

Redstone Rocket

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The end of the 'McCorkle era'

Dr. Bill McCorkle compared to von Braun as he accepts retirement with 'fire in his gut'

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Thanks to Dr. Bill McCorkle, Redstone Arsenal's Thanksgiving week began with a visit from a prestigious group of local, state and national dignitaries, including the mayors of Huntsville and Madison, several retired and active Army generals, Rep. Parker Griffith and Sen. Richard Shelby.

They gathered with employees of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in Bob Jones Auditorium at 9 a.m. Nov. 23 to congratulate McCorkle on 52 years of civilian service in leading the development of missile, aviation and simulation technology at Redstone. And they sent him into retirement with a rousing rendition of the Army Song.

Thanking those in attendance for "all this attention," McCorkle, 81, spent his moments at the podium not glorifying himself, but attempting to throw the attention back on the employees who are committed to AMRDEC's role in supporting the war fighter.

"There are a lot of people here who continue to contribute tremendously to what we've done together," he said. "I want to thank you for the opportunity I've had to participate in the many changes that have occurred, particularly since 1980."

In November of that year, McCorkle was selected for the dual role as the technical director of the then Missile Command (now Aviation and Missile Command) and the director of the then Army Missile Laboratory (now the 3,100-employee AMRDEC). Since coming to work for the Army at Redstone Arsenal in 1957, McCorkle has had significant involvement in nearly every Army rocket and missile development program, and has established himself and AMRDEC as an international leader in aviation and missile technology.

"We have been successful in the merger of aviation and missile communities," he said. "There is a huge amount of common technology in these areas in terms of seekers and controls, and we've all integrated these very well."

In his comments, he touched on the challenges of AMRDEC's executive director – filling senior positions with capable and

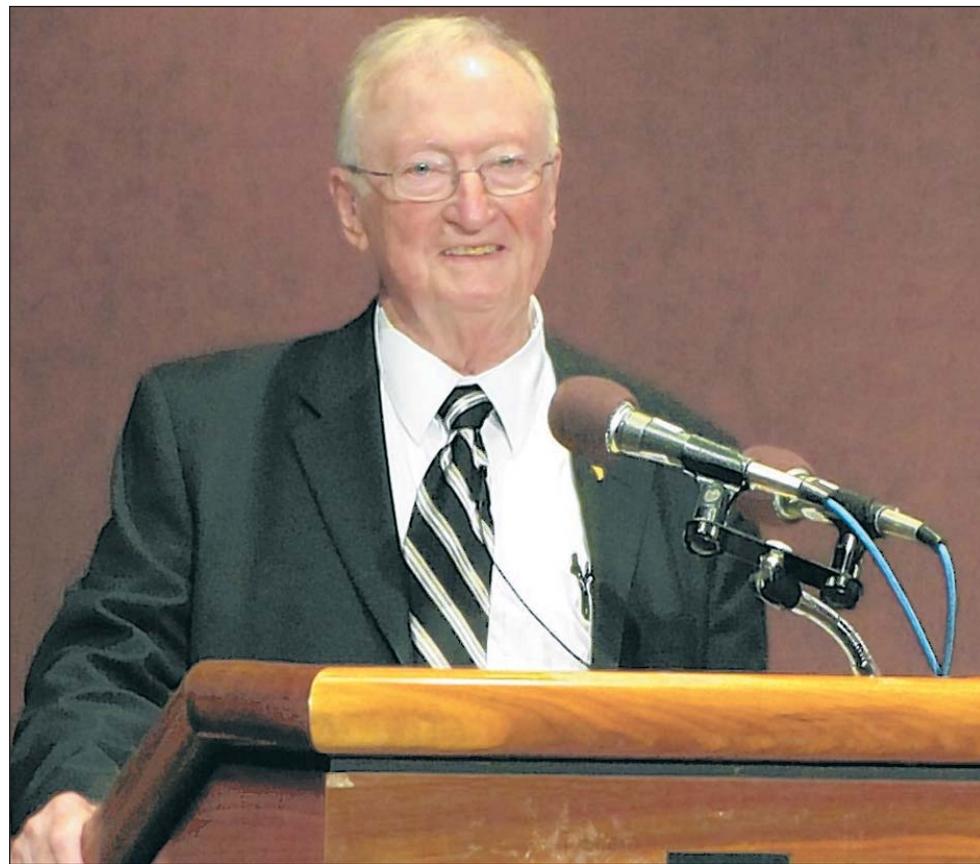


Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORDS OF RETIREMENT— Dr. Bill McCorkle addresses a packed Bob Jones Auditorium during his retirement ceremony Nov. 23. A physicist at heart, McCorkle led technological efforts at AMRDEC that has made the center an international leader in aviation and missile research and development.

technical leaders – and AMRDEC itself – improving both rotor and fixed wing aircraft, continuing progress with unmanned systems, improving precision of guided missiles and better detection against improvised explosive devices.

But it was McCorkle's expression of his own personal management philosophy that really spoke to the kind of leader he has been.

"I believe, very simply, that you have to put trust in people, and reward them tremendously, and give them opportunities," he said.

While McCorkle's comments reflected back on the employees of AMRDEC, comments from one of Congress' leading senators were focused on McCorkle's unique contributions to AMRDEC and the Army.

"I'm here because I wanted to honor him. I've worked with him for years," Shelby told McCorkle's audience. "When I went to the

Senate (in 1986), he was one of the first ones to knock on the door, and he knocked the door down because he wanted to be there all the time (lobbying for AMRDEC's future). I quickly realized his contributions and he had a standing invitation."

Shelby thanked McCorkle for his dedication to the Army.

"You have spent your life helping the war fighter provide security for this nation," Shelby said, adding members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee "know who he is. They honor him. They know he is an icon."

Because of McCorkle's work in aviation and missile development, "Soldiers love and respect you. Their enemies fear you. Thank you on behalf of the nation. As we honor you, you honor the nation," Shelby added.

See **McCorkle** on page 11

An open lane random survey

What's been the highlight of your year?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Celeste Shockley
Post Restaurant
"My daughter (Alisha Bell) just graduated. She went through an internship with Logistics Support Activity up in Virginia. She was up there for a year and graduated.

Now she gets to start her real job. She moved to Beaumont, Texas. I'm very proud of her, I really am."

Marilyn Wurtz
AMRDEC Weapons Development and Integration Directorate
"I would say my son (Zachariah) joining the Army and graduating from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. And after our recent move, my daughter (Briana) being successful at Bob Jones High School. I'm proud to be part of the work that the WDI directorate does toward the war fighter effort."



Pvt. Jaqualynn Bridges
Charlie Company
"Completing basic training (at Fort Jackson, S.C.) and making it to AIT (advanced individual training)."

Pvt. Ryne Pennington
Charlie Company
"Being here with this company. The first sergeant and the commander are really good people. They really try to help us out, like understanding everything. The organization is really great. The (barracks) construction's a little annoying but that's about it (laugh)."



Commentary: My wife saved my life

By MARK ALLEN
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Walking with my surgeon from the exam room to his office to schedule my impending surgery, I told him it was my wife's concern about an unsightly mole on my back that sent me to a dermatologist.

The surgeon, Dr. Robert Stone Baxt, wheeled around and impassionedly stated, "Your wife saved your life."

Here's the skinny on skin — function, form, beauty, it does it all. Skin is the body's largest organ. This waterproof barrier breathes, sweats, cools, provides sensation, absorbs vitamins, and is a thing of beauty even though it is often vilified for not being deeper. But I never knew that.

As children, my brother and I lived the lives of modern-day Tom Sawyers in the Missouri Ozarks. Typically, we wore a pair of jeans everyday — no shoes, no shirt. Little did we know that our skin's number one enemy — that jolly old Sun

— was planting the seeds of destruction that would erupt under my skin with deadly promise.

I had visited a dermatologist for an annual exam every year. After he retired, I was examined by the doctor, who took over his practice, and he did not share the concern that my wife continued to voice.

Finally, I got a referral from my internist for his dermatologist and made an unscheduled visit the next morning. I ambushed Dr. Charles Samorodin outside of his locked office.

Immediately, he said he did not like the looks of my odious mole, and he was going to take a biopsy. "You should thank your wife," he said as he excised a piece of my back, "for getting you here when she did."

Subsequently, Dr. Samorodin got the dermatopathologist's report and asked me to come and see him. He said I had advanced dysplasia, a precancerous condition, and I would have to have surgery to ensure removal of all the tissue that could turn malignant. He recommended a surgeon and I agreed.

Dr. Samorodin is a true patriot. Following medical school, he volunteered for the Army and Vietnam. He served a tour in South Vietnam during 1970-71 with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and later, in Long Binh. He was awarded the Bronze Star for a medical program he initiated that impressed the brass in Saigon.

After leaving active service, he stayed in the Army Reserve providing much-needed medical services to our Soldiers for a total of 20 years.

My surgeon also turned out to be a Vietnam veteran. He served as a U.S. Navy flight surgeon working helicopter medical evacuations.

I honor these two patriots for their military service and for the skills of diagnosis and surgery that will truly save my life, but also and especially a wife who looked at my beautiful skin and saw something ugly.

Editor's note: Mark Allen is a retired Air Force colonel and an Army civilian working at the National Guard Bureau.

Getting to know you

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



Name: Pfc. Joseph Raines

Job: Ammunition technician, Marine Corps Detachment

Where do you call home? Atlanta, Ga.

What do you like about your job? I just graduated Friday (Nov. 20) so I really haven't gotten out to be an actual ammunition tech yet. I just got the official title last Friday, so I'm waiting to get out to the fleet. My

cousin is an ammo tech. He was just telling about the adventures he's gotten to go on. He's gotten to know a lot of different people and gotten to do something new every day.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to ride my bikes (Honda CBR 900). That's my passion. I miss my rock climbing, too.

What are your goals?

Honestly my goal is to retire from the United States Marine Corps as a gunnery sergeant.

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

I'd like to hike across New Zealand. That's beautiful country out there.

Quote of the week

'And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.'

— Abraham Lincoln

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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Senior Soldiers serve Thanksgiving feast to troops

Dining Facility keeps Armywide tradition

By SKIP VAUGHN
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“Where are you from?” Maj. Gen. Jim Myles asked each of the young Soldiers as he filled their plates with ham.

Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, was among the servers Thursday at the Dining Facility during the annual Thanksgiving feast for the troops. The others included Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

It’s a tradition throughout the Army that the senior Soldiers serve the Thanksgiving meal to the troops.

“It’s a great tradition,” Myles said. “And it’s our way, our senior Soldiers’ way, to say thank



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SERVING LINE— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles helps fill the plates for the Soldiers on Thursday at the Dining Facility.

you to the heart of the Army – and that is the Soldiers.”

Campbell also noted the day’s significance. “It’s a celebration of not only our nation, it’s also a celebration of our

Soldiers and what they do for this country,” Campbell said.

About 1,100 student Soldiers in the 832nd Ordnance Battalion ate their holiday meal at the Dining Facility. The

facility also served retirees, surviving spouses, deployed Soldiers’ spouses and their families and guests.

Among the first in line were Pvt. Bradley Bartlett, 19, from



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TAKING TURN— Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, takes his turn serving the troops for Thanksgiving.

Kansas City, Mo., and Pvt. Monte Barrett, 18, from Albe- marle, N.C., both of Bravo Company and in the Army 6-7 months.

“It’s good,” Bartlett said. “I get to eat for free.”

“It shows that even though we may not have rank, that we’re not forgotten about,” Barrett said. “It’s almost feeling like home. It’s Thanksgiving.”

The Dining Facility prepared 303 pounds of steamship, 674 pounds of roast turkey, 600 servings of cordon bleu, 170 pounds of spiral ham, 44 pounds of whole turkey, 90 pounds of shrimp cocktail, 288 pounds of yams; pumpkin, apple, cherry, sweet potato, pecan, chocolate cream, peach, peanut butter, pies, carrot cake, cheese cake, German chocolate, short cake and more; candy, fruit, eggnog, fruit cake, cocktail sauce and cranberry sauce.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 19-25:

Nov. 20: During a random inspection at Gate 9, a pistol was found in a vehicle console. The pistol was confiscated and the subject was issued a violation notice.

Nov. 20: A woman accidentally fell at her residence and was transported by ambulance to Huntsville Hospital. After arriving at the hospital, she noticed that prescription medication and three credit cards were missing from her purse.

Nov. 21: A Commissary customer reported that his private vehicle was accidentally struck by a shopping cart.

Nov. 21: Four subjects who approached Gate 9 lost were found to be illegal immigrants. After coordination with Immigration

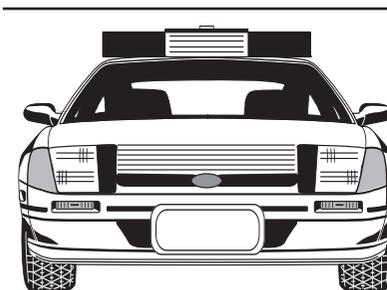
and Customs Enforcement agents, the subjects were released.

Nov. 22: Three illegal immigrants approached Gate 9 lost. After coordination with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, the subjects were released. One subject received a violation notice for no driver’s license.

Nov. 24: A Soldier surrendered to Redstone Police as AWOL. He was processed back to his Fort Gordon, Ga., unit.

Nov. 24: A Soldier was arrested by Cullman Police as a deserter. He was released to Redstone Police and processed to Fort Knox, Ky.

Nov. 25: When a driver was stopped for speeding on Vincent Drive, she was found to have a suspended license. A warrant had been issued by Madison County for her



arrest. She received two violation notices and was released to Madison County.

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

Violation notices issued: 15 speeding, 2 traffic control device, 2 no driver’s license, 1 failure to yield, 2 expired tag, 2 handicap parking, 1 inattentive driving, 1 suspended license.

World War II told in words of veterans

'Through Eyes of Courage' takes readers through war

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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The best way to understand World War II is through the words of a veteran who actually lived the fight, experienced the battlefield and saw the ugly carnage left behind by a blood-thirsty and threatening enemy.

That's the premise of a new book – "Through Eyes of Courage" – recently published by well-known military activist, author and radio personality David Carney and his wife, historian and author Judy Carney.

Through the stories of 26 World War II veterans, their book shares a variety of experiences from that war. Every story honors all veterans and the sacrifices they made. And to further honor the veterans, the Carneys are donating all profits from the book to the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight, a program that flies WW II veterans to Washington, D.C., free of charge to see their memorial.

The couple and some of the veterans featured in the book – including two survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack — will participate in a book signing on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, at *The Huntsville Times* from 1 to 3 p.m.

"My interest in World War II veterans started with the registry of remembrance," Judy Carney said. "I wanted to see how many veterans I could talk with who were directly tied to the World War II memorial and I wanted to see if they were registered in the kiosks. With 16 million men and women involved in World War II, it is easy to see not all are on the registry."

Her concern with the WW II registry, then and now, is that many veterans have died before being registered or don't know they should be registered.

"I took the registry on as a cause of my own," Judy Carney said. "I wanted to make sure that all the World War II veterans I came in contact with were in the registry."

She started her quest at the Tut Fann State Veterans Home three years ago, and then continued with North Alabama veterans who participated on the first Honor Flights. She would meet WW II veterans, learn their stories and then use that information to register them in the registry. In all, she has registered 300 veterans.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

STORYTELLERS— Judy and David Carney wrote "Through Eyes of Courage," a book that tells the stories of 26 World War II veterans. Profits from the book are going to Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. A book signing is set for Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, from 1-3 p.m. at *The Huntsville Times*.

"I realized they had a lot of interesting things to say. I tried to put their information down in the military history segment of the registry," she said.

But often their entire stories were too long for the registry. And when she talked with WW II veteran Jim Williams about his experience escaping from the enemy with help from the French underground, Judy Carney realized she was about to get herself involved in a much bigger project.

"When he told me his story, I thought 'Oh, my gosh, I've got to write a book with his story and all these stories in it. These men have a lot to say and I can help them with that,'" she recalled. "With each of these veterans, I realized there was a little piece of the American patchwork of history."

The book includes the stories of two Pearl Harbor survivors. With each chapter, the picture of the veteran as a service-member is featured under a descriptive name for their role in the war – radioman, engineer, boiler-maker, machinist mate, lady truck driver, downed airman and private first class squad leader, to name a few. The book also includes a war timeline.

One veteran in the book holds a special place in Judy Carney's heart – her father, Clyde Popejoy, who left for the war right after she was born. She still fondly remembers her reunion with her father.

"I was 2 and a half, and I was playing under a big Maple tree in my grandmother's

Civilian Welfare Fund provides morale boost

Council supports workers with discounts, services

By **ASHLEY KALIFEH**
For the Rocket

Did you know half price lunches will be offered Thursday at all post restaurants and cafeterias? The Civilian Welfare Fund is the organization behind this event, as well as many other benefits you enjoy as a Department of Defense civilian employee.

The Civilian Welfare Fund is your one-stop shop for many of the benefits enjoyed by DoD employees.

"We are here for the benefit of DoD civilians on the Arsenal," Charles Urban, president of the CWF Council, said.

The CWF has 34 representative council members that cross-section with various DoD agencies. They offer such benefits as discounts for cultural and community events, such as the Galaxy of Lights at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, Broadway Theatre League season tickets, and Havoc game tickets. They provide bus trips to various cultural and sporting events. The CWFC also sponsors Arsenal civilian sports teams.

"Our biggest feature is that we manage the Rustic Lodge at the south end of the Arsenal," Urban said. "The lodge is a low-cost place to assemble for parties and get-togethers during weekday evenings or weekends."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LODGE— The Rustic Lodge, near the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area at the Tennessee River, is a popular place for holiday parties.

Gatherings and meetings can be held at the Rustic Lodge at no cost during normal business hours; except a small fee is assessed in November and December.

The CWF offers annual stipends for commands and major command directorates. It is a calculated per-head stipend for authorized events such as

organization days or holiday events for agencies that have representatives on the Council.

So next time you want to organize your office's offsite at the Rustic Lodge, give CWF a call at 876-8741. For your convenience, CWFC seasonal events are posted on the Redstone Arsenal Community Calendar.

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 today. 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. The winner will be announced at the Links' annual Christmas party Sunday at 6 p.m. For more information, call 883-7977.

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.

Tree lighting

The "Christmas Extravaganza" on Thursday starts at 4:30 p.m., and the lighting is at 5:30 at Bicentennial Chapel. There will be photos with Santa, the lighting of the Redstone Community Christmas Tree, a Santa's workshop, carol singers and more. For information call 876-5232.

Redstone community gives troops a big 'Thank you'

Salute to the Military celebrates Soldiers

By **AMY GUCKEEN**
Staff writer
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Thanksgiving came a wee bit early Nov. 22 at the seventh annual Salute to the Military, as nearly 900 Soldiers filled the Officers and Civilians Club to hear two simple words: thank you.

"We have around 900 students right now, and none of them are able to go home and be with their families for Thanksgiving, so we wanted to do something special to show them how much we appreciate their sacrifice," said Amelia Flanigan, marketing and corporate partnerships director for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, sponsor of the event.

That appreciation came in several forms — from a home cooked barbecue meal to movies to prize drawings ranging from FMWR goody bags to a flat

screen television. For Soldiers feeling a bit homesick, the opportunity to call or e-mail mom and dad was also provided. No matter what activities the Soldiers chose to partake in, all were able to take a break from the busyness of life on post. Soldiers even had the opportunity to channel their inner Paul McCartney and John Lennon while playing The Beatles Rock Band.

For Sgt. Ivy Roger and Spc. Jeremy Scott, the evening was the perfect opportunity to sit back and relax with their fellow comrades.

"It means a lot," Scott, originally from Illinois, said. "I've been in the Army six years and this is the first time I've seen them do something for the Soldiers that were unable to be with their families for Thanksgiving. You see it in Iraq all the time, but this is the first time I've seen it in the States."

"It's quite nice," Roger, from Louisiana, added.

Members of the Redstone community mingled with the Soldiers as they ate and roamed the club. Hearing "Thank you"



Photo by Amy Guckeen

CHOW TIME— Approximately 900 Soldiers fill the Officers and Civilians Club on Nov. 22 for the seventh annual Salute to the Military, where they had the opportunity eat, play and relax for the evening.

directly from the community that they serve was one of the highlights of the evening.

"These young Soldiers and Marines are far away from their families, and many of

them will deploy to the Middle East soon, so words of encouragement from the civilians that support them on Redstone reassures them just how important their mission is," Flanigan said.

Housing survey pays off for lucky resident

Drawing winner gets \$1K prize

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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A picture may be worth a thousand words, but a few words can be worth a thousand dollars. Post housing residents who filled out Redstone Communities' customer survey were entered in a drawing to win \$1,000. Resident Robyn Somers took home the prize at the CEL Survey Celebration on Nov. 19.

The survey, handed out to residents weeks ago, asked simple questions about the services residents receive from Redstone Communities and their parent organization, Pinnacle.

"It was a pretty simple survey," Brenda Haynes, Redstone Communities management, said. "It covered things like our services, management and general satisfaction."

The hardest part of a survey is always getting people to return them once they're completed. Haynes said they wanted to give people a reason to turn them in, one thousand reasons actually.

"This year, everybody who brought a sealed survey to us was entered into a drawing," Haynes said. "We're going to draw a name from those. The winner will get a check for \$1,000 from us."

Each completed survey was sealed by the resident who filled it out so that Redstone Communities and Pinnacle can be sure the answers were untampered with and unbiased. Haynes said knowing that their answers would be confidential usually lets people feel more comfortable with total honesty.

"We want people to tell us what they really think and how they really feel," she said. "The information from the surveys is now being compiled and we'll get a report when that's finished."

The prize money wasn't the only draw for the event. Residents were treated to free food and goodies. The Redstone Communities staff had also set up a Christmas tree and background for free holiday photos.

Residents did not have to be present to win the cash drawing, which Robyn Somers will be eternally grateful for. Her name was on the slip of paper Haynes pulled from the glass bowl. Laughing, her friends and neighbors whipped out their cell phones to tell her to come to the Redstone Communities' Hughes Road office immediately. However, no one told her why.

Somers was nearby at the Youth Center, picking up her daughter from a guitar lesson. Her confusion quickly turned to disbelief when she arrived to a chorus of "Robyn! You won!"

Somers, an admitted practical joker, thought she was getting a little payback for pranks she had pulled over the years. In fact, she was still asking if it was a hoax as they handed her the check.

"Is this for real," she said, laughing. "No one's going to yell 'Gotcha!' in a minute?"

After much convincing, Somers finally accepted the prize.

"This is so amazing," she said. "I meant to fill it out but I just hadn't gotten to it on my list of things to do. Then I came in the office for something else and they reminded me to do it. I'm so glad I did. I don't want to even think about if I hadn't done it. This is going to be one great Christmas!"



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

HOLIDAY BOOST— Robyn Somers, center, accepts her \$1,000 prize from Redstone Communities.

Army to separate Soldiers who don't extend to deploy

By J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers who don't agree to extend their enlistments in units slated to deploy on or after Jan. 1 may be involuntarily separated up to three months early.

The new Enlisted Involuntary Early Separation Program will affect active-duty Soldiers scheduled to separate during the first six months of their unit's deployment. These Soldiers will be asked to re-enlist or extend so they can stay with their unit through its full deployment and two months after returning.

Soldiers who participate in the Deployment Extension Incentive Program will receive an extra \$350 or \$500 for every month extended. (Those who extend at least six months before deploying will receive the full \$500 per month.)

Those who don't re-enlist or extend will not deploy and will be separated up to three months prior to their contractual separation date, according to Maj. Jennifer Walkawicz, personnel policy integrator, G1.

The involuntary separation program applies only to regular Army enlisted Soldiers with more than 36 months of active service and less than 71 months of total service, Walkawicz said, when they have an ending term-of-service date during their unit's first six months of deployment.

Soldiers with an ETS date occurring during the last six months of their unit's scheduled deployment will still deploy and simply return early to out-process if they choose not to extend, she said.

Walkawicz estimated the EIESP program will result in 1,350 to 1,450 Soldiers being separated early with an annual cost savings of about \$8.5 million.

"The Army is implementing this program now as part

of the Stop Loss Reduction plan," she said, explaining that the Stop Loss program will be phased out beginning Jan. 1, in favor of voluntary extensions or early separation.

"This program allows the Army to identify Soldiers preparing to ETS who will not deploy with the unit, then provide replacements for those Soldiers prior to the unit's deployment date," Walkawicz said.

She said the new guidance will ensure ample time for newly reporting Soldiers to train on individual and collective tasks and settle in their families. She said those Soldiers who have decided to leave the Army are generally first-term enlistees and will not lose any entitlements.

She also said Soldiers who chose not to re-enlist or extend for the deployment duration and are separated will retain all rights, privileges and benefits such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. However, EIESP Soldiers will not be entitled to pay and allowances for the period not served.

The involuntary early separation does not apply to Soldiers facing courts-martial or under investigation for Uniform Code of Military Justice offenses.

The Army has mandated battalion commanders notify affected Soldiers at least 90 days prior to their adjusted date of separation. Due to the 90-day written notice requirement, Human Resources Command will phase in the EIESP.

As the program is phased in, Soldiers with an ETS between April 1-30 will be separated one month earlier, Walkawicz said. Soldiers with an ETS between May 1-31 will be involuntarily separated two months earlier than their ETS; and Soldiers whose ETS is on or after June 1 will be separated three months earlier than their contract stipulates, she said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Support from all corners

It's not only military organizations that make contributions to the Veterans Memorial Museum. So, too, do various service and social organizations throughout the community, including the Crestwood Senior Circle. Museum founder Randy Withrow accepts a donation of \$703 from the Crestwood Senior Circle, which raised the funds during a jubilee in October. With Withrow are, from left, circle members Margie Slayton and Doris Pape, museum volunteer Milt Aitkin, circle members Bill Phillips and Margene Boutwell, and Crestwood marketing assistant Sarah Collison.

Ceremony honors fallen bomb technicians

Hazardous devices school plans memorial on Dec. 7

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They said, “Yes.” For fallen bomb technicians Senior Trooper William Robert Hakim and Lt. Michael C. Avilucea, when others fled for safety from a hazardous device, they bravely went the other direction, directly to the threat. The two will be honored Dec. 7 for their unwavering sense of duty to their communities and their country.

Avilucea, a member of the New Mexico State Police, was killed in the line of duty May 30, 2008, when he was involved in a single vehicle rollover crash, returning from an explosive recovery assignment. Hakim, with the Oregon State Police, was killed Dec. 12 while dismantling a bomb at a bank. Both were 51 and graduates of the Hazardous Devices School on Redstone Arsenal.

The memorial ceremony will be held Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Bomb Technician Memorial, located at the Hazardous



Photo by Amy Guckeen

LASTING TRIBUTE— The Bomb Technician Memorial, located at the Hazardous Devices School, pays tribute to fallen public safety bomb technicians from across the country. The school has been training bomb technicians since 1971.

Devices School, building 7010. Families of the fallen officers and delegates from across the country will be in attendance to

honor their service. All are invited; those interested in attending are requested to RSVP at www.btmf.org.

Since 1971, Redstone Arsenal’s Hazardous Devices School has been training bomb technicians from across the country, according to Paul Carter, director of HDS. More than 18,000 students have undergone the six-week program that covers the necessary skills and information needed to dispose of hazardous devices. Bomb technicians return to the school, a joint effort between the FBI and Army, every three years for recertification.

“This is home,” said Mil White, vice president and director of operations for Resource Service Professionals LLC, who is assisting with the event. “When a bomb tech thinks of home, he thinks of Huntsville. Their commonality is that they wear the HDS badge. It’s a brotherhood.”

The Bomb Technician Memorial, dedicated April 16, 2007, honors that brotherhood, and those that have lost their lives while saving others.

“Prior to the erection of the Bomb Technician Memorial, the staff and students at HDS really had no place to honor the previous graduates who had given the ultimate sacrifice in their line of work,”

said supervisory special agent David Jernigan, FBI program director for the Hazardous Devices School. “The memorial allows a location to honor these graduates and is a place for meditation, and to allow future generations of families and graduates pay their respects.”

In addition to the life-size bronze statue of a bomb technician, the memorial also includes a wall for the names of those whose lives have been lost. Currently 15 names dating back to 1909 line the wall, from organizations such as the New York Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department and FBI. Hakim’s and Avilucea’s are the most recent to have the honor bestowed upon them.

“Having the memorial here at HDS allows for all new students and returning graduates to understand that this profession is not hazard free, and defusing the danger associated with hazardous devices sometimes comes with a heavy price,” Jernigan said. “It places our profession in the context that working on improvised explosive devices and disposing of explosives is some of law enforcement’s and the fire service’s most dangerous tasks.”

Defense program aims to reduce firefighter injuries

By SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Firefighting may be near the top of the Defense Department's list of high-risk occupations, but there's a move afoot to make it safer. Defense Department firefighter injury reports — more than 1,000 new incidents each year — have cost the department nearly \$30 million a year.

When the Defense Safety Oversight Council realized more than a year ago that firefighters' injury-related lost time rates were higher than any other civilian occupation within the department, it sought help in turning the situation around.

Enter the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Service Working Group.

“(The Defense Safety Oversight) wanted us to look into what was causing the injuries to see if we could come up with suggestions on reducing the injury rates and the lost work days,” said Carl Glover, the director of the Navy Fire and Emergency Service for Navy Installations Command. “(The working group) thought that the awareness training would be an opportunity to ... spread the work on the problem and create some awareness and potentially reduce the (accident rates).”

Glover served as chairman of the working group. He no longer holds that position, but continues to be engaged in the project.

The Firefighter Injury Prevention Training project started with a 26-month analysis of firefighter injuries within the Navy, he said. Of all the injuries reported, 41 percent were classified as “falls, slip, trip, or bodily exertion.” Of those cases, 40 percent, or 75 incidents, were directly related to the firefighter entering or exiting the fire apparatus and lifting patients.

Comparing Navy incidents with those of other department components showed similar types of injuries. “We operate under the same instruction and same methodology,” Glover explained.

The resulting effort to lower the rate of injury is an eight-lesson, web-based training program. The multimedia program uses text, audio, video, photographs and graphics to demonstrate proper techniques for the actions determined to lead to falls, slips, trips and exertion injuries.

Video for the course which was shot at Bolling Air Force Base in the nation's capital, and features participants from Defense Logistics Agency, the Air Force, Army and Marines. The Navy has been using it for about a year,

Glover said. Funded by the Defense Safety Oversight, the course also has been provided to the other services.

Though it's being used and is creating awareness of the issues in question, it's too soon to tell if it's actually been effective in lowering incident rates, Glover said.

“We've had some internal Navy feedback that it's well-received,” he said. “We just don't know if it's achieving its desired result yet. I don't have any statistical numbers to (prove) that our number of injuries have reduced.”

The plan is to evaluate the program's success once it's yielded enough data to study.

“If it's successful, maybe we approach DSOC for a Part Two, but tackle a different specific type of injury,” Glover said. “Or, if it's not successful, then we'll go back to DSOC and say, ‘Is there some other option we can look (at) ... to see if there's some other program we could implement to reduce the injuries.’”

The Navy intends to make the course mandatory for all new firefighters and an annual requirement for all firefighters.

And though it was created for Defense Department civilian, military and contracted firefighters, the program could easily be of value to any firefighter, Glover said.



Courtesy photo

Outreach volunteer

Brenda “Brandy” Goff, supervisory international program management specialist and chief of the Attack Systems Division in the AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate, serves as guest speaker for the Husky Champions Awards Program at Harvest Elementary School. The Husky Champions program recognizes students for their academic performance. Goff's participation in the program was an initiative of the Aviation and Missile Command's Army Educational Outreach Program.

Army's oldest NCO academy celebrates 60th year



By Sgt. Maj. RODNEY WILLIAMS
7th Army Joint Multinational Training
Command public affairs

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy celebrated its 60th Anniversary on Oct. 17. The 7th Army NCOA Warrior Leaders Course has the unique distinction of being the first and oldest NCO academy in the United States Army.

“Without question, this is the United States Army’s oldest non-commissioned officer training institution,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy. “This is the premier warrior leader course and has been training NCOs for 60 years.”

The 7th Army NCOA has trained thousands of NCOs since the doors opened on Oct. 17, 1949, but not all from the United States. One unique distinction of the 7th Army NCOA is that it is one of the only academies that routinely trains with joint and multinational partners helping to build long-lasting relationships.

“For 60 years, we have trained students of our allied partners in both Europe and Africa by teaching them the leadership skills to help strengthen their NCO Corps,” Rhodes said.

During the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Darius ZaGara, command sergeant major for the Joint Multinational

Training Command, accompanied Rhodes while presenting a streamer on the academy color commemorating 60 years of professional institutional instruction.

Rhodes then presented each company with a streamer signifying the academy’s recognition as an “academy of excellence,” adjudicated by the United States Army’s Training and Doctrine Command and Sergeants Major Academy.

“I graduated back in 2000 and I thought this institution of training was excellent then,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman, the newly selected Department of the Army’s Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and current senior small group leader at the academy. “Now that I am actually a part of it helping this institution achieve an excellence rating, it makes me feel great, especially as large an organization as this is.”

Beckman was also on hand to help bring back an old tradition at the academy. On this 60th anniversary day, Beckman presented the academy with a “swagger stick,” which from this point on will be bestowed on the distinguished honor graduates of each course as a gift of recognition.

“The future is out there, in the ranks standing among the students,” said Rhodes, pointing to the current class of students standing in formation. “This academy will always strive to set the conditions for the next generation of NCOs to

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Rodney Williams

ACADEMY ANNIVERSARY— Sgt. Major Darius ZaGara, command sergeant major of the Joint Multinational Training Command, is accompanied by Command Sgt. Major Hu Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy during the placing of a streamer on the academy colors in recognition of 60 years of excellence during the 60th Anniversary ceremony Oct. 17 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The academy’s assistant commandant, Sgt. Maj. Antonio Reyes, looks on. The 7th Army NCO Academy is the oldest of its kind in the U.S. Army.

Retiring research director honored as icon

McCorkle

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AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles pointed out to the retirement audience that McCorkle has served as an Army civilian during nearly six of the Army’s 24 decades of existence, and was one of the charter members of the Department of Defense Senior Executive Service.

“It’s an incredible statement of work to be able to talk about that. Many will serve for four or five decades. But you’ve served through (nearly) six decades in positions of increasing responsibility. We have to stop and take notice of that,” Myles said.

McCorkle’s and AMRDEC’s success has always been viewed “through the prism of the way (that success) has supported the Soldier,” he said. “Every weapon system, every missile system has had to go through the technical knowledge base that presides at AMRDEC. (The nation’s missile defense) can trace its lineage all the way back to Bill McCorkle and AMRDEC.”

Comparing him to rocket and space

scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun, Myles said all Arsenal employees should recognize the long-lasting contributions McCorkle has made to the nation’s modern-day defense systems. He said the day’s retirement ceremony was one of celebrating a physicist with a “fire that still burns in your gut.”

“We have an era that’s closing – the McCorkle era,” Myles said, adding that he is confident AMRDEC employees will continue to support the fight against freedom’s enemies through technology that has its foundation in the discoveries made and developments accomplished during the McCorkle years.

McCorkle was accompanied to his retirement ceremony by his wife, Nancy, and his niece, Laura Decker, and nephew, Brian Decker. He received several accolades during the program.

“We had to come to this ceremony to honor his contributions,” said Brian Decker, who served as a pilot in the Navy and who now flies with Delta Airlines, and who credits his interest in flying to his uncle, who is also a pilot.

“He was my inspiration. We had to be here.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

RECOGNITION DAY— Dr. Bill McCorkle takes center stage at his Nov. 23 retirement ceremony to accept congressional recognition from Rep. Parker Griffith. Sen. Richard Shelby, at left, presented McCorkle with accolades and recognition from the U.S. Senate, Department of the Army, Army Research Development and Engineering Command, and State of Alabama. McCorkle retired after a 52-year career at Redstone Arsenal that included his longtime position as the executive director of Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Lakota Sioux member shares reservation memories



Photo by Deborah Erhart

SHARING HERITAGE— Theresa Morris, aka “Little Fox,” is a registered member of the Lakota Sioux, and a secretary in G2 at SMDC/ARSTRAT. She spent her early summers visiting her grandmother on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation in southern South Dakota. She shares the same Lakota Sioux heritage as Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Red Cloud.

By **DEBORAH ERHART**
 SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

If you look hard enough and ask enough questions, you can probably find someone with a rich background in Native American heritage in every organization. The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is no exception.

Theresa Morris, aka “Little Fox,” is a registered member of the Lakota Sioux, and a secretary in the G2, SMDC/ARSTRAT. She shares the same Lakota Sioux heritage of famous names such as Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Red Cloud.

“My mother and grandmother lived on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation in southern South Dakota,” Morris said. “My grandmother named me ‘Little Fox’ because she said that I was very good at snooping around and could run very fast.”

Morris spent her early years visiting the reservation during summer breaks and experiencing all the flavors of Native American life.

“I guess that one of my earliest memories of my Native American heritage was visiting my family on the reservation,” Morris said. “I remember that my grandmother had a big round barrel that was in the middle of the kitchen. It was filled up once for bath time, and I always insisted on taking the first bath,” she said with a smile.

“She also had an outhouse, which is always an adventure, and a definite change from what I was used to.”

Not everything was strange and different. Her summer visits to the Lower Brule reservation always included such things as dancing.

“We would go to the various Lakota dances, like the feather dance, and then we would also go to what was called the ‘white dance,’ which back in the ‘50s was like a regular sock hop with modern music,” she said. “They were both a lot of fun.”

Although the visits to the reservation are few and far between now, Morris still owns 56 acres of land in South Dakota on Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, the fourth largest reservation in land area in the United States. The reservation was created in 1889 following the defeat of the Lakota by the United States in a series of wars in the 1870s.

“I’ll pass the land on to my children someday just as it was passed on to me,” Morris said. “The land is our little slice of tangible heritage that we can still hold on to. Should family decide to sell the land in the future, it can only be sold back to the reservation.”

Morris really became interested in her heritage in her early 20s after attending a Wyoming Pow Wow, an event where both Native American and non-Native American people meet to dance, sing, socialize and honor American Indian culture.

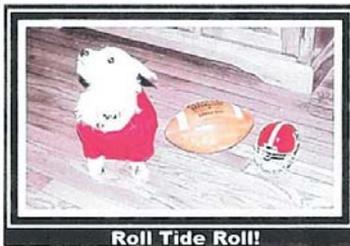
“I met so many people and really experienced the costumes, music, crafts, beading and cooking while I was there. I couldn’t help but think, ‘This is me. I need to know more about this because it’s a part of who I am,’” she said.

Experiences such as these led Morris to begin reading and studying Native American history.

See **Memories** on page 13



Redstone's
Picture Perfect **Pet** **Contest**
Winners
 Sponsored by the Systems Management Division



Roll Tide Roll!



“Odie”
Owner Dania Hoover
 \$50 Cash &
 Two Night Luxury Accommodations
 Courtesy of
“Bark Avenue Pet Resort”
Pet will relax in luxury suite complete with plasma TV and cable, covered playground, massage, bedtime story, treats and a rejuvenating bath before returning home.



2nd Place
“Bella”
Owner Christina Lord
 \$25 Pet Depot Gift Card

Thank you to all participants for making the contest a success. We appreciate your support!

■ Book describes journey of war and sacrifice

Words

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yard,” she recalled. “I was making mud pies and I was all muddy and I had a big muddy spoon in my hand. I saw a Soldier coming up the hill. I got up and ran to him, yelling ‘My daddy! My daddy!’ Everyone from those times has a story.”

Though their experiences were different, all the WW II veterans in the

book were patriotic, determined, hard working and young – reflecting all veterans of the war.

“There are several veterans in this book who came home on their 21st birthday after spending three years at war,” Judy Carney said. “Everyone in this book is incredible.”

Some of the veterans wrote their own stories for the book. Others were told to and written by Judy Carney. David Carney wrote the introductions to each of the stories.

“We wanted to represent every branch of the service and every theater so that you can see the war all around the world,” Judy Carney said. “We have a good representation in this book. But we are still collecting and more volumes are entirely a possibility.”

Even though the book was completed and published in September, Judy Carney is still talking to veterans about the registry. She also checks veterans who have died and whose obituaries are published in *The Huntsville Times*. If they are not in the registry, she will enter them.

“It is so important that we get all the veterans in the registry,” she said. “This is their registry, their monument, and it’s about their sacrifice. This is an important part of history that needs to be recorded.”

Judy Carney does admit she is passionate about the book and the registry. She is thankful that WW II veterans appreciate her efforts.

“When they see the book, they are so happy. There’s been tears and just great joy,” she said. “And there’s been a

lot of appreciation for the recognition.”

But David Carney said interest in the book goes beyond the veterans it honors.

“This is a book about history itself and that makes it much bigger than we ever imagined,” he said. “People are buying this book so they can learn for themselves about World War II and its veterans.”

Judy Carney hopes the book is not only interesting, but that it also serves as a resource.

“I hope readers get a good picture of how World War II was conducted, the reasons for it and why everyone was so willing to make sacrifices for our country,” she said. “I hope it gives them a sense of strong patriotism and support of the Soldier, and the sacrifices they made for our freedom and security.”

“Through Eyes of Courage” can be purchased at *The Huntsville Times* or the Veterans Memorial Museum, or at davidandjudy.com. For more information about the World War II registry, visit <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>.

■ ‘Little Fox’ proud of her American Indian heritage

Memories

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“Years ago, I was working for the Corps of Engineers and during a Women’s History Month event I happened to learn about a Comanche woman named LaDonna Harris, who later went on to work in the White House. I became intrigued with her and read more about her fascinating story,” Morris said. “She founded a group called Americans for Indian Opportunity and it has always been a desire of mine to hear her speak and meet her in person.”

Reading and studying is just one aspect of Morris’ commitment to her heritage. She treasures the paintings her mother worked on and continues to share her

beading techniques with family and friends.

“I’ve made it a point to teach beading techniques to my 14 grandchildren,” she said. “I’ve just started making bowls, instruments and dipping spoons out of gourds and hope to share that with them as well.”

Many years ago, Morris recalls being told that Chief Red Cloud, a war leader of the Oglala Lakota Sioux, and one of the most capable Native American opponents the Army ever faced, is a distant cousin and that prompted her to begin researching her family tree.

“It’s important to know your family history,” Morris said. “One of the best things I have done is researching my family tree. It’s a great reminder and connection to my Native American heritage.”

Workers recognized for sharing technology

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center has honored 25 employees for their work to improve, modify or invent technology applications with industry and academia.

The concerted efforts of these employees should have direct applications to the AMRDEC's mission, enhance Army capabilities, and produce significant benefits to the private sector.

"We are very proud to honor these employees for the innovative technologies mechanism they've delivered to the lab," said Cindy Wallace, deputy chief of the Office of Research and Technology Applications. "The technology they create is truly an asset to AMRDEC and critical to our ability to serve our customers and communities well."

This year's Cooperative Research and Development Agreements included new designs and improvements for a wide range of technologies such as nano technologies, metal alloys, acoustics and sensors.

"We currently hold over 40 active CRADAs," Wallace said. "We have a strong history of innovation and will continue to place great importance on our technology transfer program as the AMRDEC moves forward."

CRADAs are legal instruments that are sanctioned by the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 and allow federal laboratories and R&D centers to conduct collaborative research and development with non-government organizations.

"The federal technology transfer programs are intended to make the most of the R&D budget and the expertise of both the government and



Courtesy photo

HONOREES— Members of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and the Aviation and Missile Command were honored for their efforts in promoting Technology Transfer in 2009. From left, they include George Winborne, Cindy Wallace, Michael Gray, Laura Ayers, Gary Jimmerson, Ken Greer, Theresa McBride, Evan Ezell, Janice Rock, Anne Foreman, Dr. Russ Alexander and Martha Knott. Not pictured are Mohan Sanghadasa, Zoltan Szoboszlay, Dayn Beam, Marsha Berry, Frank Blackwell, Mervin Brokke, Jonathan Mills, Loretta Painter, Mary Richards, Joe Grobmyer, Anne Lanteigne, Susan Flaherty, Steve Horn, Keith Hillard, Michael Baum and Glenn Hunter.

non-government scientist and engineers; increasing the return on investment of the federal R&D budget and helping federal agencies meet mission requirements while enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the world economy," Wallace said.

The AMRDEC's ORTA mission is to facilitate access of federally-funded

Research and Development efforts by private industry, academia, state and local governments, and non-profit organizations. This is accomplished primarily through marketing, technical outreach, cooperative research and development, and the licensing of intellectual property.

If you are interested in doing busi-

ness with AMRDEC, you may go to the AMRDEC website <http://www.redstone.army.mil/amrdec/> or call Cindy Wallace at 313-0895 or e-mail orta@redstone.army.mil. (*Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center release*)

World AIDS Day aims to increase awareness

World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, which started in 1988, is not just about raising money but also about increasing awareness, education and fighting prejudice.

World AIDS Day is designed to draw attention to the issue of HIV/AIDS and to give local leaders a rallying point around which to organize HIV/AIDS activities and programs, according to a release from Fox Army Health Center. Around 95 percent of people with HIV/AIDS live in developing nations. To successfully combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is necessary to stimulate involvement on all levels — from individuals to groups and institutions.

AIDS is a true weapon of mass destruction having become a global epidemic since the first reports of the disease over 25 years ago.

According to estimates there are 33.2 million people worldwide living with HIV, nearly half of them are women and girls between the ages of 15 and 24, including 2.5 million children. In 2005, it is estimated that 4.1 million became newly infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before the age of 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. Some 25 million have died of AIDS since the epidemic began.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2009 is “Universal Access and Human Rights.”

AIDS is a chronic, life threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus. By damaging or destroying the cells of your immune system, HIV interferes with your body’s ability to effectively fight off viruses, bacteria and fungi that cause disease. This makes a person more susceptible to certain types

of cancers and to opportunistic infections your body would normally resist, such as pneumonia and meningitis. The virus and the infection itself are known as HIV. The term acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is used to mean the later stages of an HIV infection.

Despite improved treatments and better access to care for people in the hardest-hit parts of the world, most experts agree that the pandemic is still in the early stages. With a vaccine probably decades away, the best hope for stemming the spread of HIV now lies in prevention, treatment and education.

To become infected with HIV, you must come in contact with infected blood, semen or vaginal secretions. You cannot become infected through ordinary contact — hugging, dancing or shaking hands with someone who has HIV or AIDS.

New recommendations by the CDC (September 2006) encourages voluntary HIV testing as a routine part of medical care for all adolescents and adults ages 13-64. HIV is diagnosed by testing your blood or oral mucus for the presence of antibodies to the virus.

The red ribbon is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that is worn by people all year round and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS, and to remind others of the need for their support and commitment.

For more information call Tami Centeno, public health nurse at Fox Preventive Medicine, at 955-8888 ext. 1444 or Rick Stock, health promotion educator, at 955-8888 ext. 1443. *(Fox Army Health Center release)*

Army historian traces roots to Arsenal's beginnings

Mike Baker's career spans three decades

By **CLAUS MARTEL**
AMCOM History Office

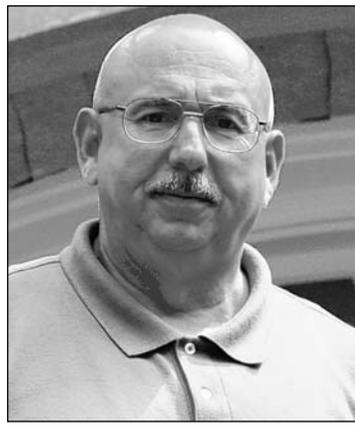
In November 1979, Mike Baker was working on building shrimp boats. It was while working on a boat when someone yelled to him that he needed to call home become someone from the Army was calling him about a job.

"Hard to believe that was 30 years ago," Baker mused in his Sparkman Center Office. "Thirty years... Wow."

The "job" was to work at the then Missile Command's History Office as the command's archivist. It was a job and an office that he would never leave.

Baker was born and raised in Americus, Ga. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia and his graduate work at Florida State. He was hired by Mary Cagle, the command historian, on Dec. 10, 1979.

"What few people today, if anyone, remembers about Mary Cagle is that she worked for the contractors that built (what was then) Huntsville Arsenal in 1941," Baker



Mike Baker

said. "So I guess you could say that my office is the only office on Redstone Arsenal that has a direct connection to the establishment of Redstone Arsenal almost 70 years ago."

In a little more than 10 years from his start in 1979, Baker became the command historian for MICOM in 1988. The office was located for many years on "C" wing in building 5250.

"My office and the rest of the history office were located in adjacent offices but in order to get from one office to the other, you had to go out in the hall and back into the other side. One of the first

things I had done was to put a door in to connect the office. No small feat back then with no funding. But the secretary to the general staff back then was an Army captain named Eddie Dickens, who we nicknamed 'Fast Eddie' Dickens. He was one of many just super Army officers I've had the privilege to meet, know and work for," Baker said.

Baker's staff in 1988 consisted of five people.

"That was really unheard of back in those days," he recalled. "I think the only other history staff that size was at Rock Island (Ill.) under the leadership of my old friend Jim Cooper."

Baker says that his stamp on Army history when he became command historian was to change how people looked at history and Army history in particular.

"Under Mrs. Cagle, our sole job was to crank out annual histories. We never conducted oral histories as mandated by Army regulation and we never were a presence within the command or installation," he said.

One of the first oral histories he and longtime senior historian Dr. Kaylene Hughes conducted was with departing MICOM com-

manding general Thomas Reese.

"We conducted the first oral history interview with (Maj. Gen.) Reese in July 1988. That was tough. General Reese did not want to leave and he was very emotional. I've never conducted an interview as tough as that one," Baker said.

In the ensuing 21 years since then, he conducted more than 200 oral history interviews.

"I've met with, briefed and worked for every MICOM and now (Aviation and Missile Command) commanding general since then. I think only one CG left here without an oral history being conducted. And I've met with, briefed and worked for every MICOM/AMCOM chief of staff except for one," Baker said.

He was asked what he thinks his most important accomplishment here has been.

"I don't think there's one specific thing," Baker said. "In 1994 when AMC eliminated the military SGS, I was the first interim civilian SGS and dual-hatted as command historian. And that coincided with moving into the John J. Sparkman Center for Missile Excellence in August 1994. That's what the Sparkman Center was actually named."

Baker's job was to move the MICOM Command Group over a weekend and make sure that on a Monday morning the command would be fully up and running.

"That was no small task. No one else was in the Sparkman Center and this was before the day when everyone had networked computers," he said.

After establishing the civilian SGS Office, Baker received another tasking.

"In June 1995, the announcement came that the Aviation and Troop Command was being split up and the aviation portion was coming to Redstone (from St. Louis)," Baker recalled.

Col. Cliff Broderick, the MICOM chief of staff, called Baker to his office. Baker said, "From June 1995 to July 1997, I don't think a day went by when I didn't speak with Broderick."

Baker's job was to work on the Command Group's continuity of operations plan, work on getting the AMCOM distinctive unit insignia, the AMCOM flag, the change of command/establishment of command, and work on a little meeting.

Roots

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“Little meeting?” Baker said with a laugh. “Right – the chief of staff of the U.S. Army, Gen. Dennis Reimer, comes to Redstone with almost every single general officer in the Army for one week. Little meeting...”

“You do know where ‘Mule’ comes from?” Baker asked, referring to his nickname. “Colonel Broderick used to say in meetings that I was his ‘horse.’ I told him that you don’t treat horses that badly and that I might as well be his ‘mule.’ I’ve had that nickname for over 12 years now.”

Reimer’s Senior Leadership Training week and the establishment of AMCOM on July 17, 1997 went well but there were a few bumps in the road as Baker remembered.

“First of all, all the historical records from ATCOM were either lost or misplaced. I’ve been working to recreate 70 years of aviation history from scratch. What made that time particularly hard was that my father died that October.”

Baker’s legacy within the Army historical community went beyond the gates of Redstone. He recalled “back in 1994, the Command Group did not have the funding for publishing our printed historical materi-

als. We were the first Army historical office that published online.”

Baker said this initiative did not initially go over well with other Army historians.

“I hosted a meeting of senior Army historians and did a dog and pony show for them. The fear of these historians was that the Internet was going to put them out of business – 140 million hits later to our website, no one is out of business,” he said.

Baker credits the office’s website success to several things.

“We were the first to make history, and specifically Army history at Redstone Arsenal, interesting. We put videos online which was a first at that time. We put everything we ever wrote that was unclassified and not detrimental to security or operations online. We had great help and visionary leadership to help us along the way,” he said.

In 2001, Baker was charged with many of the activities surrounding the 60th anniversary celebration of Redstone Arsenal.

“In 1991 when Redstone should have been celebrating the 50th anniversary, Operation DESERT STORM was finishing so the celebrations that summer surrounded our outstanding troops coming home. So in 2001, we kind of made up for what we were going to do in ‘91.”

In 2005, Baker was once again tasked

and charged with augmenting Huntsville’s Bicentennial celebrations.

“That was really a highlight of my career for two reasons. First, I had a chance through interviews with local media and put up a huge display in downtown Huntsville on the square to remind the community of the Army’s legacy here in the Huntsville community. Many today think that NASA pre-dates the Army at Redstone. It’s just the opposite,” he said. “Second, I had a chance to interview many of Redstone’s and AMCOM’s former key personnel and leaders. I interviewed former MICOM CGs using the Bicentennial as a conduit to getting some time with these guys.”

The timing could not have been better, Baker said.

“Within a year of the interviews, two former MICOM CGs died. One of the better decisions of my career was to interview these men, many of whom were World War II veterans. Lt. Gen. Charles Eifler, the MICOM CG from 1967 to 1969, fought in the Battle of the Bulge,” he said.

But the career highlight for Baker was the Explorer I 50th anniversary held on Jan. 31, 2008.

“What people don’t understand is that we’ve had great leaders over the last seven decades that made important decisions that impacted the history of the United States. Those impacts came from Redstone Arsenal,” he said. “If one of these

leaders had made a different decision, we would not be sitting here talking. I’d probably be teaching high school history in Americus, Ga., and coaching baseball, football and basketball.”

Baker produced a documentary on the history of the Free World’s first satellite, Explorer I, and produced and coordinated the command’s celebration of that event.

“I get goose bumps thinking about it,” Baker said. “Two of the last of Dr. Wernher von Braun’s rocket scientists were still alive for the events. And one, Konrad Dannenberg, sat next to me on one of the forum panels.”

Baker said he has no immediate plans for retirement.

“I’ve got some things I want to get finished here,” he mused. “First and always foremost, I want people to recognize why it’s important to remember why we’re here... where we’ve come from, where we’ve been, and why even small decisions made today will determine where we’ll be in another 70 years. I’ve got an office where all three of us are retirement eligible and there’s no one in the wings to replace any of us. I’d hate to throw away almost a century of corporate knowledge. I want to bring someone in who loves the history of the Army at Redstone Arsenal as much as I do. Unfortunately, I don’t have a slot or the authority. That would be the best 30th anniversary present for me.”

326th Chemical basketball team has new look

Defending preseason champion prepares with revamped roster

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

The annual Holiday Basketball Tournament enables teams to see what they have before the season starts.

It tips off Dec. 7 at Pagano Gym with games at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. The action continues Dec. 8-10, Dec. 14 and concludes with the final Dec. 15, according to recreation assistant Mike Potter. Game times are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Dec. 8; 6 and 7 p.m. Dec. 9; 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Dec. 10; 6 and 7 p.m. Dec. 14; and 6 and 7 (if necessary) Dec. 15.

The teams include defending champion 326th Chemical Company, HHC 59th, Bravo team 2, Bravo team 1, Marines, Headquarters & Alpha, National Guard, and Charlie Company.

"We've really revamped the team," 326th forward Darrin Johnson said. "We've got a lot of new players. One of our key players, Frank Stafford, hurt his knee. So it's going to be a little bit of a challenge for us but we're hoping to be competitive."

In last year's final, Stafford scored a game-high 29 points in a 60-54 win over HHC 59th. He scored 13 in the night's first game, a 63-62 win. As the losers bracket representative, the Dragons had to beat HHC 59th twice for the championship.

"(Stafford) may not be able to play since he hurt his knee," Johnson said. "We're hoping to get him back in the January time frame."

"We do have some new players we think are going to be able to give support to the team but not having played together we're not sure how it's going to mesh right now."

Johnson, a reservist, is chief of the systems management division in the Materiel and Supply Chain Management Directorate at AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center. Gregory Miller is the 326th coach.

The regular season should start sometime in January. HHC 59th is the defending post champion.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOOKING UP— HHC 59th forward Andrew Hildreth scores over 326th Chemical's Darrin Johnson in last year's holiday tournament final, but the 326th won both games for the championship.

Senior baseball team returns from tourney

By MARCO MORALES
For the Rocket

When Norberto Soto-Fuentes played little league baseball at age 10 in Caguas, Puerto Rico, he had no idea how much the game would affect him for the rest of his life.

Soto-Fuentes, the executive officer for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-1, recently returned from participating in a 52-team Roy Hobbs Baseball Tournament at Fort Myers, Fla., from Oct. 31 through Nov. 7. Soto-Fuentes, an avid shortstop and second baseman, along with fellow pitcher and third baseman, Glen Shonkwiler, SMDC/ARSTRAT Office of the Engineer, represented the Sparkman team of Huntsville which won 2 of 7 games. The Sparkman team is part of the Southern Senior Baseball League. The teams in this multi-bracketed tournament were made up of talented players from throughout the United States.

Soto-Fuentes, an Army retiree, plays baseball every chance he gets. The 43-year-old says baseball has affected almost every aspect of his life.

Florida holds slight edge over Alabama

Gators favored to chomp final

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

Here are this week's college football predictions (418-153 after 13 weeks):

- Florida at Alabama — **Florida**
- Oregon St. at Oregon — **Oregon**
- West Virginia at Rutgers — **WVU**
- Cincinnati at Pittsburgh — **Cincy**
- Fresno St. at Illinois — **Fresno**
- New Mexico St. at Boise St. — **Boise**
- Arizona at Southern Cal. — **USC**
- California at Washington — **Cal**
- South Florida at Connecticut — **UConn**
- Georgia Tech at Clemson — **Tech**
- Texas at Nebraska — **Texas**
- Wisconsin at Hawaii — **Wisconsin**



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@conference-bysigma.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.

Engineer society

This month's SOLE program and luncheon is Dec. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Tim Dix, SOLE executive board member, is the speaker. For reservations call Jane Campbell 544-1001 or Dave Welch 450-1620.

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.

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.

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

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.

Space society

HAL5 (local chapter of the National Space Society) will meet Thursday 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.

Engineer luncheon

Several engineering professional groups gather today at 11:30 for a joint holiday luncheon at the Holiday Inn Research Park near Madison Square Mall. Joe McInnes, head of the Alabama Department of Transportation, will address the members of the National Association of Professional Engineers, the Society of American Military Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and others. Cost of the meal is \$20. For reservations call Dan Foran 830-1031, ext.130 or e-mail dforan@shearerassociates.us.

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.



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



Courtesy photo

Veterans helping veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5162 makes its annual donation of turkeys to the Tut Fann Veterans Home. VFW Post 5162 donates the turkeys to the veterans home each year so the residents can invite members of their families and other loved ones to join them for Thanksgiving dinner. Receiving one of the eight turkeys are Carol Eaton, center, director of dietary service, and Tony Culberson, right, director Tut Fann Veterans Home. VFW Post 5162 commander Gary Helson, left, thanked the home for its service to veterans.

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

Civilian deployment

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

Mid-level engineers

The Test Directorate, Missile Defense Agency, will hold an Engineering Job Fair for Mid-level Engineers (only) to fill immediate vacancies. This event is Dec 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Workforce Integration Center, 5000 Bradford Drive. Applicants must have successful completion of a full four-year course of study in engineering from an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree. Bring at least 10 copies of your resume/transcripts. For more information, call Renee Stanley 955-2024.

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 Tues-

days. Contact your recruiter for more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King jwk108@yahoo.com or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

Officer candidates

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

Pilots wanted

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

Cadet program

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

Church bazaar

New Shiloh Church Ministries will have a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 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.

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 oppor-

tunity 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.

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.

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.

See **Announcements** on page 28



Courtesy photo

Canned goods

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter American Society of Military Comptrollers collected canned goods for Christmas Charities Year-Round at its monthly luncheon meeting Nov. 19. From left are Eura Reaves, Patsy Steakley, Roxanne Hopple and April East.

Rocket Announcements

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 post-marked 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.

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 Thursday's 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.

Dillard's appreciation day

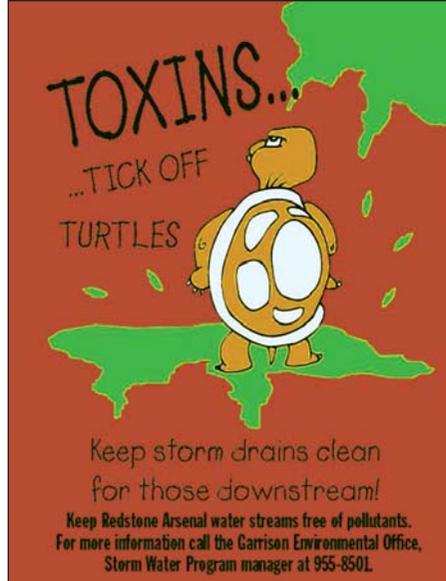
In appreciation of the military and their families, Dillard's is offering a 20% discount to active duty and retired military personnel and their immediate families on all purchases made Wednesday, Dec. 2 and Thursday, Dec 3. This discount applies to guardsmen, reservists and their immediate families. Offer good at both Dillard's Parkway Place and Madison Square. See store for details.

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.

Military blood drive

The Armed Services Blood Program will have a blood drive to benefit the troops

Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fox Den (basement classroom) at Fox Army Health Center.

Commissary holiday schedule

The Commissary will be open Dec. 20-24 and 26. It will close at 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and is closed on Christmas, Dec. 25. It is open Dec. 31 and closed on New Year's, Jan. 1.

Red Cross blood drives

Red Cross blood drives include the following: today from 7-noon at Army Corps of Engineers; Thursday from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center and at building 6263; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency; Dec. 10 from 7-noon at building 5400; Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Post Exchange, 7-noon at building 4545 and 7-noon at building 5681; Dec. 17 from 7-noon at building 5222; and Dec. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4487.

Technical societies

Huntsville Association of Technical Societies will hold its HATS Holiday Reception on Dec. 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Botanical Garden's Arbor Room. All area Technical Societies and their individual members are welcome to participate; and individuals are encouraged to participate whether their organizations attend as a group or not. Cost for individuals is \$15 and reservations are due by Thursday to stanblack04@yahoo.com. Society fee to participate is \$125 per organization and includes a display table and time at the podium to update on your organization's year and plans for 2010. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, entertainment and a chance to meet other professionals from different societies. Attendees may drive through the Galaxy of Lights that evening.

Craft show

Northeastern Alabama Craftsmen Association will hold its craft show Friday through Sunday at the Von Braun Center South Hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

