support of the Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate under AMCOM G-3 (Operations and Plans).

"It was a good course," said O'Donnell, a retired chief warrant officer 4. "Two hills, but not too bad. A little humid, though."

This was the Baltimore native's first race in two years. He formerly ran for the Ten-Miler team at Fort Rucker, where he retired in September 2008, but he had knee surgery that July.

"I'm totally satisfied with my (finish) time considering my training and how I



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HALFWAY THERE— Runners travel on Mills Road just past the Neal intersection near the halfway point of the Redstone 10K.

haven't been racing competitively," O'Donnell said. "I couldn't complain at all."

Burger, 40, of Huntsville, was also pleased after only the second race of her life. The resource analyst for headquarters Army Materiel Command started running about a year ago.

"I started running to lose

weight. And then I joined a group," she said. "We run in the evenings.

"I've always been athletic. But I started running on a treadmill about two miles, and then I bumped it up to three, and it's just been a steady increase," she said, laughing.

Burger's first race was the Monte Sano 10K on Sept. 5 where she finished in 55 minutes. This time she improved to 52:26.

About 30 of the 70 runners were females. The race, held near the Sparkman Fitness Center, was sponsored by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, Fleet Feet, and the Association of the U.S. Army.

Here are the results:

Overall male: Sean O'Donnell (38:11).

Overall female: Lisa Burger (52:26).

Male age groups: 19-29 — 1. Jordan Howell, 2. William Perkins, 3. Job Warner. ... 30-39 — 1. Francisco Valiente, 2. Matthew Carter, 3. Eugene Irby. ... 40-49 — 1. Sean O'Donnell, 2. Jeff Hager, 3. Brian Baeder. ... 50-over — 1. Jimmy Cobb, 2. Jon Penman, 3. John Gibbons.

Female age groups: 19-29 — 1. Nicole Waits, 2. Kim Howell, 3. Amy Patterson.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

KEEP PUSHING— NASA worker Matthew Carter, 33, of Madison, is halfway to his second-place finish in the male 30-39 age group.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TOP FEMALE— Lisa Burger, a resource analyst for headquarters Army Materiel Command, was the first female finisher in 52:26.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

OVERALL WINNER— Sean O'Donnell, a logistics analyst for contractor VT Group, won the race in 38:11.

... 30-39 — 1. Kit Papke, 2. Aurora Warner, 3. Laura McCrain. ... 40-49 — 1. Lisa Burger, 2. Janet Baeder, 3. Lisa Soure. ... 50-over — 1. Cindy Moeller, 2. Sharon Corcora.

Florida gets nod over Louisiana State



Gators expected to survive Bayou

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Here are this week's college football predictions (165-46 after five weeks):

- Florida at LSU — **Florida**
- Alabama at Mississippi — **Bama**
- Auburn at Arkansas — **Auburn**
- Alabama A&M at Grambling — **Grambling**
- Georgia at Tennessee — **Georgia**
- Kentucky at South Carolina — **SC**
- Nebraska at Missouri — **Missouri**
- Michigan State at Illinois — **MSU**
- Purdue at Minnesota — **Minnesota**
- Vanderbilt at Army — **Vandy**
- The Citadel at Elon — **The Citadel**
- New Mexico at Wyoming — **Wyoming**
- Baylor at Oklahoma — **Oklahoma**
- Marshall at Tulane — **Marshall**
- Navy at Rice — **Navy**
- Oklahoma State at Texas A&M — **OSU**
- Oregon at UCLA — **Oregon**
- Wisconsin at Ohio State — **Ohio State**
- Duke at North Carolina State — **NC State**
- Utah at Colorado State — **Utah**
- TCU at Air Force — **TCU**
- Southern Mississippi at Louisville — **SM**
- East Carolina at Southern Methodist — **EC**
- Michigan at Iowa — **Iowa**
- Brigham Young at UNLV — **BYU**
- Arizona at Washington — **Arizona**
- Boston College at Virginia Tech — **VT**
- Colorado at Texas — **UT**
- Connecticut at Pittsburgh — **Pitt**
- Georgia Tech at Florida State — **GT**
- Houston at Mississippi State — **MSU**
- Iowa State at Kansas — **Kansas**
- Indiana at Virginia — **Indiana**
- Kansas State at Texas Tech — **Tech**
- Maryland at Wake Forest — **WF**
- Stanford at Oregon State — **State**
- West Virginia at Syracuse — **WVU**



Photo by Carol Darden

Winning golfers

Sandy Parks, left, and Theresa Mahlik were the first flight 1st-gross winners at the 50th Invitational Tournament, sponsored by the Redstone Ladies Golf Association on Sept. 9 at the Links. Other winners included Kay Theodoss and Sally Deivert, second flight 1st net; Carol Umstaedter and Vonita Gravitt, third flight 1st net; and Carol Darden and Cooky Bachman, fifth flight 1st net.

Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Golf classic

The second annual AFCEA Golf Classic is Oct. 16, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start, at the Links at Redstone. The tournament helps fund the local chapter's college scholarship program. The tournament is open to AFCEA members and non-members at \$55 per player. There is space for 36 teams or the first 144 players. "We welcome corporate hole sponsorship at \$100 and/or sponsorship for skill prizes and door prizes," a prepared release said. For information call tournament director Jeff Edwards 890-2739. You can register at www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=190393.

Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present a Boating Safety and Seamanship Course from Oct. 8 to Nov. 19. The course will be held in six separate sessions every Thursday evening from 6:30-9 in building 3687, the Garrison Safety Office. The completion of the course will further a boater's knowledge in the proper and safe handling of water vessels and satisfies the state requirement for documentation on the state driver's license. For boat owners the course provides for reduced cost of boat insurance by some providers. For more information, call Thomas Kunhart

830-6621 (home), 527-4475 (cell) or e-mail tkunhart@knology.net.

Bass tournament

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America will hold the Fall 2009 Bob Vlasics' Classic Bass Tournament on Oct. 17. Launch site is Jackson County Park in Scottsboro at first safe light. Preregistration is required. For more information, e-mail thomas.geofroy@us.army.mil.



Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday night at Bicentennial Chapel. Fellowship begins at 5 p.m. followed by Bible study at 5:30. The actual service starts at 6:15. Bicentennial Chapel is located on Goss Road, building 376. For more information, call the Garrison Unit Ministry Team 842-2176.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel has Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. PWOC Bible studies this fall are: 9:30 a.m., "Esther" by Beth Moore and "Putting on the Armor" by Chuck Lawless; and 6:30 p.m., "How Now Shall We Live?" by Charles Colson. The

lunchtime Bible Study begins a study of Psalms at 11:30 a.m. And the Korean sisters begin their study at 10:30. For more information call Judy Strange 430-3110, Karyn Wilson 837-7421, Mattie Jones (lunchtime group) 828-9890 and Soran Thrasher (Korean group) 539-4862.

Men's ministries

Men's Ministries, "addressing the needs of men and planting seeds for spiritual growth in Christ Jesus," meets every second or third Saturday — for exact monthly date, call Harry Hobbs at 682-4010 — at 8 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for \$5. For more information, call Hobbs 682-4010.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. "Forts Henry and Donelson, The First Decisive Battles" is the topic of Mark Hubbs' and David Lady's talk. They are local historians who have devoted themselves to a lengthy study of this February 1862 campaign. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

Admin professionals

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

call [Alphadella McRae 313-1957](tel:256-313-1957).

Technical communicators

The UAH English Department and Society for Technical Communication, Huntsville/North Alabama will hold the annual STC Membership Dinner on Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at the UAH University Center, room 126. Guest speakers are Jean Gay Mussleman, self-published author of "Potluck, Postscripts & Potpourri," and Huntsville technical writer Ed Garner. There is no charge for STC members, UAH English Department faculty and staff, and students of technical communication. Dinner for others is \$15, and reservations are required by calling Cindi Brasher in the English Department 824-6321. The registration deadline is Oct. 12.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User Group will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. There will be a short business meeting followed by the program, Introduction to Photo Editing presented by Gene Zajicek, a member of HPCUG who retired from the Logistics Support Activity. The meeting will adjourn at 11:30, followed by an awards luncheon at 11:45. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 881-6845.

Air defenders

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will

have its annual dinner dance Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Roger Mathews, commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School. For more information and reservations, call Janett Beasley 428-3522 or e-mail janett.beasley@cobham.com.

Simulation conference

The Huntsville Simulation Conference, sponsored by the Society for Modeling and Simulation International and hosted by the Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council, is Oct. 28-29 at the Huntsville Marriott, Five Tranquility Base, with a classified segment Oct. 27 at the Advanced Research Center. For information visit the website www.scs.org/hsc.

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 on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 1217. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Margrit Carr 313-1952.

AFAP conference

The Team Redstone 21st Army Family Action Plan Conference is Oct. 27-28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. "This is an opportunity to make suggestions or express concerns about programs, services or benefits affecting the total Army family, to include active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guard, reservists, family members and civilians," a prepared release said. To register as a conference delegate or submit an issue or concern visit www.redstonemwr.com or call Army Community Service 876-5397.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's

monthly luncheon meeting is Oct. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. This month's speaker is Patricia Martin, acting director or Systems Engineering and Support Directorate, AMRDEC. She will be talking about "Work and Life Balance." For ticket information, call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Engineer society

North Alabama ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) will meet today at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Research Hall, second floor, on the UAH campus. The topic is Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama Inc. Stephanie Deemer of Toyota's External Affairs will give a brief overview of TMMA operations; then Jason Godwin will discuss an engineering project Toyota just completed at the plant. Cost is \$10 for a box lunch. For more information, call James Denson 883-2531.

Space group

HAL5 (National Space Society chapter) will meet Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Main Library, 915 Monroe St. The scheduled speaker is Al Reisz, president of Reisz Engineering. The public is invited.

Security professionals

The Mid-South Chapter of NCMS, the Society for Industrial Security Professionals, will hold the annual Joint ASIS/NCMS Mid-South luncheon meeting Oct. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Madison Square Mall. Joe DiNoto will speak on "Research and Technology Protection and Foreign Disclosure." For more information, call Paul Malone 428-1306.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10 and program to follow. Dick Hyatt, director of the Food Bank of North Alabama, is the speaker. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Engineer chapter

This month's SOLE program and luncheon is Oct. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at

the Officers and Civilians Club. David L. Christensen, space program consultant, will speak on "Space Program Memories." Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. For reservations call Jane Campbell 544-1001 or Dave Welch 450-1620.

Officer/civilian women

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will meet Oct. 13 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The theme of the meeting is "Things That Go Bump in the Night" and will feature author and historian Jacque Reeves. Cost is \$12 per person and RSVPs are due by noon Friday. For membership and reservation information, visit the OCWC website www.redstoneocwc.org. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Youth leadership conference

The Military Order of the World Wars will hold its seventh annual Youth Leadership Conference from Nov. 4-7 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for approximately 90 high-school youth. Returning students from previous years form the cadre to lead first time students through a program focusing on leadership, patriotism/citizenship and free enterprise. Attendance is through an application process through guidance counselors, JROTC instructors, or the MOWW website www.huntsville-moww.org/modules.php?name=YLC2009.

Women in defense

Women in Defense will host a workshop titled "Preparing to Support Challenges in National Security" on Oct. 14 at the Marriott Tranquility. Speakers will include Maj. Gen. Susan Lawrence, commander of the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command; Kathryn Condon, executive deputy to the commanding general, Army Materiel Command; Vickie Plunkett, professional staff member of the House Armed Services Committee-Military Readiness; and Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, deputy commander of the Sustainment Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Panel discussions will include technology challenges, acquisition and contracting challenges, and foreign military sales in

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national security. For more information, call Christina Hinkle 562-0600. Register online at www.ndia-tvc.org/wid-tvc/NatlSecWkshp.htm.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

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

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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 Nicole Massey 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Motorcycle safety

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

Reserve unit

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

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-

year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Stacy Hopwood and 1st Sgt. Brian May 539-6511 or 539-6512.

Pilots wanted

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

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.

Butler High reunion

Butler High School Class of '79 is planning its 30-year class reunion for Saturday at the Westin Hotel at Bridge Street.

The cost is \$60 per person. For registration information, sign up on Classmates.com on the Butler Class of '79 Events page or Facebook — Butler Class of 1979 group page. The contact is Charlotte Dombrowski 564-9836.

Charity benefit

SAMD is holding a Charity Benefit in support of the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing Oct. 16 at the Holiday Inn downtown. For more information, call Liz Preston 955-5606 or 683-7574 or Gena Scofield 313-1162.

New civilian employees

The next New Employee Orientation for civilian employees is Nov. 24 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. NEO participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Civilian Personnel Advisory Center director remarks, Staffing/Classification Procedures, Employee Benefits, Human Resources Development, Management and Employee Relations and Labor, American Federation of Government Employees, Equal Employment Opportunity, Legal, Communication Security, Defense Acquisition University, Employee Assistance Program, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Safety. For more information, call LaToya Davis Ragan 313-0286 or Jessie McCray 876-4803. To obtain a space in this course, you must register in TIP by Nov. 24 at <http://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.

Read with Taka

The Post Library presents "Tales with Taka" from 10 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. The dates for the "Tales with Taka" program for the remainder of the year are Nov. 7 and Dec. 5. Jamie Ward and her German shepherd Taka, a Reading Education Assistance Dog, will appear at the library for children to read to Taka. The program is open to children ages 5 and up and is available to anyone who has access to the post library. Call the library 876-4741 to schedule a time with Taka.

Library renovation

The Post Library is undergoing renovation through the end of December. Please be aware of the following: The library will be open most of this period but may occasionally be closed. It is closed Oct. 5-12. The library plans to have the drop box open as much as possible. When this is

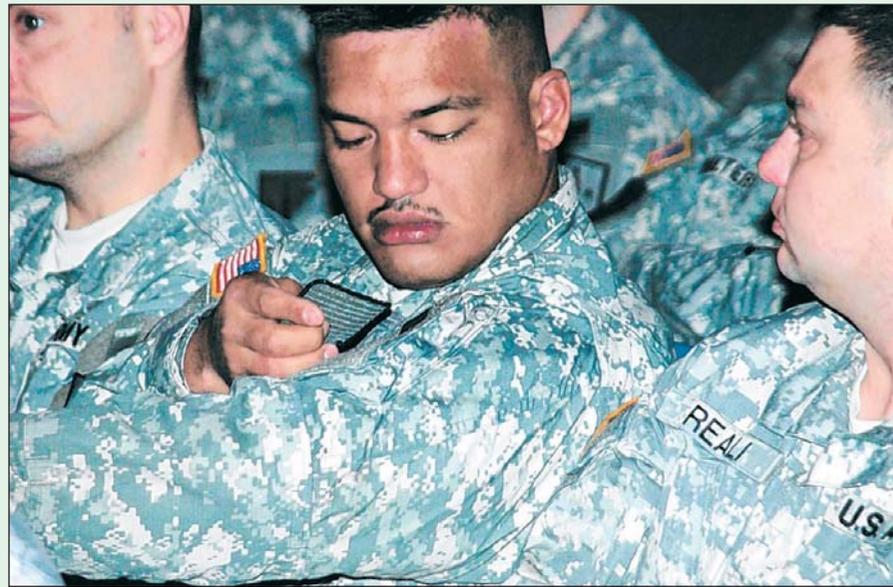


Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

Patch ceremony

A Soldier with the 59th Ordnance Brigade replaces the patch on his uniform during a patch removal ceremony Sept. 25. Members of the 59th put on the new Sustainment Center of Excellence patch in place of their former one.

Rocket Announcements

not possible, it will adjust due dates for all materials. The library will always make arrangements for military personnel who need to clear. Please check the library's front doors for instructions. The staff will update information on the library's website (www.redstonemwr/recreation/library.html) and phone message (876-4741). The result will be remodeled restrooms and more effective staff work areas, according to a library release. "We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding."

Aviation ball

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America will have its third annual St. Michael's Aviation Ball on Oct. 30 at the Von Braun Center south hall. Friends, family and guests of Army aviation are invited to a night of dinner, music and dancing. Information can be found and tickets purchased at www.cribbinsaps.com or contact Ray Woolery 217-0804 and ray.woolery@uav.com or Tonya Galindo 464-9191 and Tonya.galindo@vt-group.com. Dress is black tie. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

Signal unit reunion

The 279th Signal Battalion, Alabama Army National Guard, will hold a dinner reunion 6 p.m. Oct. 29 at the "Son's Barbecue" in Arab. Any former member along with family guest is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 603-3201 or e-mail gijosie279@yahoo.com.

Breast cancer boot camp

Fox Army Health Center will hold its second annual Breast Cancer Boot Camp on Oct. 22 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. "During this exciting, information-filled program, you will receive state of the art medical information about breast cancer," a prepared release said. "There will be guest speakers from the medical community sharing their expertise on topics such as: overview of breast cancer, detection methods, statistics, self exams, surgical interventions, chemotherapy/radiation options, and genetics/genomics." If you have access to Redstone Arsenal you may call the Wellness Clinic at 955-8888 ext. 1430 or 1431 for more information or to register for the seminar. Registration is required so call today to reserve your seat.

Acquisition fellowship

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 26 for the Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship Program which will begin in February. This three-year program offers developmental assignments in Program Executive Offices, and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Offices, AMC headquarters and functional organizations. "In addition, the program provides expanded training, leadership, experiential and other careerdevelopment opportunities," a prepared release said. Applicants must be a current Department of the Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology work

force member; be a GS-13 or an equivalent converted Personnel Demonstration Project broadband/pay-band level (pay equals that of a GS-13, step 1), or an equivalent National Security Personnel System pay-band; and be certified at Level III in any Acquisition Career Field or are currently Level II certified in their career field and currently on a reservation or wait status for the remaining Level III DAU classes. Applications must be submitted electronically through the CAMP website: <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>. Once logged into CAMP, select CAPPMS and then select AAPDS (Army Acquisition Professional Development System). Contact your acquisition career manager for more information. ACM contact information can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/organization/western/default.cfm>.

Aeronautical university

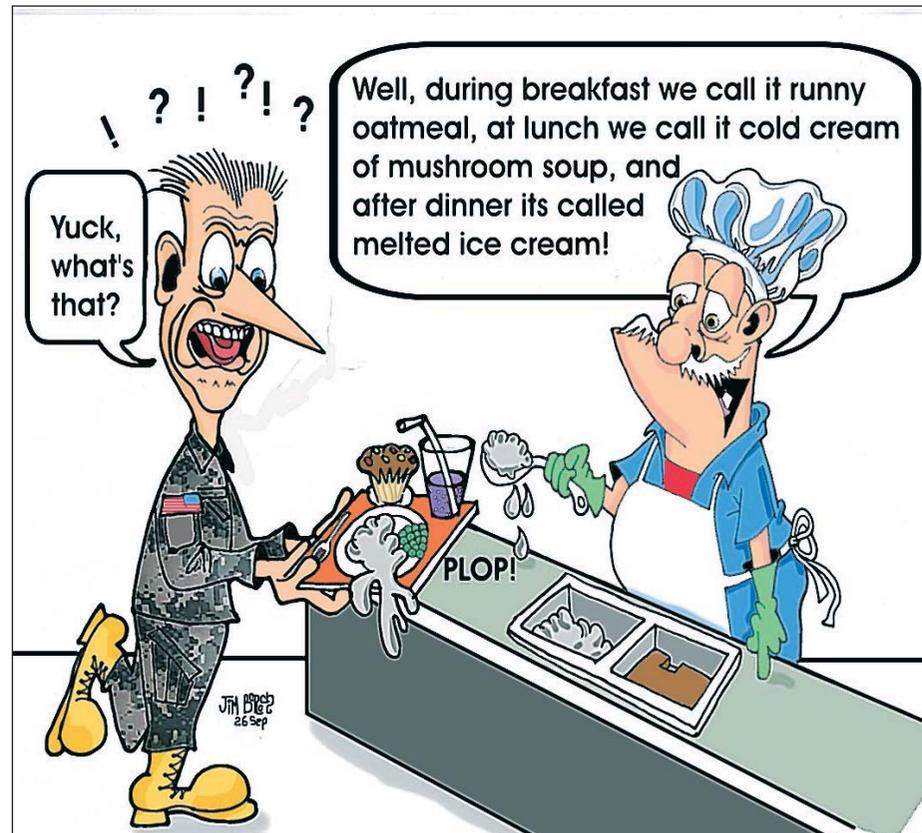
The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the winter 2009 term, Oct. 19 to Dec. 20. Courses include Human Factors in Aviation/Aerospace; Management of Quality; Supply Chain Management; Leading Projects Across Corporate, Cultural, and International Boundaries; English Composition; Basic Algebra; and Project Management in Aviation Operations. The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in Aviation/Aerospace and Management fields; specializing in areas such as Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Aviation Safety, and Project Management. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is Oct. 16. For more information call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222, or e-mail huntsville.center@erau.edu.

Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service newcomers' orientation Oct. 13 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths, and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone as outlined in Commander's Letter 005-08. Civilian employees, contractors and spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. Re-entry counseling for overseas returnees is also available. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Flu shots

Mass seasonal flu immunization of active duty Soldiers will be held today and Thursday from 5:30-11 a.m. at Heiser Hall, building 3712 on Patton Road. Due



to training requirements, the 832nd Ordnance Battalion will have priority from 5:30-6:30 a.m. Flu immunizations will be provided to active duty, activated Reserves and activated National Guard only. Please have your Common Access Card with you. No immunizations will be provided to other beneficiaries. Screening forms may be downloaded from the Fox Army Health Center website at www.redstone.amedd.army.mil. Patients may also view the Vaccine Information Sheet at this site. Additional forms will be available at the immunization site. For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1026, 1440 or 1441.

Planning a party

"Wonderful Weddings — Perfect Parties" will be held Oct. 18 from 1-4 p.m. at the Huntsville Museum of Art, 300 Church St. The Women's Guild Huntsville Museum of Art holds this annual party-planning event which features "the latest in caterers, florists, photographers, cakes, fine apparel, decorating, rentals and more," according to a prepared release. It's free to the public, and includes door prizes and a free reference guide.

Benefit sale

The Family Readiness Group for the 203rd Military Police Battalion of Athens will sponsor the second annual Indoor Craft and Yard Sale on Oct. 17 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Athens Armory, 1402 Armory St. in Athens. Vendor spaces are 10-by-20; and there are 30 available. Reserve your space for \$25. The FRG will provide two tables per space and do all the advertising. Call Amanda Bailey 604-4366, Ruth Towers 651-2819, Dixie Foster 431-2043 or Wendy Irvin 502-9621.

Red Cross blood drives

Red Cross blood drives this month

include the following: Oct. 8 from 7 a.m. to noon at buildings 5400, 6263 and the Sparkman Center; Oct. 9 from 7-noon at buildings 5400, 5681 and 4545; Oct. 15 from 7-noon at MDA building 5222; and Oct. 16 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316.

Military appreciation day

This Saturday is Military Appreciation Day at Tate Farms Cotton Pickin' Pumpkins. All active military personnel, with valid ID, will be admitted for half price. "Tate Farms appreciates your contribution and service to our country," a prepared release said. Tate Farms is open Monday through Friday 2-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Oct. 31. General admission is \$8 per person ages 23 months and older (without discounts). The website is www.tatefarm-spumpkins.com.

Walk against abuse

The Morgan County Domestic Violence Task Force and Crisis Services of North Alabama are inviting good natured and well balanced men to try to "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" at Decatur Mall on October 15 beginning at 6 p.m. The walk is a united gender movement to encourage men to take a visual stand in high heels and become a part of the solution to end gender violence. During the walk, men will also be invited to join in the White Ribbon Campaign, a pledge never to commit violence against women. At the end of the walk everyone will be invited to light a candle to honor and remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence and the loved ones they have left behind. To pre-register, e-mail Kathy Coleman at katcoleman@msn.com or Connie Kane at connie@csna.org. Registration at the event starts at 5:00 p.m.