

Redstone Rocket

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Wreaths of remembrance to vets

Redstone Garden Club, other groups
adorn veteran gravesites for holidays

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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The giving spirit of Christmas 2009 has already left its mark on the gravesites of Madison County's veterans and on the hearts of the volunteers who lovingly placed red-bowed wreaths on those gravesites.

On a cold, gray fall morning, more than 100 volunteers armed with greenery and hammers walked the grounds of Maple Hill Cemetery to place 2,200 holiday wreaths on veteran gravesites. The next day, they visited Valhalla Memory Gardens where another 560 wreaths were placed on veteran gravesites. Now in its third year, the project – known locally as Wreaths for Veterans and nationally as Wreaths Across America – continues to grow larger in terms of volunteers and organizations involved.

"People are so supportive of this," Wreaths for Veterans chairperson Joy Parker said. "It's unbelievable. It warms your heart."

"Because the veteran has given us the freedom we enjoy today we want to give back a token in remembrance and honor. We're putting these wreaths on gravesites to honor and remember our fallen veterans here in Madison County. We are doing this to give a little back."

Parker and co-chair Jennifer Hames, who are both military wives and members of the Redstone Garden Club, started Wreaths for Veterans after seeing a picture of holiday wreaths decorating the snowy gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery. They started the project with the help of the Redstone Garden Club, although now it involves volunteers from several other local groups.

"I saw that beautiful picture at Arlington Cemetery and I thought 'Why can't we do this in Madison County?'" Hames said on Nov. 18 as wreath decorating operations were winding down at Maple Hill Cemetery. "I sent the first e-mail that started this whole thing rolling. People are so willing to help us because they are aware of veterans and what they have done for our country."

By taking on the project, the Redstone Garden Club made Huntsville the first city in Alabama and one of the first in the Southeast to participate in Wreaths Across America. Since then, the club has encouraged the cities of Madison and Birmingham in their participation in the program. Mobile, Tal-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HONORABLE TRADITION— Jennifer Hames and Joy Parker read words of remembrance attached to a holiday wreath placed on a veteran gravesite at Maple Hill Cemetery. They are leading efforts by the Redstone Garden Club to decorate veteran gravesites in Madison County with holiday wreaths.

ladeaga, Fort Mitchell and the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo also participate.

As part of the Wreaths Across America program, local organizers have planned official Wreath Laying Ceremonies in Madison County for Dec. 12 – one at 10 a.m. at Valhalla and the other at 2 p.m. at Maple Hill.

"This will be a very special ceremony for all our veterans, and the families of veterans and the public are invited to come out and make this part of their holiday recognitions," Parker said. "Each branch of service will be represented, and we will lay a ceremonial wreath on the veterans monument at Maple Hill."

When Wreaths for Veterans began three years ago, volunteers placed wreaths on the gravesites of 650 veterans. That increased to 1,500 the next year as more veteran gravesites were located and the number of volunteers grew. This year, Wreaths for Veterans has placed more than 2,700 wreaths at Maple Hill and Valhalla.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MEMORABLE WREATH— Visitors to Maple Hill Cemetery this holiday season will once again see holiday wreaths with red ribbons gracing the tombstones of Madison County's veterans.

See Wreaths on page 15

An open lane random survey

What are you most thankful for?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Pvt. Matthew Lockner
Charlie Company

"Probably my family, because they've always been there for me – no matter what happens."

Pvt. Shawn Retherford
Charlie Company

"At this point in my life I'm most thankful for the fact I have God in my life. And the blessings He's put around me."



Dennis Hardin
K&K Food Service

"Being blessed with health, family and a good job."

Melissa Hoskins
Military Personnel Division

"My family, because that's what completes me."



Quote of the week

Iwrote myself a check for 10 million dollars for acting services rendered and dated it Thanksgiving 1995. I put it in my wallet and it deteriorated. And then, just before Thanksgiving 1995, I found out I was going to make 10 million dollars for Dumb & Dumber. I put that check in the casket with my father because it was our dream together.

– Jim Carrey
Oprah Winfrey Show, 1997

Letters to the Editor

Thanksgiving message from IMCOM leader

Each November, Americans gather with family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings they enjoy as citizens of this great land. This Thanksgiving Day will be particularly poignant for the many thousands of Soldiers serving in harm's way and their families. As you celebrate in gratitude, let us recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of our war fighters ensuring our security and freedom.

Although a time of joy and goodwill, this season brings particular hazards that can be unforgiving to the unprepared. Now is a good time to remind ourselves how to reduce the risks of driving in winter conditions, hunting, home fires, home decorations and electrical conditions, ice or snow-covered walkways, etc. Find information on these and other timely safety topics in the IMCOM Fall Winter Safety Brochure at www.imcom.army.mil/hq/office-com/staff/safety/.

Please exercise caution, because winter weather and heavy traffic may complicate your plans. Getting there is more important than getting there on time. Use the Travel Risk Planning System at <http://combatingaggressivedriving.com/trip%20planning.html> to identify traveling risks and help reduce or eliminate the chance of an accident while traveling over the holiday months.

Finally, be vigilant for signs of distress among those around you. Be mindful of those for whom this season can be stressful and offer assistance or referrals as appropriate. Chaplains, counselors and the chain of command all have resources to help the needy or overwhelmed. We are blessed to live in a nation that values freedom and the sanctity of life. This Thanksgiving Day regardless of your holiday plans, please be aware of the hazards, take action to guard against them, and execute good safety practices.

You are too important to the IMCOM family and to your own families to fall victim to a preventable accident.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
commander, Installation
Management Command

Service awards should be timely

Why does it often take many months beyond their anniversary milestone for employees of AMRDEC to be recognized for their service to the federal government? Delays of up to a year may occur between the milestone anniversary, i.e. 25-years, 30-years, 40-years, etc. before this occurs.

I find it inexcusable that management cannot anticipate these events based upon the employment records and thus be prepared to make a timely award. In recent times, AMRDEC has been noted to award something as significant as 40 years of service as late as a year or more beyond the milestone.

Regardless of the nature of the cause for recognition, it is always good management practice to promote morale by recognizing employee accomplishments in a timely fashion; as to do otherwise engenders cynicism on the part of employees and casts doubt as to the sincerity of spirit in which the award is given. I've worked closely with the military side of the Army for many years now, so I can tell you that it is done much differently on the green suiter side of the house.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center provided the following response. "The AMRDEC senior leaders strongly encourage their managers to recognize their employees for their personal and professional accomplishments and contributions to readiness and mission accomplishment. For the most part, our work force, stationed across the country and around the world, is being recognized for their service to the nation and to the war fighter. However, we realize and are concerned that certain awards, time in service awards for example, are not being presented in a timely manner. We greatly appreciate your concern as an individual and a member of AMRDEC. You have identified a form of recognition that is extremely important to our employees and their families; it is a testament to their dedication and their sacrifice in defense of America. We have identified where we need to make changes and are developing a plan to streamline our processes. We expect to see results very soon and will continue to seek improvement in this and other administrative programs. We encourage you and other members of the AMRDEC work force to continue to help us improve our administrative processes and to contact your directorate's administrative POC or the AMRDEC HR Division, Center Support Directorate."

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The Redstone Rocket will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. After the Dec. 16 publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 6. We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Annie Scott

Job: Lead human resources assistant, Personnel Service and Operations Branch, Military Personnel Division

Where do you call home?
Dallas, Texas

What do you like about your job?

I love everything about my job, because I have so much interaction with the Soldiers. I get to see the Soldiers all the time. I'm with student management.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Stay home. I stay on my computer, and watch movies.

What are your goals?

Eventually retiring. Go gallivanting around the country.

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

Watch my grandkids grow up, because I've got precious grandkids.

Motorist convicted in Soldier assault case

A federal court Oct. 21 convicted a contractor of simple assault for striking a Soldier with his vehicle. The incident occurred in July during a company formation run on Mauler Road.

Joseph Latham was found guilty of simple assault under 18 U.S.C. 113. The conviction carries a maximum punish-

ment of six months in prison. Latham refused to yield the right of way to Soldiers running in formation and struck a Soldier with his vehicle.

Latham appeared in federal district court in downtown Huntsville. The court will reconvene Jan. 5 to determine an appropriate sentence. *(Staff Judge Advocate release)*

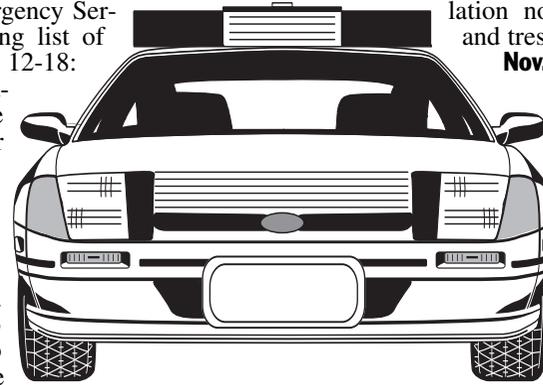
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reporting incidents for Nov. 12-18:

Nov. 12: While investigating a traffic accident, police discovered that one driver had a suspended license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 12: When a subject approached Gate 1, he was found to be driving with a suspended license. He also gave false information to police. A search of the inside of the vehicle revealed a bag containing cocaine. He was issued three violation notices.

Nov. 12: A former AAFES employee became disorderly when she was denied entrance through Gate 10. After refusing to exit the post, she was issued vio-



lation notices for disorderly conduct and trespassing.

Nov. 13: A Commissary employee reported that her purse was stolen from her car while it was parked in the Commissary parking lot.

Nov. 18: When a subject arrived at Gate 8 lost, he was found to be driving with a suspended license. It was also revealed that Huntsville Police had issued two warrants for his arrest.

Traffic accidents reported: nine without injury, none

with injury.

Violation notices issued: 5 speeding, 2 suspended driver's license, 1 possession of cocaine, 5 expired tag or registration, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 trespassing.

Garrison gives reminder on gate procedures

Directorate of Emergency Services and Garrison leaders remind everyone that construction upgrades at Gate 10 (Patton Road) were finished Nov. 1. Normal operations resumed at Gate 10 and Gate 8 (Goss Road) on Nov. 2.

Here are operating procedures for these gates:

- Gate 8 – Hours are Monday through Sunday from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Only persons with valid installation identification (common access card, military ID, or security badge) and decal/extended vehicle pass will be

admitted. Gate 8 will not issue visitor passes.

- Gate 10 – Hours are Monday through Sunday from 4:30 a.m. to midnight. After midnight, Gate 9 (Rideout Road) is the installation's only entrance.

"Thank you for your continued support and patience as Garrison updates our installation access control points," a prepared release said. "As a reminder, employees can help expedite access by having their ID and vehicle documentation (registration/insurance card) ready as they approach the ACPs."

Soldier pleads guilty to pornography charge

A military court has sentenced an OMEMS trainee Soldier to three years in military prison on child pornography charges.

At a general court-martial, convened Nov. 16 at Redstone Arsenal, Pfc. Robert J.W. Hankins pleaded guilty to possession and distribution of child pornography. Hankins also received a bad-conduct discharge.

The Soldier was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base in May 2008 when he knowingly and wrongfully possessed a hard drive and laptop computer containing

video files of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 2252A.

Hankins downloaded pornographic videos to a personal laptop and an external hard drive and offered the child pornography for distribution through the LimeWire network, the military said.

Hankins was attached to Headquarters & Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion for court-martial jurisdiction. Hankins will be incarcerated at Fort Sill, Okla. *(Staff Judge Advocate release)*

Volunteers help give a Beary Merry Christmas

Operation Christmas Bear kicks off for sixth year

By AMY GUCKEEN

Staff writer

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'Twas a month before Christmas and all were gathered in Huntsville to bring manpower to a good cause – even jolly old Santa Claus.

For a group of dedicated individuals across the Tennessee Valley, Christmas has come early this year, as the team behind the sixth annual Operation Christmas Bear transform themselves from plain old volunteers to Santa's Helpers. Come Dec. 12, children of active, National Guard and Reserve families, as well as DoD civilians currently deployed in a war zone, will get a dose of their contagious Christmas spirit.

"Christmas spirit is hard to get sometimes when a parent is deployed. Anything we can do to bring the holidays and a smile to the kids is worth it," said Valerie Coffey, volunteer coordinator for the event.

Started shortly after 9/11 by the late Bill Meiers, Operation Christmas Bear brings together the families of deployed Soldiers in the tough holiday season for a chance to relax and bond with fellow families in the same situation at the quintessential Christmas celebration.

"The entire community agreed that it was a great way to show our appreciation to those families who sacrifice so much for the freedom we enjoy. It's our way to say 'Thank you' to the families of our mil-

itary and DoD civilians for the sacrifices they are making," said John Perry, chairman for this year's event, and president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, coordinator of the event.

For children, the highlight of the day is the opportunity to have that important yearly chat with Santa, as well as the gift of a new Christmas teddy bear to snuggle with. Each bear is adorned with a military scarf, provided by Army Community Service, and a button reading, "My Mom (or Dad) is a hero."

"Everyone has fun at OCB," Coffey said. "The volunteers come back year after year. There are events for all ages so grandparents and parents and kids have fun and are able to forget the big picture for a while. I'm in the Reserves and from a military family, so I know how hard it is on both sides of the pond when one member of the family is deployed."

This year's event features Santa arriving by fire truck at 1 p.m., free photos with Santa, a moon bounce and slides, magician Russell Davis, face painting, crafts, costumed characters, toy trains, live music by the Charlie Lyle Band and Tangerine Tambourine, The Wall of Honor and plenty of tasty holiday treats.

Outreach from the whole community makes the event possible. This year's major sponsors include Kroger of Madison, YMCA, AUSA, InfoPro, ASMDA, Warrant Officers Association, H.H. Gregg, Berney Office Solutions, AAAA, Cahaba Shrine, Redstone Recognitions, Niles Prestige-Office Furniture Outlet, Regions Bank, DuMidi, Inergi, Mojo from WZYP, Enchanted Masquerade Inc., "The Toy Makers" and WRSA.

"Our community supports our military," Coffey said. "I am proud to be a part of this community, which is always ready to share, help, be there and care for our military families."

Operation Christmas Bear will be held Saturday, Dec. 12 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shrine Temple in Huntsville. The event is open to all active duty, National Guard and Reserve North Alabama families, as well as families of DoD civilians currently deployed in a war zone. Families are asked to register with Army Community Service at 876-5397 or e-mail mary.breedden@us.army.mil.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

GIFTS FOR KIDS— More than 400 teddy bears have taken up temporary residence at the home of John and Brenda Perry. The bears will get a new home – in the arms of a child who has a deployed parent – Dec. 12.

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:

Golf course contest

The Links at Redstone invites you to "Name the 18s" and win a one-year membership to the golf course. The contest goes through Dec. 2. The Links will be opening its final nine holes and will be a 36-hole facility. The original three nine-hole courses — Hillside, Whispering Pines and Meadowview — will be losing their names and the 36-hole complex will have two 18-hole courses each with a separate name. The facility as a whole will still be called the Links at Redstone. "We are looking for customers to name the two 18-hole courses," a prepared release said. The 18 holes north of Goss Road and the 18 holes south of Goss Road will be the two courses. To enter the contest, visit the Golf Course Pro Shop.

Tales with Taka

Youngsters can read to Taka, a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog, on the first Saturday of the month (including Dec. 5) from 10 a.m. to noon at the Post Library. "Children will have the opportunity to read one of Taka's books or select one of the books from the library," a prepared release said. "This program is especially for those children over the age of 5." For more information call the Library, at building 3323 on Redeye Road, 876-4741.

Aviation conference

The Army Aviation Maintenance Conference is Nov. 30 through Dec. 3 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Register and make your payment today with Redstone MWR Online (www.redstonemwr.com). Cost is \$20. Spaces are limited. For more information, call 876-7830.

Job fair to showcase Arsenal opportunities

Many Redstone employers gathering under one roof

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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Even in today's economy, Redstone offers plenty of opportunities to job seekers. The Redstone Arsenal Defense Technology & Intelligence Career Fair is Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center, on the corner of Patton and Aerobee Roads.

The fair is only open to those who already have installation access, but all with proper badging and vehicle decal are welcome. The event is organized by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Transition Careers, who facilitates career fairs for the defense and intelligence community. They expect around 30 employers, both government and contractor, to be on hand for the event. Attendees should bring plenty of resume copies to hand out.

Job seekers with security clearances are expected to be in high demand. Employers will also be looking for those with information technology, engineering, aerospace, communications and intelligence backgrounds. They are also interested in those with military, government or contractor experience.

"The jobs they are looking to fill will run the gambit from



technical to human resources to public affairs and administrative," Amelia Flanigan, marketing and corporate partnerships director for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "It's an opportunity for prospective employees to have face-to-face contact with local and national companies."

Transition Careers founder and CEO Jason Semerakis agrees.

"Most prospective job seekers stick with the traditional methods of finding a job by answering ads posted in the newspaper or an online job board," he said. "By attending this career fair you are putting yourself directly in front of the organizations that need your skills, giving yourself a leg up on the competition."

The career fair is also a great way for those approaching retirement or those new to the post to see what opportunities are out there for themselves or their spouse.

"Because Huntsville and Madison County are such a great place to live, many of our retiring military decide to stay here and work as contractors," Flanigan said.

In fact, the event is a direct response to employment questions from Redstone Newcomer briefings.

"Someone always asks about employment for their spouse or an adult child," Flanigan said. "This is a great chance to see what's out there for them or to test the waters for yourself before separation or retirement."

Job fair tips for prospective attendees include the following: Dress for success; bring plenty of resumes; be prepared for an on-the-spot interview; and research companies you are interested in and what positions they offer.

More information on the event and preregistration is available at www.transitioncareers.com, including a list of employers attending.



Courtesy photo

Fort Hood support

A banner of support signed by members of Redstone Arsenal is delivered to Fort Hood, Texas, where a fatal shooting Nov. 5 left 13 dead and 30 wounded.

Tree lighting slated to unwrap season

Event offers festive fun to Redstone community

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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With the flip of a very large switch, the Christmas Extravaganza at Bicentennial Chapel will kick off the holidays at Redstone on Dec. 3. The highlight of the event is always the ceremonial lighting of the tree in front of the chapel.

"I love Christmas. It's my favorite time of year," Amelia Flanigan, marketing and corporate partnerships director for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "Whether you have kids or not, if you love Christmas then you should come."

There will be plenty to do for all ages. The free event opens at 4:30 p.m. at the chapel on Goss Road. The Columbia High School Choir, a favorite from last year's event, will be on hand again to give voice to the holiday spirit. If you feel like an elf, Team Depot will have Santa's Workshop set up inside for children to build

items to take home. Cocoa, cookies and chili will be served inside.

Santa himself will make an appearance, arriving by sleigh with real reindeer leading the way. This year he will have a little company for the ride.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Johnson, from the 832nd, is letting his two daughters give Santa a hand," Flanigan said. "His wife is currently deployed to Iraq."

Santa will stay to hear Christmas wish lists and pose for photo souvenirs from FMWR.

"We'll be taking pictures for people and posting them online for downloading," Flanigan said.

At 5:30, Redstone and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles and a special guest will flip the oversized switch to set the tree in front of Bicentennial Chapel aglow in twinkling lights.

"We just want to invite the entire Redstone community out to celebrate with us," Flanigan said. "Soldiers, retirees, civilians, contractors and NASA – everyone is welcome."

Education summit explores growing demands

More than 9,000 students expected from BRAC

By **ASHLEY KALIFEH**
For the Rocket

"The issue is the future," Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles said Nov. 16 at the Community Education Summit at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

UAH sponsored this half-day event in conjunction with American Education Week. The intent of the event was to highlight ongoing educational activities and requirements for continued improvement in kindergarten through doctorate programs throughout the local area.

Myles gave the keynote address at the event where school board officials and elected local officials listened in the audience. The discussion was held to inform the community about the need to improve future education requirements for children in the Huntsville and Madison area. After Base Realignment and Closure is completed in 2011, more than 9,000 children will have moved into the community.

Currently, the Huntsville area schools perform at the same standard as the Fairfax County, Va., schools. Myles' question is, "What happens 9,000 children later?"

"The real challenge is that the opportunities are realized," he said. He explained that the Arsenal jobs are filled with the best

and the brightest, and the local education system should reflect that.

Roads, medical facilities, education and quality of life facilities must be able to handle the increase in citizens in order for Huntsville to be considered in future BRACs.



Photo by Ashley Kalifeh

TOP NOTCH— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles congratulates Alabama Teacher of the Year Yung Bui-Kincer of Montgomery with a coin. Bui-Kincer will spend the upcoming school year as an ambassador for public education.

Shuttle service schedules finalized

New transportation option reduces need for driving

By ASHLEY KALIFEH
For the Rocket

A new Redstone shuttle service will begin Monday, Nov. 30. The shuttle vans will be onsite five minutes before the first

scheduled departure time for each route.

A valid DoD ID will allow the rider to board the shuttle. A copy of the shuttle schedule will be posted at the building exit nearest the coordinated shuttle stop.

The shuttles will travel three different routes — red, blue and green — that cover different areas of the Arsenal.

Here are the finalized route schedules:

REDSTONE 1 (RED LINE)		RED LINE							
		A.M - DEPARTURES				PM - DEPARTURES			
Building 4488	GARRISON	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	9:40 AM	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:20 PM	2:10 PM	3:00 PM
Building 5678	PEO-AVIATION	8:05 AM	8:55 AM	9:45 AM	10:35 AM	12:35 PM	1:25 PM	2:15 PM	3:05 PM
Building 5681	PEO-AVIATION	8:10 AM	9:00 AM	9:50 AM	10:40 AM	12:40 PM	1:30 PM	2:20 PM	3:10 PM
Building 5405	PIF	8:15 AM	9:05 AM	9:55 AM	10:45 AM	12:45 PM	1:35 PM	2:25 PM	3:15 PM
Building 5400	AMRDEC	8:20 AM	9:10 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	12:50 PM	1:40 PM	2:30 PM	3:20 PM
Building 5308	AMCOM	8:25 AM	9:15 AM	10:05 AM	10:55 AM	12:55 PM	1:45 PM	2:35 PM	3:25 PM
Building 5300	AMCOM	8:30 AM	9:20 AM	10:10 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	2:40 PM	3:30 PM
Building 5250	PEO-M&S	8:35 AM	9:25 AM	10:15 AM	11:05 AM	1:05 PM	1:55 PM	2:45 PM	3:35 PM
Building 5220	MDA	8:40 AM	9:30 AM	10:20 AM	11:10 AM	1:10 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	3:40 PM
Building 5222	MDA	8:45 AM	9:35 AM	10:25 AM	11:15 AM	1:15 PM	2:05 PM	2:55 PM	3:45 PM

REDSTONE 2 (BLUE LINE)		BLUE LINE							
		A.M - DEPARTURES				PM - DEPARTURES			
Building 5308	AMCOM	8:10 AM	9:10 AM	10:10 AM		12:40 PM	1:40 PM	2:40 PM	
Building 5300	AMCOM	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	10:15 AM		12:45 PM	1:45 PM	2:45 PM	
Building 5250	PEO-M&S	8:20 AM	9:20 AM	10:20 AM		12:50 PM	1:50 PM	2:50 PM	
Building 5400	AMRDEC	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM		12:55 PM	1:55 PM	2:55 PM	
Building 5405	PIF	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM		1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	
Building 5681	PEO-AVIATION	8:35 AM	9:35 AM	10:35 AM		1:05 PM	2:05 PM	3:05 PM	
Building 5678	PEO-AVIATION	8:40 AM	9:40 AM	10:40 AM		1:10 PM	2:10 PM	3:10 PM	
Building 4488	GARRISON	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM		1:15 PM	2:15 PM	3:15 PM	
Building 5222	MDA	8:50 AM	9:50 AM	10:50 AM		1:20 PM	2:20 PM	3:20 PM	
Building 5220	MDA	8:55 AM	9:55 AM	10:55 AM		1:25 PM	2:25 PM	3:25 PM	
Building 5250	PEO-M&S	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM		1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	
Building 5300	AMCOM	9:05 AM	10:05 AM	11:05 AM		1:35 PM	2:35 PM	3:35 PM	

REDSTONE 3 (GREEN LINE)		GREEN LINE							
		A.M - DEPARTURES				PM - DEPARTURES			
Building 7612	AMC - FWD	8:05 AM	9:05 AM	10:05 AM		12:35 PM	1:35 PM	2:35 PM	
Building 7611	AMC - FWD	8:10 AM	9:10 AM	10:10 AM		12:40 PM	1:40 PM	2:40 PM	
Building 5308	AMCOM	8:20 AM	9:20 AM	10:20 AM		12:50 PM	1:50 PM	2:50 PM	
Building 3423	POV REG	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM		1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	
Building 3493	CAC CARD	8:35 AM	9:35 AM	10:35 AM		1:05 PM	2:05 PM	3:05 PM	
Building 3423	POV REG	8:40 AM	9:40 AM	10:40 AM		1:10 PM	2:10 PM	3:10 PM	
Building 5308	AMCOM	8:50 AM	9:50 AM	10:50 AM		1:20 PM	2:20 PM	3:20 PM	
Building 7611	AMC - FWD	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM		1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	

Army always seeks to improve combat uniform

PENTAGON – Nothing says pride like a Soldier in uniform. Today’s Soldier has much to be proud of in the current Army Combat Uniform.

As Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston says, the ACU was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers. Developed with functionality in mind, many design aspects of the uniform lend themselves to low maintenance, such as the 50/50 cotton/nylon wrinkle-free fabric and the shine-free boots. The uniform also has pockets for elbow and knee pad inserts for added protection, and drawstring at the ankles and waist for improved comfort and fit.

Since introduction of the ACU in 2004, the Army has made more than 25 improvements to the uniform and associated equipment based on Soldier input.

These include a reinforced seat, buttons on the cargo pockets, and better attachment of the infrared tab. This improvement process is ongoing, as Soldiers keep suggesting new ways to adapt the uniform to their needs. Now the Army is focusing on the concealment the ACU provides to Soldiers operating in Afghanistan’s unique environment of mountains, deserts and woodlands.

“The Army is all about taking care of Soldiers,” Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger of the Army Materiel Command said. “That means providing Soldiers with the best equipment. In this case, it means evaluating what is the best camouflage for uniforms in current operating environments.” (*Headquarters, Department of Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G-4, release*)

Thanksgiving meal moves back to holiday



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DINING TRADITION— Redstone Arsenal and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, his wife Alice and deputy commander Ronnie Chronister help serve the 2008 Thanksgiving meal at the Dining Facility. From 1,200 to 1,300 Soldiers, retirees and their families will be served at Thursday's traditional feast.

Dining Facility follows tradition in feast for Soldiers and retirees

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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November at the Dining Facility means it's time to talk turkey – all 600 pounds of it. The facility is gearing up for Thursday's annual Thanksgiving meal.

"We want our Soldiers to know how much we appreciate what they do for our country," Anthony Jones, installation food adviser, said. "We especially want those who are away from their family to know they have a family here."

This year's event will be returning to Thanksgiving Day. Last year it was held the day before.

"Traditionally throughout the Army, these events are held on Thanksgiving Day," Jones said. "Last year we tried something different and it was successful. But this year we're sticking with tradition."

The numbers are enough to make the mind boggle, and the mouth water. The Dining Facility staff will be preparing close to 300 pounds of steamship round, 600 pounds of turkey, 72 pounds of shrimp, almost 300 pounds of yams and roughly 36 quarts of eggnog. It takes a lot of food to serve the number of people they're expecting that day.

"We're expecting around 1,200 to 1,300 people," Dennis Hardin, facility assistant manager, said. "That's based on our numbers from the last couple of years."

The meal will be rounded out with ham, chicken cordon bleu, cornbread

dressing, vegetables, a salad bar, and fresh baked pastries, cakes and pie. For some, the desserts are the star of the day.

"I love to see all those cakes with their decorations," said Sheila Ingram of the Troop Issue Subsistence Activity. "You can see the work that went into them."

Traditionally, the senior officers on the installation serve the meal to Soldiers. Jones said they enjoy it as much as the diners do.

"That's their opportunity to give back to the Soldiers," Jones said. "General Myles has said he and the rest of the officers always look forward to it."

The facility will still offer breakfast to Soldiers on Thursday morning from 7 to 8.

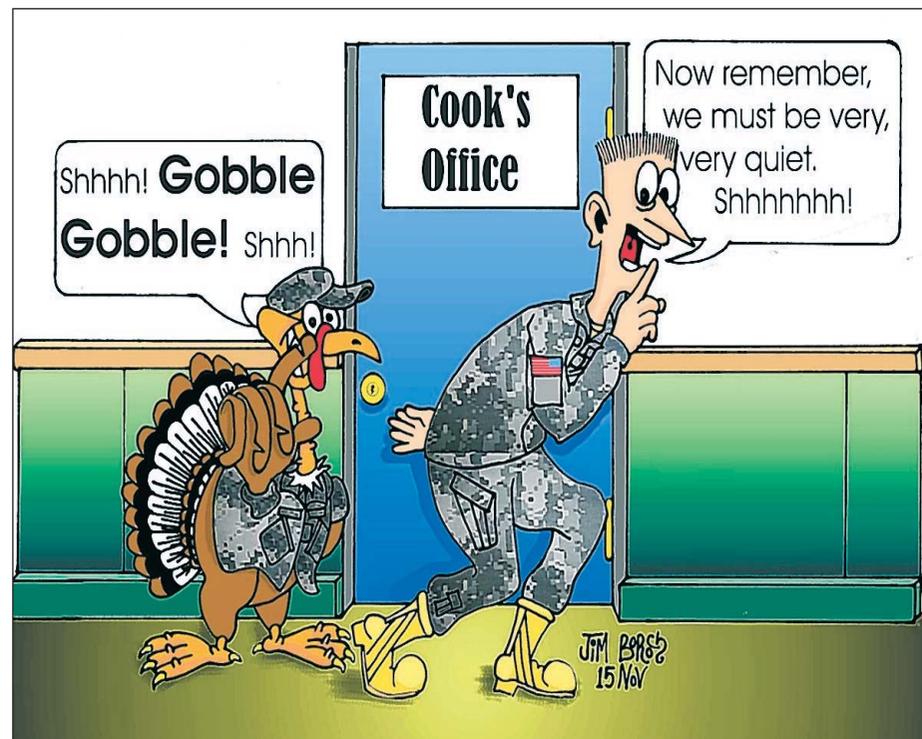
"That's our holiday schedule," Hardin said.

The day will be broken up into three Thanksgiving services. The feast will begin at 11 a.m. for single Soldiers from all units. Soldiers with family members will be welcomed at 12:30 p.m. Retirees, their spouse and one guest will be served at 1:30 p.m. The event wraps up at 2:30 p.m. so that staff can clean up and begin preparing for the regular dinner service for Soldiers from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Meal prices are \$7 for active duty, retirees and spouses. Dependents of E-4 and below pay \$5.95. Children under 6 years old eat free, as do those service-members with meal card status or not receiving separate ration.

"The whole purpose of the day is giving thanks," Ingram said. "That's what we want to do, give our Soldiers thanks for what they do for us and our country."

For more information, call the Dining Facility at 876-6743.



Two workers from research center earn recognition

During this year's annual Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Conference, two employees from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center were recognized for their accomplishments and contributions.

The two awardees in the Technology All-Star Category were Sharon Boclair, AMRDEC Security and Intelligence manager; and Dr. Yolanda Powell-Friend, supervisory aerospace engineer in the Aviation Engineering Directorate.

Overall, there were five women from the Army honored during the conference, two in the Rising Star category and three in the Technology All-Star category.

"As one of five women from the Army, it was quite an awesome experience to be honored among such distinguished women in technology from business and industry," Boclair said. "I was deeply honored to receive the 2009 Technology All-Stars Award given by the Career Communications Group. To be nominated by AMRDEC for such an honor is one of the highlights of my career."

The award means so much to the individual recipients and is also a reflection on their organization as a whole.

"This is a huge honor and accomplishment and we are very proud of both Yolanda and Sharon," said Patti Martin, acting director for Systems Engineering and Support, AMRDEC. *(Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center release)*



Courtesy photo

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS— From left are David Cripps, deputy director for Aviation Engineering Directorate; Patti Martin, acting director for Systems Engineering and Support at AMRDEC; Sharon Boclair, AMRDEC Security and Intelligence manager; Dr. Yolanda Powell-Friend, supervisory aerospace engineer, Aviation Engineering Directorate; and Teresa Gerton, acting executive deputy to the commanding general, Army Materiel Command, who gave the keynote speech during the Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference Technology All-Star and Rising Star Luncheon. Boclair and Powell-Friend were recognized as Technology All-Stars.

Garrison goes 'green' at gas pump

Vehicles will pollute less, get better mileage with biodiesel fuel

By KARI HAWKINS
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It's official – the Garrison's vehicles are now going green.

Under a directive from Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli, all Garrison vehicles using petroleum diesel fuel or Ethanol-based gasoline will now use biodiesel fuel. Biodiesel is available at the Garrison retail fuel point (building 3639) near the motor pool on Patriot Drive.

"We have been using ultra low sulfur diesel fuel in these vehicles," said Greg Korder, director of Logistics Services Division, Directorate of Support Services for the Garrison.

"The new biodiesel is 80 percent regular diesel and 20 percent biodiesel. The only difference is that it smells different, sort of like french fries, because biodiesel can include cooking oils and distilled corn or grains."

Biodiesel is made by chemically reacting alcohol with vegetable oils, fats or greases. Army biodiesel fuel (B20) is normal diesel fuel that has 20 percent B100 pure biodiesel added to it.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SIGNS OF CHANGE— Fuel technician Joe Baker, at top, shows Greg Korder of the Garrison's Directorate of Support Services which tank the Arsenal's biodiesel fuel will be stored in. Biodiesel has now arrived on Redstone Arsenal, and Garrison diesel vehicles are being directed to use the cleaner fuel. The diesel sign on this tank will be changed to "Biodiesel."

Biodiesel costs are similar to the cost of diesel. But the payoffs are much bigger.

"The incentive is our vehicles will be running greener. It's better for the environment. This

will create a greener footprint for the Garrison," Korder said. "And we will also see improved mileage."

Foster Fuels of Brookneal, Va., is the Garrison's supplier of biodiesel. Preparations for the new fuel involved cleaning out a 5,000-gallon tank at the retail fuel point that once contained diesel. A fuel pump at the retail fuel point is now marked "Biodiesel."

"Diesel makes a sediment or sludge that you have to clean out. So we had to do that before we could put biodiesel in the tank," Korder said. "Biodiesel is a lot cleaner."

However, biodiesel does come with a six-month shelf life. It must be consumed in that time frame before the biodiesel components begin to separate. For that reason, biodiesel management supply has to be closely monitored.

The idea of using biodiesel in government vehicles surfaced about 10 years ago, said Joe Baker, motor vehicle operator fuel technician. Other government entities and Army installations have already incorporated its use with the support of the Defense Energy Support Center and the Defense Logistics Agency.

"They have been encouraging Department of Defense actions

to start using those types of products that will have a greener impact," Korder said.

The biodiesel initiative will impact about 50 percent of the vehicles used by the Garrison, and will influence future vehicle purchases, he said.

"This fuel can only be used in diesel-powered cars, trucks and power generators. It is not used in tactical vehicles," Korder said. "Any diesel vehicle can use biodiesel."

All Garrison directorates with diesel vehicles must have their fuel point access keys reformatted by David McNair, the DOL services fuel manager, located in the Garrison building (4488), A-wing, room A122. He can also be reached at 876-5524.

Korder and Baker predict that biodiesel will be popular with Garrison employees.

"If it catches on like regular diesel, then we will have biodiesel deliveries of once a week or at the minimum twice a month," Baker said.

The popularity will increase with fleet purchases.

"We can control the types of vehicles we buy," Korder said. "As our vehicle fleet ages, we will have the opportunity to replace them with diesel burning or Ethanol burning vehicles that can use biodiesel."

Logistics award winners prove popular choice

Andrews, Pate honored during annual luncheon

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Both winners of this year's Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award received the same response from the audience when their names were called – a standing ovation.

The popular honorees at the Nov. 17 luncheon were Darlene Pate, winner of the Professional/Technical Award, and Bill Andrews, winner of the Management/Executive Award. They work in the Aviation and Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center, where Andrews is the deputy director and Pate serves as staff chief for the associate director for aviation.

Like recipients in past years, they referred to Ernie Young's mentorship at the beginning of

their careers. Young, his namesake award's first recipient in 1991, served as deputy commander of AMCOM until he retired in 1998.

"Having worked under Mr. Young starting 25 years ago just learning from his wisdom and watching how he was always so thoughtful, focused on the Soldiers and doing the right thing," Andrews said. "I never thought I'd win (this award). I was truly honored just to be nominated."

Pate, who began her career in 1978 as a GS-2, recalled a meeting with Young in his office. She said Young stressed the importance of doing her job for the Soldier. "That's what I try to do every day," she said.

Asked what this award means to her personally, Pate said: "I think what it means to me is that every day that I come here I support that Soldier and do the best that I can do."

Young presented the awards during the luncheon attended by

130 people at the Officers and Civilians Club.

IMMC executive director Eric Edwards praised Young, a "very humble man," for his legacy from a career that began in September 1956.

"Thank you for everything you've done for the Soldier, for this great community," Edwards said.

Besides Pate, the nominees for the professional/technical award included Donald Boudah, Steven Drysdale, James Holloway, Anthony Jones, Gerald Koepke, Katherine Markow, Leon McNelly, Julia McKay, Ronald Parks, Masao Williams and Danny Wright.

Besides Andrews, the nominees for the management/executive award included Deborah Daniel, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Willie Dunning, Lt. Col. Trey Elder, John Hall Jr., Sydney Hutchins, Floyd Lindsey, David Willis and Sheila Wilson.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GUESTS OF HONOR— Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award recipients Bill Andrews, left, and Darlene Pate pose with the man for whom the award was named after.

Benefit campaign event rallies Garrison workers

Bake sale and booths feed CFC information

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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The Garrison's Combined Federal Campaign Rally held Thursday was all about give and take. The workers who

attended gave a few minutes of their time and maybe a dollar or two. In exchange, they were able to take away tasty treats and information about some of the CFC charities.

The day kicked off with a bake sale fund-raiser. Donated cakes, cookies and pies were available for purchase in the building 4488 lobby. A childog lunch with chips and a drink was served.

"We've been out here all day for CFC," campaign coordinator Donna Johnson said. "Garrison employees donated our goodies and the chili for the sale."

Representatives from several charitable agencies participating in CFC manned information booths set up in the lobby during the afternoon. Staffers from Hospice Family Care, Still Serving Veterans, Child Youth and School Services, and CASA discussed their services and passed out information. CFC packets were on hand for any who needed them.

"It's a chance to visit with these agencies and talk to them about what they do," Johnson said. "One of the things I like to tell everyone about the Combined Federal Campaign is that CFC is no more than

people helping people. The same help we make available to somebody else may be the same help that we need ourselves."

Johnson said 177 local charities, and approximately 2,200 national and international charities make up this year's campaign catalogue.

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli addressed the crowd to congratulate organizers on the event's success. He also spoke briefly about the impact a simple donation can have on an organization and the lives of the people they serve.

"If you contribute, we thank you so kindly," Pastorelli said. "It's important to take a couple of minutes and be thankful for where we are. There are a lot of servicemembers overseas protecting our way of life. The programs you can contribute to (with CFC) are wonderful programs that support Soldiers, civilians and families."

At the close of the event, the bake/chili dog sale had raised \$800. While it is a nice start, Johnson and the CFC have a bigger figure in mind for the campaign.

"Our goal is \$38,000. Can we do it?" Johnson asked the crowd. "Yes!"



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

PEP TALK— Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli addresses the organization's Combined Federal Campaign Rally Thursday along with CFC coordinator Donna Johnson.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Family appreciation

Stephanie Strom, right, hears about Army Community Service programs from ACS director Sue Paddock during the Military Family Appreciation Month celebration Nov. 16 at ACS. Strom is the wife of Capt. Justin Strom, commander of Charlie Company. In the foreground is their son, Alex, 2.

By **CARRIE E. DAVID FORD**
For the Rocket

Each man was 22 when he joined the Army. Neither one had children or a spouse. Both men served part of their duty in the Middle East, and both are proud to be servicemembers.

This, however, is not a tale of high school friends or of battle buddies. This is a tale of a father and son – a veteran and a future veteran.

"I was so proud of Nick when he joined the Army," said John C. Race Jr., a retired colonel and currently the assistant commandant at the Army Transportation School in Fort Eustis, Va. "It was a proud moment because he had decided to follow in my footsteps."

Staff Sgt. Nicholas "Nick" J. Race enlisted in June 2001. John was commissioned a second lieutenant in January 1972, and he retired with 30

years of service seven months after Nick joined.

"It was a sort of 'passing of the torch' when I joined," Nick said. "My dad was my inspiration to join the Army. He swore me in, and then a few months later, he retired."

While Nick is inspired by his father's service, his father is inspired by and proud of his son's service.

"I am proud to have a son in the Army because America is

made up of a lot of great young men and women just like (Nick) who are willing to serve while we are at war," John said. "There is something special about young men and women who are willing to do that when they could have done something that has fewer risks and sacrifices. America owes our service men and women a great deal."

Billy Mills followed his dream to Olympic glory

1984 movie 'Running Brave' portrays the story of his life

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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It's the men's 10,000 meter final in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. And America's Billy Mills is running the race of his life.

He's in third place entering the final stretch. He surges to the front, past the pre-race favorite, Australia's Ron Clarke.

Mills wins the gold medal. To this day, he remains the only American to have ever won an Olympic medal in the 10,000 meter race.

"That moment was magical," he told the applauding audience Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium. "I truly felt I had wings on my feet."

Mills, a Sioux Indian who ran for Kansas University, was the keynote speaker at Team Redstone's National American Indian Heritage Month celebration.

He told the estimated 275 attendees about his personal journey through his struggles to find his identity and to overcome discrimination. After receiving his bachelor's degree in education, Mills joined the Marine Corps. He increased his running to 100 miles a week in preparation for the Olympic trials where he finished second to qualify for the American team. At the Olympics in Tokyo, he was a virtually unknown 26-year-old who sprinted past the expected medal winners to win the gold.

"I won, I won, I won, I won," he said, recalling his thoughts as he won the race.

In 1984, Mills' life was made into a major motion picture, "Running Brave." He is the author of "Your Personal Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding," which blends traditional Native American beliefs with modern positive thinking principles.

Near the end of his talk, he showed a brief video which ended with Olympic hero Jesse Owens' quotation that everyone should have a dream. Mills then had a parting message for the Team



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOLD MEDALIST— Billy Mills, who won the gold medal in the men's 10,000 meter run at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, speaks at Team Redstone's National American Indian Heritage Month celebration.

Redstone audience.

"I am humbled as a Marine Corps veteran to be here with you today," he said, "because you are protecting the dream."

In support of this year's National American Indian Heritage Month observance, Team Redstone sponsored an essay and static display contest. The essay winners include first place, Linda Mendenhall of AMCOM Legal Office; second, Robert Whitaker of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; and third, Deane McKay of the Garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity Office. The display winners include first place, 2nd Army Recruiting Brigade; second, PEO for Missiles and Space; and third, Missiles and Space Intelligence Center.

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles also recognized members of Redstone's Army Ten-Miler team who won two divisions at this year's race in Washington, D.C.

59th Ordnance Brigade honors year's best instructors

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Chief Warrant Officer 3 Everett Stevens joined the Warrant Officer Training Division 14 months ago. Now, he is recognized as one of Redstone's top instructors.

Stevens was among the Instructors of the Year honored Friday at the 59th Ordnance Brigade's yearly awards and recognition luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club.

He was named the fiscal 2009 Warrant Instructor of the Year. The NCO Instructor of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Sanders, senior instructor at Munitions Training Department; and the Civilian Instructor of the Year is Brian Witherspoon, training instructor in Munitions Training Department.

Stevens is a course manager for the Warrant Officer Basic Course in the Warrant Officer Training Division at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School. He was the top instructor for the fourth quarter and subsequently instructor of the year.

"I feel great about it because it makes me feel that I'm doing my job as far as being a facilitator and being able to have young fel-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TOP TEACHERS— The 59th Ordnance Brigade's Instructors of the Year for 2009 include, from left, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Everett Stevens, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Sanders and Brian Witherspoon.

low officers be successful and getting the knowledge they need to be successful in the real world," he said.

Stevens, 46, originally from Chesapeake, Va., has been in the Army more than 19 years. He and his wife, Maureen, have two sons, Justin Gosser, 13, and Everett II, 5, and four daughters, Whitney Welch, 18, Sabrina, 8, Schannel, 23, and Shaletia, 27.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

Native performer

Jimmy Yellowhorse Webster, a Cherokee with the Easter Band, performs Thursday for a class at the Child Development Center while his wife Tamera Hicks Webster and Child Youth Program assistant Regena Thundereagle look on. Jimmy Yellowhorse, a Cherokee song keeper, keeps the legends of the Cherokee in song. The performers visited with the different classes at the CDC to share their Cherokee history during National American Indian Heritage Month.

Logistics worker returns from extended deployment

Lasher adds 3 months to tour as liaison officer in Kuwait

By **ROBERT SALINAS**
For the Rocket

The Logistics Support Activity has welcomed back another employee who volunteered to serve in Southwest Asia.

Jay Lasher, the team lead for the Logistician Management Information branch of the Logistics Engineering Center, returned after serving an extended tour of duty in Kuwait. Lasher served as a liaison officer representing LOGSA products and services to the field. He was deployed with the 401 AFSB at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

While deployed, Lasher had the opportunity to train Soldiers on the use of LOGSA related products and services including such things as the Army Management Reset Tool and LOGSA's Information Warehouse tools.

Lasher had completed a full six-month

tour of Kuwait in June and was ready to head back to the states when he discovered his replacement was unable to ship out for his assignment due to health issues. Upon learning the unit would be without a liaison officer until another replacement could be found, Lasher volunteered to extend for the interim. In the end, this extended Lasher's time in theater to a total of nine months, supporting Soldiers in several locations including Kuwait, Balad and Bagram.

"I would certainly recommend this tour to anyone," Lasher said about his time in Southwest Asia. "I would recommend everyone (Army employees) take the opportunity to deploy and work with troops in the field, it's very worthwhile."

While working this assignment, Lasher communicated with his family primarily through e-mails and other online messages. Lasher said he's glad to be back home with his family and friends. He described his time away as "long hours, important stuff, good work."

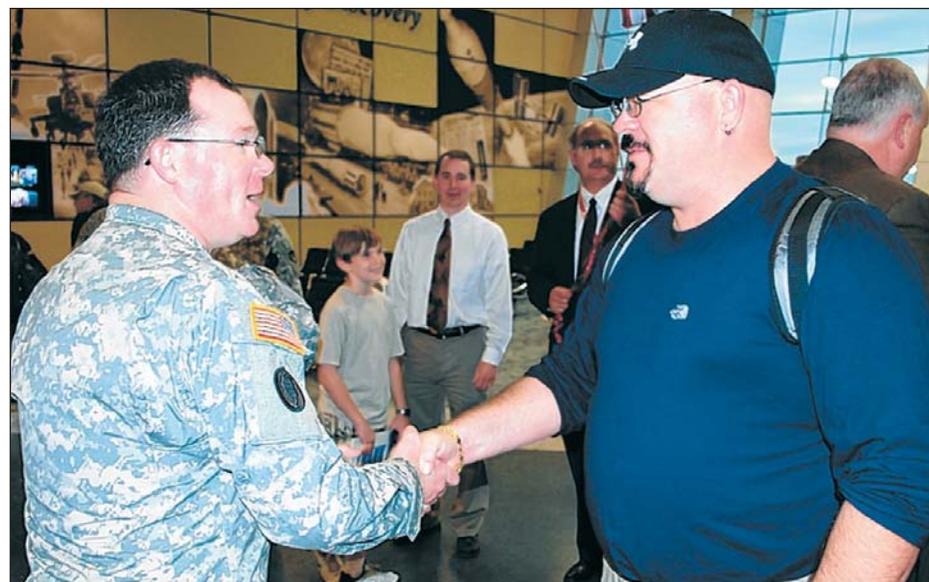


Photo by Melody Sandlin

HOMECOMING— Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lawrence Bonkoski welcomes Jay Lasher back from Southwest Asia.

Morale, mental health better in Iraq than Afghanistan

By **GARY SHEFTICK**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — While the mental health and morale of Soldiers in Iraq is improving, according to the latest study, more behavioral-health providers are needed in Afghanistan.

The sixth Mental Health Advisory Team, or MHAT 6 report, provides a "snapshot" of the morale and behavioral health of Soldiers deployed last spring and during the early summer in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, Army surgeon general and commander of the Army Medical Command.

A total of 2,442 Soldiers were surveyed in Iraq between December and March for MHAT 6, along with 154 mental-health providers. In Afghanistan, 1,549 surveys were collected from Soldiers between April and June of this year, along with 31 from mental-health providers. In addition, teams of research psychologists, social workers, nurses and other mental-health professionals conducted focus-group interviews and examined data in theater.

Iraq improving, Afghan trend opposite

The MHAT 6 study found the mental health of Soldiers in Iraq better than at any time since the first such survey there in 2004, Schoomaker said during a media roundtable Nov. 13. He added, however, that marital problems were increasing, especially among Soldiers with multiple deployments. Moreover, morale issues and mental-health problems in Afghanistan had increased significantly since 2005, he said, along with an increased exposure to combat there.

Only three such MHAT studies have been conducted in Afghanistan, Schoomaker said, and this year's report indicates unit morale rates there are lower than in 2005 and 2007.

About 14 percent of Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan had psychological problems, according to the report. Just under 12 percent of the Soldiers in Iraq reported psychological problems such as acute stress, depression and anxiety.

A "normal" rate of psychological problems would be

about 10 percent among a non-deployed population, Schoomaker said, noting this was based on a study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

More providers needed

The MHAT 6 study calls for an increase in mental-health providers, especially in Afghanistan. Currently there is one mental-health provider for every 1,123 Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan. Schoomaker said he would like the ratio to be one provider for every 700 Soldiers.

"In Afghanistan, we're finding a tyranny of terrain and weather makes it difficult to move Soldiers to where care can be delivered," Schoomaker said.

The dispersion of Soldiers to remote forward operating bases makes it difficult for mental health-care providers to reach the troops, said Lt. Col. Paul Bliese, the director for the Division of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the officer who led the MHAT VI study.

He said now there is typically one mental health-care provider in Afghanistan for each brigade combat team. If that provider travels to remote combat outposts to administer care, it leaves the big FOB uncovered, he said. Thus MHAT 6 recommends a "dual provider" model which would assign an additional behavioral health-care provider to each BCT.

The study recommends each battalion be assigned a behavioral health advocate — an NCO who has been trained in the basics of behavioral health. In addition, it recommends a senior NCO behavioral-health technician at the brigade level, and the assignment of behavioral-health professionals to National Guard BCTs.

Stigma: Maneuver vs. Sustainment

Significant differences were found between Soldiers in maneuver units and sustainment units. While combat units were more likely to have a higher rate of mental-health problems, sustainment units had a higher rate of marital problems.

Soldiers in combat units were also less likely to seek mental-health care and were more likely to perceive a stigma associated with it, according to the study.

"Stigma is a resistant problem," Schoomaker said, "and a tough problem to tackle." He said there's a certain culture among combat troops that makes stigma "a tough nut to crack."

Overall, there's been a small but steady decrease in stigma over the past five years, Bliese said. "This year, unfortunately, we didn't see the trend hold out," he said.

Marital problems, dwell time

Marital problems overall have been increasing each year since the first MHAT study in 2004. This year 16 percent of Soldiers surveyed reported plans to divorce or separate.

Dwell time at home between deployments is a significant factor when it comes to both marital and mental-health problems, according to the study.

MHAT 6 states that two years between deployments will return a unit to almost the normal rate of mental-health issues. With a dwell time of 30-36 months, a unit will be completely normal, Schoomaker said.

Resiliency improves mental health, morale

The MHAT 6 teams also identified coping skills that help build resiliency during deployments. The Battle-mind training has improved coping skills, officials said.

The study found that two hours of Internet connectivity or gaming in off-duty hours was likely to improve morale and mental health, while excessive gaming did just the opposite. The one thing that could be done in excess and still improve mental health was physical-fitness training, according to the study.

The availability of gyms, morale-welfare and recreation facilities and good food all contributed to morale, Bliese added.

While the study looked at both officer and NCO leadership, Bliese said good officer leadership was found to be a significant factor in platoons that were deemed "resilient." These were platoons with a high rate of combat exposure, without a corresponding high rate of combat stress or anxiety, Bliese said.

The study recommended that new resiliency training be developed and validated. The report went on to state that several groups are now working to test such training.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

Mealtime nap

Too much turkey for Trenton Orr had him tucked out at the dinner table during the Child Development Center's annual Parents Thanksgiving Luncheon held Thursday. Parents were given the chance to eat Thanksgiving dinner with their children in the classrooms, and talk turkey.

■ Holiday wreaths placed on 2,700 graves of veterans

Wreaths

continued from page 1

Finding those veteran gravesites has been an effort in itself.

"The cemetery doesn't keep track of where veterans are buried," Parker said. "We've actually walked the cemetery to find the veterans."

And getting the wreaths purchased and prepared for decorating the gravesites has taken several volunteer hours. Volunteers spent two days fluffing wreaths and hand-making bows at the Veterans Memorial Museum.

"The museum has been awesome to allow us to use their space and help us," Hames said.

So, too has Michael's, which provided wreaths and bows at cost, and Cat Bird Seat Garden Center, which provided tags at cost for each of the wreaths that reads: "Through the generosity and actions of hundreds of volunteers this wreath is donated and placed on the grave of a true American hero."

Several local organizations, including

the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Army Aviation Association of America, along with individuals made financial donations to Wreaths for Veterans.

Volunteers joining the Redstone Garden Club for Wreaths for Veterans represent the Patriot Guard Riders, Huntsville Beautification Board, DuMidi Woman's Club, Officer and Civilian Women's Club, Willowbrook Baptist Church, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA, Gold Star Moms, Westminster Christian Academy, Madison Urgent Care, Hillwood Homemakers, Retired Officers' Wives Club and South Parkway Homemakers. The Daughters of the Confederacy placed wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and on more than 200 gravesites of Confederate soldiers at Maple Hill.

Volunteer Susan Griffith was among those helping place wreaths Nov. 18. She also estimated that she fluffed 50 of the wreaths at the museum.

"My father was a veteran, and my father-in-law. My husband is a veteran. This is something that I really wanted to do for the veterans," she said.

Campus event gets young girls involved in science

First-ever Science and Engineering Day sparks excitement in technology fields

By KARI HAWKINS
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After they tried their hand at catapulting missiles and flying airplanes, Emma Gould and Heather Blackwell decided to gather autographs.

So, with crayons in hand, they went around the classroom, asking each of their adult leaders to autograph their spiral notebooks.

“Ya’ll are nice. We just want to remember this moment,” Emma told the volunteer teachers, many of whom work at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

“This is the best time ever,” added Heather.

While gathering autographs is decidedly not scientific, the two girls spent most of their day discovering all types of science and engineering challenges in fun classes that grabbed their interest, let them experiment hands-on and gave them the freedom to be, simply, young girls enjoying each other.

The first-ever Girls’ Science and Engineering Day took place Nov. 14 at the Shelby Center for Science

and Technology on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Some 454 girls in grades three through five from across Madison County attended the all-day event, which included about 20 classes on such topics as “Fun in a Hospital Laboratory,” “Building a Tasty Model with Gumdrops,” “The Wacky World of Weather,” “Making Your Own Robot Jitterbugs,” “Strawberry DNA Extraction,” and “Video Games and Science: The Secret Connection.”

Most of the girls spent the day wearing DNA bracelets, with different beads representing their different physical traits. Many got to spend part of the day investigating the workings of a Black Hawk helicopter that landed on the front lawn of the Shelby Center. And all got their own toy rocket to shoot up higher and higher during their picnic lunches.

“You are going to have a blast,” event organizer Emily Vandiver promised the girls as the day began. “We have more than 100 volunteers here to make this a fun event for you.”

Most of those volunteers were women, eager to share their experiences and interest in science with their younger generation.

“We’re women who have come together who understand the importance of education,” Vandiver said. “We want to show you that science is a fabulous career and a

fun area to go into.”

Vandiver, chairman of the Women’s Leadership Council, was joined by Alice Myles, wife of AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles; and April Harris, Eula Battle, Margie Williams and Pam Hudson, in planning the details of the Girls’ Science and Engineering Day. The event will be planned annually.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BLACK HAWK MAGIC— Lisa Thompson, a flight test engineer with the Redstone Test Center, explains the controls of a Black Hawk helicopter to Kayla Clark. The Black Hawk landed on the front lawn of the Shelby Center for Science and Engineering at the University of Alabama-Huntsville as a special treat for the 454 girls who attended the Girls’ Science and Engineering Day.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

REPAIR JOB— From left, Bridget Bowie, Ashley Cate, Carson Glynn Smith and Jessica Drake replace buildings in their makeshift village following the crashing effects of an incoming missile (ball) that was catapulted by other girls in their science team with a trebuchet, a medieval weapon of war.

“The girls are just so excited as well as are all the volunteers. We are all so impressed with how the girls are interested in science. We want to make this event grow bigger and bigger. It is a great opportunity to get girls excited about engineering and math at an early age.”

Vandiver said it was important to the council to fill the day with activities where the girls could experiment on their own with different aspects of science.

“We want them to touch things, do things. We want these girls to know that it is cool to be smart,” she said. “Smart girls are cool!”

In the aviation workshop, girls built paper airplanes, flew them in a competition and then modified them to go faster, straighter and further in a second competition. They also named their planes and decorated them. Between the two test flights, AMRDEC engineer Carolyn Farmer explained to the girls about lift, thrust, weight and drag. She also used the opportunity to tell the girls about Arsenal jobs related to aviation and missiles.

“We work to improve the reliability of weapon systems and aviation systems,” she said. “We get to do some pretty cool stuff on the Arsenal.”

Besides AMRDEC and UAH, companies and organizations assisting with Girls’ Science and Engineering Day included Chick-

Fil-A, Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, Alabama Public Television, Crestwood Hospital, SciQuest, Hudson Alpha and the cities of Huntsville and Madison.

“I’ve been real excited about being involved with this,” volunteer Megan Shumate of AMRDEC said. “It’s fun to see all the excitement in the girls. This is a great way to get girls involved in science.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FIRING SKILLS— Kelly Sander of the Software Engineering Directorate helps Alyssa Sons fire a Javelin Basic Skills Trainer with the use of an on-screen simulated battlefield. Waiting for their turns with the Javelin are Zoe Evans, center, and Fran Hudson. On the left, Kaylee Stewart cleans her glasses after her try with the Javelin.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CATAPULT— Ann Kissell of AMRDEC helps Carson Glynn Smith aim a missile (ball) that will fire into a village of blocks. The girls in her group took turns catapulting the missile. With every launch, the girls yelled “Incoming!” After the missile firing, the girls worked together to reset the village for the next missile firing.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TAKING AIM— Maggie Holsclaw, left, of Priceville Elementary School and Sydney Parris of Central School take aim with their rockets during some free flowing fun time outside the Shelby Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville during Girls’ Science and Engineering Day.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FOR GIRLS ONLY— Girls in grades three through five get ready for a day of science fun during the first ever Girls’ Science and Engineering Day, hosted by the Women’s Leadership Council at the University of Alabama-Huntsville’s Shelby Center on Nov. 14. Some 454 girls attended the all-day event with plans already under way for next year.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

AIRPLANE DESIGN— Aerospace engineer Megan Shumate, who works at AMRDEC, helps Victoria Hill, center, and Jessica Heard make some aerodynamic changes to their Blue Angels paper airplane following its first test flight. Although it gained 8 more feet on its second test flight, the Blue Angels plane did not win the competition. But the girls had fun anyway learning about the aerodynamic principles of lift, thrust, weight and drag.

Electricians meet their mission wire-to-wire

Cable Lab's small staff has demanding schedule

By **CALAN HELMS**
For the Rocket

At the Prototype Integration Facility, everything is rapid-response. Schedules drive the work force and this is very apparent for the men and women in the Cable Lab.

“At any given time we may have 40 or so different jobs,” said Cecilia Rice, the Cable Lab’s Electrical Supervisor with Yulista Management Services Inc. “We do our best to meet the schedule, which usually means working on what’s screaming the loudest to be finished first. Prioritizing the orders is a necessity when it comes to getting everything finished on schedule. Usually we separate larger jobs into smaller quantities and working on those smaller kits throughout the shop.”

There are only 19 electrical technicians in the Prototype Integration Facility’s Cable Lab, and yet they manage to build and process 300 to 400 cables a week.

“We do everything from pinning wires to starting cables from scratch with individual parts,” Rice said. “We even have a laser wire marker to run wire for aircraft installs. That makes up about 85 percent to 95 percent of the work we do here.”

TJ Lapointe, PIF government project lead, often leads visitors through the Prototype Integration Facility. One of his favorite stops on a tour is the Cable Lab and he always praises their work, attention to detail, and dedication.

“It’s some of the most time-demanding work that we have here. Not everyone could do that day after day; working so tediously and repetitive like that,” LaPointe said.

For some, making cables day-in and day-out might sound monotonous but for Rice and her co-workers the work is challenging and exciting.

“It’s different every time a new job comes through,” she said. “It keeps things interesting.”

“They really are amazing and dedicated too,” Lapointe said. “They work long hours, some-

times over weekends, even holiday weekends.”

Working over a holiday weekend to meet an order is something familiar to the technicians in the Cable Lab.

“We try to do the rapid-response and turnaround as best as possible,” Rice said. “We do whatever it takes to get it done, even if that means working overtime. Sometimes we get a job and they want the order within days. Those are always long weekends. Holiday or not, if a job needs to get finished, it will get finished, no matter what.”

For Rice and her co-workers the work is very personal and they come to work every day motivated to do the best they can for their customer — the Soldier.

“Lots of these guys and girls here have brothers, sisters, cousins and friends in the services. We love our job here because we know we’re directly supporting our friends and family,” she explained. “Lots of heart and soul goes into this job, into every cable we cut and shrink-sleeve. I think that’s what gives us the motivation to do this; and it creates lots of dedication, too.”



Photo by Merv Brokke

TEDIOUS WORK— Cecilia Rice, the electrical supervisor with Yulista Management Services Inc., applies protective tape to a cable made in the Prototype Integration Facility’s Cable Lab. Whether the tape is destined for a helicopter or wheeled vehicle, Rice and her fellow technicians are focused on doing the job to the best of their abilities because they are Solider focused.

Online pay access system tightens user security

Customers can update accounts after establishing passwords

CLEVELAND — myPay, the web-based pay account management system operated by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for all U.S. military personnel and many federal civilian employees, will implement a new access strategy this fall in an effort to increase the security of user information.

myPay allows many of the 6 million payroll customers of DFAS to access pay information and update such items as direct deposit account numbers, start or stop allotments, alter tax withholding amounts and retrieve tax forms.

The new upgrade will require users to establish new user names and passwords. In the past, myPay account access used a user's Social Security number and a DFAS-provided PIN to establish a myPay permanent PIN. Later enhancements allowed the user to change their user name, known as a login ID, from their SSN to one of their own making. While the user names were masked (actual letters, numbers and symbols were not visible on the computer screen), more sophisticated "key logging" spyware could potentially provide this information to identity thieves should a user's computer become compromised.

This was also behind an earlier security upgrade which required the use of a virtual keyboard when entering a PIN. The

virtual keyboard uses mouse clicks rather than keyboard entry to enter a PIN and access a user's account.

According to myPay officials, customized login IDs and passwords will allow DFAS customers more flexibility and opportunities to increase the security of their personal information.

Login IDs, also known as user names, will require six to 129 alphanumeric characters that will be unique to one user only. Should a user attempt to create a login ID that has already been established, they will be informed to attempt another request using a different ID.

Login IDs must meet the following requirements:

- No less than six and no more than 129 characters.
- Cannot be nine numbers only (prohibits use of a SSN as a login ID).
- May contain alphabetic (letters) and/or numeric characters and may also contain the following special characters: @ (at sign), _ (underscore), — (dash), . (period), ' (apostrophe).

Rather than using a myPay PIN, the new security enhancement will require users to establish passwords to accompany their customized login IDs.

Passwords will be created by each user and must meet myPay standards:

- No less than eight and no more than 15 characters.
- May not include the last four numbers of the user's Social Security number.
- May not match the user's login ID.

- May not match any of the user's previous 10 passwords for myPay access.
- Must contain at least one letter and one number.
- Must contain at least one of 10 special characters.

Instructions for creating login IDs and passwords will be available on the myPay website to assist users. In addition, users can call the Customer Support Unit at 1-888-332-7411 or click the "Contact Us" link on the myPay home page for assistance.

Accounts with a Restricted Access PIN, which allows access to pay account information without the ability to make changes for persons authorized by the primary user, will also be prompted to establish a limited access ID and password using the same requirements.

Use of the myPay interactive voice response system, which allows telephone access to certain pay information, may still be entered using the Social Security number and myPay PIN.

A virtual keyboard must still be used to enter a user's password.

While this security enhancement is intended to help keep users' information secure and prevent unauthorized access to pay accounts, myPay officials encourage all users to take appropriate actions to keep their login IDs and passwords private. This can include storing them in a lockable and secure place, memorizing them and destroying any written record, and not sharing them with anyone. (*Defense Finance and Accounting Service release*)



Photo by Judy Wilson

Engineering update

Col. Nello Tortora, commander of Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, briefs sustaining members of the Society of American Military Engineers as a highlight of SAME's annual update. Other briefers included Lt. Col. Timothy Marshall, deputy commander of Memphis District Corps of Engineers; Maj. Jon Countess, deputy resident engineer for Redstone Arsenal, Mobile District Corps of Engineers; Diego Martinez of Savannah District; Kenneth Criswell of Marshall Space Flight Center, and Joey Skinner of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. Lt. Col. David Bailey, deputy commander of Huntsville Center, was the moderator of the event.

'90 Minutes' is message of hope and healing

Author of bestseller
shares heavenly story

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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There's an old saying that "dead men don't talk." But this is a story about a dead man who did plenty of talking — and living and breathing — after a car crash that became the impetus for his bestselling book "90 Minutes In Heaven — A True Story of Death and Life."

Don Piper is, indeed, a walking miracle, even if some may find it hard to believe he actually went to heaven after a car crash with an 18-wheeler and then returned to life to share his story. That accident crushed nearly every bone in Piper's body, severed two of his limbs and caused emergency personnel to pronounce him dead at the scene.

He shared his story with an audience of more than 100 at Bicentennial Chapel on Nov. 17.

"I believe God answers prayers. I believe God is in the miracle business," Piper said. "I'm standing here at Redstone Arsenal because a lot of people prayed and God said 'Yes.'"

"Sometimes God says 'No.' Sometimes he says 'Maybe.' Sometimes he gives us more than we ask for. But no matter what, He wants to hear from us and that's what prayer is. Prayer is not just asking for stuff. It's about talking to God. God wants to hear from his children."

Piper's story is riveting, curious, inspiring and, downright, heavenly. Piper, who grew up in a military family, captivated the Bicentennial Chapel audience as he recounted his experience of that fateful day in January 1989.

"An 18-wheeler hit me head on," he recalled. "It was a horrendous collision. The wheels rolled over my car. We were in an isolated area of fishing camps and retreat centers. It took awhile for emergency personnel to get there. The driver of the truck and the drivers of the two other cars in the collision were unharmed."

"Four ambulances arrived on the scene. They did everything. They tried to resuscitate me. They didn't succeed. I was pronounced dead. They covered my body with a tarp. It was a gruesome scene."

The accident happened as Piper, a Baptist minister, traveled home from a pastor's retreat in his home state of Texas. Behind the collision, cars driven by other ministers started backing up. One of those ministers — Dick Onrecker — was compelled to pray for the "man in the red car."

Onrecker, who had served in Vietnam as a medic, went to the crash scene and asked a police officer "Is there anyone to pray for?" His efforts to get to the "man in the red car" were initially rebuffed.

"God was speaking that day and the pastor was listening," Piper said. "God told him to 'Pray for the man in the red car.' He didn't say 'Pray for a dead man.' He asked again about the man in the red car and the policeman said 'That man didn't make it. He's dead. It's grotesque. It's a blood bath under that tarp.'"



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SHARING HIS MIRACLE— Don Piper, the bestselling author of "90 Minutes In Heaven — A True Story of Death and Life," speaks to an audience of more than 100 at Bicentennial Chapel on Nov. 17.

Onrecker persisted, telling the officer "I have to get in the car and pray for this guy because God told me to do it," Piper said.

Finally, with permission to get under the tarp, Onrecker saw the scene for himself. Piper's left arm was severed and laying in the back seat of the car, his left leg was barely attached and his body was impaled on the steering wheel. Only Piper's right arm was not broken. Onrecker put his hand on Piper's right shoulder from the back, and started praying.

In the meantime, other ministers in the traffic jam behind the accident began praying. Piper's family was notified that he had been in a car accident. They started praying, as well as his home church in Houston. As news of the accident spread, Christians in churches throughout Houston, Texas and the South prayed for Piper.

"Thousands and thousands were praying for me," he said.

But Piper wasn't aware of those prayers. Instead, he was at the gate of heaven, seeing long lost loved ones and others who had encouraged him along his Christian path during their life on earth. He saw angels, and the heavenly city with magnificent structures and a golden street. He heard music sung in a language he had never heard before. Everywhere he looked, he saw beauty, he saw

perfection.

"I didn't know they were all praying for me," he said of Onrecker and others on earth. "If I had known, I would have told them to stop. If you've been there, you don't want to be here."

But the prayers prevailed. Onrecker began singing "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." To his shock, the "dead man" began to sing with him. For Piper, in that instant, the beauty of heaven stopped. His only memory is of being in total darkness, with Onrecker's song penetrating his consciousness.

"Ninety minutes after the big truck hit me, there under the tarp in the dark, as he's singing the song, I start singing the song with him," Piper said. "He jumped out from under the tarp and said something ridiculous. He said 'The dead man is singing.'"

It took Onrecker several tries to get authorities to believe what he was saying. He finally was able to convince them to check on Piper and they discovered a man who was barely alive. Emergency personnel then had to tear the car apart and take its roof off to get Piper out of the mangled mess.

At a hospital 35 miles away, he was found to have brain damage and grave internal injuries that could cause him to be in a vegetative state for the rest of his life. Then he was transported to a trauma center in Houston 85 miles away. Further tests found no brain damage and less severe internal injuries. But the injuries Piper did have kept him in the hospital for 13 months, where countless surgeries and procedures were required to put his body back together again.

"It was a long dark time of life and death, life and death. It was a nightmarish existence for a long, long time. It was a dark experience, a difficult time. It was extremely painful," he said.

But, because of that suffering, Piper can now counsel others who have been through horrific experiences. Among those he has ministered to are wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and the relatives of Soldiers who have died.

Recovery is about "finding a new normal. It's not bitter or better, but different," he said.

"My question to God was 'What are you trying to teach me through this?' God answered that question through music. He told me I would spend the rest of my life getting over this by helping others get over things like this, by helping others turn mess into message, by helping others turn test into testimony ... I want to spend the rest of my life helping people through difficult times."

He made it through the accident and 13 months in the hospital so he can share God's promise of heaven.

"Why did God bring me back? So I could be at Redstone Arsenal and tell you to your face that heaven is real," Piper said. "It's real. More than this ever will be. As wonderful and gorgeous earth is, this won't always be here and neither will you."

Piper looks forward to the day when he will be in heaven, greeting others he has helped along their Christian path.

"Who will you greet? Who will be there because you helped them get there? Bring them to church. Tell them about being a Christian. Live a faithful life in front of them so they know who a Christian is," Piper encouraged his audience.

Win or lose

Civilians score their flag football goal

Complete unbeaten year, recapture tourney title

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Last year the Civilian Welfare Fund flag football team went 10-1 and won the postseason tournament. This year the CWF had an even loftier goal – to finish unbeaten.

The civilians did it.

CWF beat Charlie Company 62-36 in the postseason tournament final Thursday night at the field off Patton Road. The civilians finished 11-0.

“That was our goal from the beginning, was to go undefeated,” CWF player/coach Brad Harris said. “And we achieved our goal tonight. We worked hard all season as a team offensively and defensively. And tonight we showed the heart of a true champion.”

Charlie (9-3) won the military championship as the top troop team and earned the first-place points toward the Commander’s Cup. CWF does not participate in the Commander’s Cup competition.

“Military champion – it’s the best on post,” Charlie’s Eric Wornum said. “Nothing else we can do. We don’t have many to choose from. We’ll take what we can get.”

CWF quarterback John Gayden threw six touchdown passes and ran for another. William Kelly and Harris caught three touchdown passes apiece. Scott Mitchell also caught a TD pass. Stacey Steele had a 40-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. David Benjamin threw a 6-yard option pass for a touchdown to Kelly.

The civilians led 28-20 at halftime but Charlie tied the score 28-all with



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STILL THE ONE— Members of the unbeaten Civilian Welfare Fund team pose with their trophies after winning the postseason tournament.

16:49 left. Steele scored on the ensuing kickoff. The civilians scored again at 11:30 on Gayden’s 15-yard pass to Harris. Gayden then added a two-point conversion pass to Kelly for a 44-28 lead.

Gayden ended the scoring on a 2-yard run with 16 seconds left.

Charlie quarterback Travis Roop threw five touchdown passes. Johnnie Akins and Daniel Cowart caught two apiece; and David Hagen caught one.

Here are earlier results last week in the postseason tournament:

• **Nov. 16** — Charlie defeated 326th Chemical 34-24, NCO Academy beat HHC 59th 15-6 and Bravo outscored Headquarters & Alpha 34-22.

• **Nov. 17** — Civilian Welfare Fund beat Charlie 46-14, 326th Chemical edged NCO Academy 28-24 and Bravo eliminated the Marines 20-14.

• **Nov. 18** — Bravo defeated 326th Chemical 32-22; and Charlie beat Bravo 36-13 for the military championship.

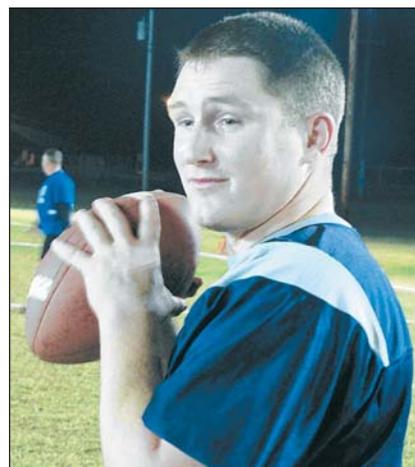


Photo by Skip Vaughn

SIGNAL CALLER— Charlie Company quarterback/safety Travis Roop led the Wolfpack to a 34-24 win over 326th Chemical Company on Nov. 16 in the second round of the postseason tournament.

Crimson Tide favored over rival Auburn

Alabama too strong for Tigers on Plains

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Here are this week’s college football predictions (390-142 after 12 weeks):



- Alabama at Auburn — **Bama**
- Florida State at Florida — **UF**
- Arkansas at LSU — **LSU**
- Georgia at Georgia Tech — **GT**
- Tennessee at Kentucky — **UT**
- Mississippi at Mississippi State — **Ole Miss**
- Clemson at South Carolina — **Clemson**
- Texas at Texas A&M — **Texas**
- Rutgers at Louisville — **Rutgers**
- Pittsburgh at West Virginia — **Pitt**
- Illinois at Cincinnati — **UC**
- Nevada at Boise State — **Boise**
- Temple at Ohio — **Temple**
- Wyoming at Colorado State — **CS**
- Nebraska at Colorado — **Nebraska**
- Memphis at Tulsa — **Tulsa**
- Virginia Tech at Virginia — **VT**
- Miami (Fla.) at South Florida — **Miami**
- Rice at Houston — **Houston**
- Wake Forest at Duke — **Duke**
- Boston College at Maryland — **BC**
- North Carolina at N.C. State — **UNC**
- Washington State at Washington — **UW**
- Syracuse at Connecticut — **UConn**
- Okla. State at Oklahoma — **Oklahoma**
- New Mexico at TCU — **TCU**
- Southern Mississippi at East Carolina — **EC**
- UCF at UAB — **UCF**
- Tulane at Southern Methodist — **SMU**
- Marshall at Texas-El Paso — **Marshall**
- Missouri at Kansas — **Missouri**
- Arizona at Arizona State — **Arizona**
- Middle Tenn. at La.-Monroe — **MTSU**
- Utah at Brigham Young — **Utah**
- Texas Tech at Baylor — **Tech**
- Troy at La.-Lafayette — **Troy**
- Notre Dame at Stanford — **Stanford**
- UCLA at Southern California — **USC**
- Navy at Hawaii — **Navy**

HHC 59th accepts 2009 Commander’s Cup



Photo by Skip Vaughn

AWARD CEREMONY— The Commander’s Cup trophy recipients include, from left, Capt. Allen Hughes, commander of winner HHC 59th; Capt. Eugene Irby, commander of second-place Bravo Company; and Capt. Justin Strom, commander of third-place Charlie Company.

Seasoned unit edges Bravo in annual sports competition

By SKIP VAUGHN
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HHC 59th wasn’t expected to win the 2009 Commander’s Cup.

But the “Raise up bunch” outdid the student companies who had youth and numbers on their side.

The 59th won this year’s Commander’s Cup by compiling the most points in the unit-level sports for fiscal 2009. The seasonal sports include flag football, basketball, volleyball, softball, golf and a 5K run.

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli presented the

trophy to 59th commander Capt. Allen Hughes in a ceremony Thursday night at Pagano Gym. He also presented the second-place trophy to Bravo Company and the third-place trophy to Charlie Company.

“It’s great, it’s awesome,” Hughes said. “We were underdogs and pulled together as a unit and provided support on and off the field. And I’m proud to accept this trophy on behalf of the Soldiers of HHC tonight. Job well done. Now let’s repeat next year.”

HHC 59th won with 342.2 points followed by Bravo with 334.5 and Charlie with 320.9. Bravo finished second for the third straight year, including 2008 as runner-up to Headquarters & Alpha. Ten units participated.

“It’s about building camaraderie, teamwork,” Pastorelli said. “That’s what it’s all about. It’s all about teamwork. You don’t get anything, you don’t get anywhere in life, unless you have a team.”

Army boxers draw crowd to Von Braun Center

Veterans Classic serves as benefit

There were punches galore Nov. 14 in the Von Braun Center South Hall.

The Veterans Classic boxing competition featured the Army World Class Athlete Program team against the Southeast Association of USA Boxing All-Stars. The fund-raiser for the Southeast Association, whose member clubs include Huntsville's Rocket City Rocks, drew a crowd of 208.

Here are the results:

- 106 – 1st Lt. Michael Benedosso (WCAP) def. Anthony Taylor of Jackson, Tenn.

- 132 – Ryan Martin of Chattanooga def. Spc. Connor Johnson (WCAP).

- 141 – Spc. Dustin Lara (WCAP) def. Michael Santos of Birmingham.

- 152 – Sgt. Sidney Williams (WCAP) def. Michael Finney of Columbus, Ga.

- 165 — Sgt. Quentin McCoy (WCAP) def. Kenneth McNeil of Birmingham; and Pfc. Taylor Atkinson (WCAP) def. Francisco Maldonado of Birmingham.

- 178 – Spc. Jeffery Spencer (WCAP) def. Leonard Brown of Birmingham.

- 201-plus – Spc. Donnie Palmer (WCAP) def. Frank Tate of Birmingham.

In junior bouts, Decatur's Lewis



Photo by Jeanna Reitmeier

IN ACTION— Members of the Army World Class Athlete Program boxing team competed against the Southeast Association of USA Boxing All-Stars during the Veterans Classic on Nov. 14 at the Von Braun Center South Hall.

Williams defeated Huntsville's Vuan Amonds at 65; and Birmingham's Jonny Lee beat Decatur's Gabriel Williams at 70.

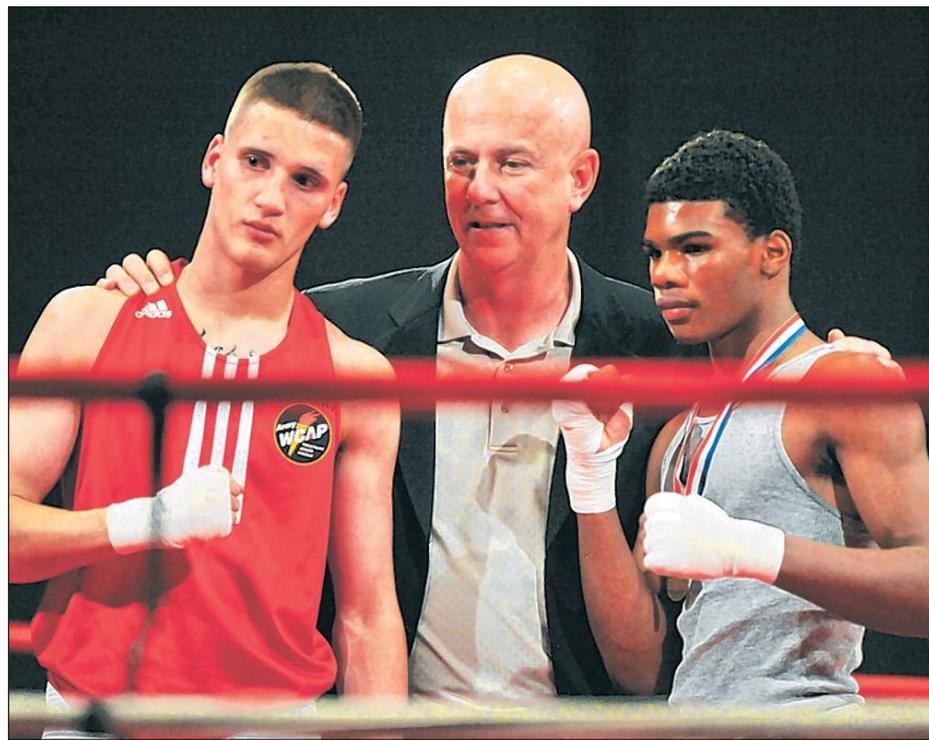


Photo by Bob Gathary

COMBATANTS— Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, congratulates the boxers after their bout in the 132 weight class during the Veterans Classic. Ryan Martin, right, of Chattanooga, defeated Spc. Connor Johnson of the Army World Class Athlete Program team.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Football booster event

The Grissom High School Football Booster Club presents "Confections and Comedy" featuring "The Funniest Man in America" James Gregory. The event is Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Grissom High auditorium. Desserts and beverages will be served beginning at 6 and the show starts at 7. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered in advance by calling 886-2643. Mention codeword "Crawdad" for a special discount for Arsenal personnel.



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.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are

offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-7910.

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.

Women in defense

Women in Defense, Tennessee Valley Chapter will present "Defense Acquisition Reform and its Impact on Test and Evaluation," with speaker Dr. John Foulkes, director of Defense Test Resource Management Center, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics). This breakfast event is Dec. 8 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall, upper level, Salon 1. Cost is \$20 for individual seating or \$160 for a corporate table (seats eight). For registration information, call Sigma Services 971-2225 or e-mail wid-tvc@conferencebysigma.com.

Federal employees

The Huntsville Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will have its Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. The Columbia High School Choral Group will present a Christmas program of song. Also, chapter 443 officers for 2010 will be installed. For reservations call Eleanor Kay 881-8124.

Cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Catholic women

"Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women," an eight-week study, is planned Jan. 20 through March 10 on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11 at Bicentennial Chapel. "This study focuses on Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women written in 1995 for the UN's 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing," a prepared release said. "ENDOW's mission is to help ordinary Catholic women of faith to stretch intellectually and come to know better the theological underpinnings of our faith." To sign up, call Diana Ruzicka 852-5519 or e-mail DianaRuzicka53@aol.com.

Aviation maintenance conference

The Aviation and Missile Command is hosting the Army Aviation Maintenance Conference (formerly known as the Maintenance Test Pilot/Maintenance Examiner Conference) from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 at Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's theme is "Supporting the Future Fight." The conference provides a forum for aviation maintainers to discuss tactical and strategic maintenance issues affecting aviation readiness and to determine solutions to best support current and future aviation operations. The conference is open to U.S. military, Army civilians and contractors. Personnel and companies representing foreign nations are excluded from attending and exhibiting at the conference. Attendees and potential exhibitors are welcome to register at www.redstonemwr.com/conferences/AAMC/welcome.html. For more information, e-mail redstone.aamc@conus.army.mil.

Security professionals

The Mid-South Chapter of the Society for Industrial Security Professionals will hold a luncheon Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn (Madison Square Mall). The luncheon is free for all NCMS members (visitors pay \$15). For more information, call Paul J. Malone 428-1306. Register online at ncmsluncheon-dec162009.eventbrite.com.

Space society

HAL5 (local chapter of the National

Space Society) will meet Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. Steve Noojin, manager of ISS projects for Boeing, will speak about the "International Space Station in the 21st Century." The group will present Dr. Barbara Cohen, NASA planetary scientist, on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the library. For more information, visit HAL5.org or hal5.help@gmail.com.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter, Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday at Ryan's Family Steak House, South Memorial Parkway. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited.

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.

Teen focus group

All Redstone area teens are invited to participate in the Teen Issue Focus Group that will be held Dec. 9, 14 and 16 from 3:45-4:45 p.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148 on Youth Center Road. This is open to all teens that have access to Redstone Arsenal through a sponsoring parent or guardian either military or civilian. "Light snacks will be served with special holiday goodies each day," a prepared release said. "This is a chance to voice

issues that can be fixed on the installation. This will be a time to share concerns, hear and solve issues and have some fun in the process. Your voice will be heard." This is also an open invitation to all eligible sixth-12th graders to become members of the Youth Center afterschool program, which is free. If you are not a Redstone Youth Services member, you must register to participate in the Teen Focus Group. For more information on the Youth Services program, call Youth Center director Scott Shuffler or any of the staff at 955-8401. For more information on the Teen Issue Focus Group, call installation customer service officer Steve McFadden 876-3294 or e-mail rsacms@conus.army.mil.

Technical societies

Huntsville Association of Technical Societies will hold the HATS Holiday Reception on Dec. 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. "There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, entertainment, and a chance to meet other professionals from different Societies," a prepared release said. "You can also drive through the Parade of Lights in the Garden." Cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by Nov. 30 to stanblack04@yahoo.com.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

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

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

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 assur-

ance, 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.

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



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Education open house

Florida Institute of Technology's Jack Macris talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Johnson of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion during the Education Center's open house Nov. 18 for American Education Week. Macris is FIT's resident administrator for its Redstone Arsenal Graduate Center.

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.

Thrift shop

It's holiday time at the Thrift Shop; and Thanksgiving and Christmas are being featured. New items are added daily. Shop, consign, donate or volunteer - all under one roof. Visit the shop at building 3209 on Hercules Road on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-4, Thursdays 9-5 and the first Saturday each month from 10-2.

Church bazaar

New Shiloh Church Ministries will have a Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5101 Mastin Lake Road. For vendor booth rental and more information, call Vickie Owens 461-0045 or 656-7707.

Space documentary

The Honors College at the University of Alabama is making a documentary movie titled "The Town that Put the Man on the Moon." This documentary is about the everyday men and women who made it happen: from the kitchen staff, to the truck driver, to the man who filled the fuel tanks. "Do you have a story to tell? Do you know someone who would like to share their story?" a prepared release asks. "Your story matters, and we want to document it as part of history." If interested call 684-5631 or e-mail bmw548@hotmail.com.

Holiday gala

100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter will hold its 10th annual Holiday Gala fund-raiser Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Tickets are \$62.50 per person or \$500 for table of eight. For more information and tickets, call Charley Burrus 830-4332 or Freeda McDowell 536-8050.

Evening on Bayou

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold one of its main fund-raisers of the year that will benefit military families and other non-profit organizations supporting the military. The Evening on the Bayou, a collaborative effort with OCWC members, will be held Feb. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Officers and Civilians Club. There will be food, silent auction, live music and dancing, beer and wine tasting, and various other activities. Proceeds will be used to further community assistance and merit award programs such as scholarships, donations to other supporting military events, and assistance to military families. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. The event is open to individuals with gate access. For tickets or more information, call 489-3009 or visit www.redstoneocwc.org.

Rocket Announcements

Commissary hours

The Commissary will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving. It's open today, Friday and Saturday.

Skating show

The Huntsville Skating School and the Skating Club of Huntsville present "Nutcracker on Ice 2009" featuring more than 40 local skaters including Redstone Arsenal employees and their children. The shows are Dec. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Municipal Ice Complex on Leeman Ferry Road. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children/seniors. There will also be a school performance at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 11; all seats \$5. For more information, call artistic director Dita Bowser 883-3773 or e-mail dita@iceskate.org.

Luminary celebration

First United Methodist Church, at the corner of Green and Randolph Streets, will have a "Luminary Night Celebration" from 4-6 p.m. Dec. 12. For more information, call the church office 539-5738.

Operation Christmas Bear

The sixth annual Operation Christmas

Bear is Dec. 12 from 1-4 p.m. at Cahaba Shrine Temple in Huntsville. Invited are all active duty, Guard and Reserve North Alabama families; and also families of DoD civilians currently deployed in a war zone. Register at Army Community Service by calling 876-5397 or e-mailing mary.breeden@us.army.mil.

Community grants

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club, which distributes money to nonprofit groups each year, is now accepting applications for grants. To receive a copy of the application form, go to the OCWC website www.redstoneocwc.org (click on community assistance). The deadline for submission is Feb. 27. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form and must be postmarked or received by the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information call Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, 882-6064 or e-mail her at communityassistance@redstoneocwc.org. OCWC is a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

See **Announcements** on page 28

Marcus 

Jenny 

Mom 

Grandpa 

Deployed
U.S. Troops



Don't forget the most
important present on your list.

Give blood.

Military Blood Drive!

December 21, 2009

Fox Den (Basement Classroom)

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Rocket Announcements

Santa train

The North Alabama Railroad Museum has announced its Santa Train will begin Saturday. The train is decorated in the Christmas theme; and Santa is onboard to meet the children and has gifts for all those under 10. The train will continue on Dec. 5, 6 and 12. Seating is limited. Call 851-6276 on Wednesday or Saturday mornings for information and reservations.

Handbell concert

The Heritage Ringers of Huntsville, a non-profit community concert handbell choir, will present its annual Christmas concert Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church in the sanctuary. "The program includes transcription and arrangements of classical Christmas favorites, and original works for handbells," a prepared release said. "This choir has been performing in our area since 1985." The concert is open to the public free of charge.

Tree lighting

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club and the Officers and Civilians Club invite

you to the Redstone Arsenal Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. "Please come and join us for a fun family event with awesome entertainment and special activities for children of all ages," a prepared release said. For more information, visit www.redstoneocwc.org or contact Laurie Taylor at treelighting@redstoneocwc.org.

Federal hiring process

Need help understanding the application process for federal jobs? Reserve a seat for the Dec. 3 information session from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Representatives from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will explain the different recruitment sources, Resumix procedures, how candidates are evaluated, and the referral process. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397.

Health center holiday

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving and the training holiday.

The center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Deployed work force

In appreciation and recognition of AMCOM Life Cycle Management Command's service and sacrifice, commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of AMCOM LCMC operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. The fourth Aviation and Missile Command LCMC Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is 1 p.m. Jan. 21 at Bob Jones Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments since April. Additionally, those who were not able to participate in the last three ceremonies — held April 7, Sept. 18, 2008 and Jan. 22, 2008 — are invited to participate in this ceremony. Nominees will be accepted through Dec. 31. For more information, call Jeanna Reitmeier 876-5302 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

Benefit breakfast

The Knights of Columbus Council 4080 will hold its monthly charity "All You Can Eat" breakfast Dec. 12 from 8-10:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall, at 3053 Leeman Ferry Road. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, two kinds of sausage, fried potatoes, toast, orange juice, milk, tea and coffee will be available for \$5 for adults and teenagers, \$3 for children (4-12); and ages 3 and under eat free. The profits will be donated to the Huntsville Honor Flight supporting their first Washington, D.C. trip in 2010. To date 1,002 World War II veterans have been transported to see their memorial in Washington. "Everyone is welcome, so please invite family and friends," a prepared release said.

Living Christmas tree

First Baptist Church will present the 25th annual production of The Living Christmas Tree on Dec. 17-20 in the church's sanctuary, 600 Governors Drive. Evening performances will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30. Matinees will be Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. Tickets are free and are available at the church. Ticket reservations are also available by calling 428-9422 or visiting the church website www.fbchsv.org/lct.