

# Redstone Rocket

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# Focused on Soldier mission

Maj. Gen. Myles says work force, teamwork translate into sustained success for Army

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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Building relationships — between military organizations; among Soldiers, civilians and contractors; throughout the Redstone community; and with city, state and national leaders — has been and will continue to be the key to meeting mission success for the Aviation and Missile Command.

No Army organization stands alone. AMCOM's commander, Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, knows that it's his organization's ability to build teaming relationships that will sustain success in providing Soldiers with the best aviation and missile systems during a time of up tempo support, tight budgets, high expectations and fast turnaround programs.

"This past year has been very successful in the context that the mission we have at AMCOM and Team Redstone has been met. Our priority is to provide what is needed to support Soldiers who are defending our country," Myles said during an interview in his office on the fifth floor of the Sparkman Center's building 5300.

"We have been able to sustain our support at a very high level with a high band of excellence."

Myles defines an effective organization as one that can "sustain excellence over a period of time and, holistically, be able to exceed all expected standards over time. Its value of performance increases over time."

By that definition, AMCOM and its partners — Program Executive Office for Aviation, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center,



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**APPRECIATES WORK FORCE— AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles thanks Team Redstone's motivated and dedicated work force. He said the workers and AMCOM's working relationships resulted in mission success in 2009 and will continue to position AMCOM as one of the Army's best examples of life cycle management.**

among others — are examples of effective organizations, he said, adding that the ability to continue to support Soldiers at a high rate is due to motivated, highly skilled and experienced employees — both civilians and contractors.

"AMCOM employees are driven by the desire to assure our Soldiers have everything they need to execute the mission and come home safely," Myles said. "This work force is amazing at seeing what needs to get done and then getting it done."

The ideal AMCOM employee, the general said, "is one who recognizes it's not about themselves. It's about others — the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who they are taking care of and that's their mission."

AMCOM's performance has made it one of the top organizations within the Army Materiel Command.

"We are consistently recognized as the model for life cycle

management and for taking on the materiel enterprise approach," Myles said.

"When (AMC commander) General (Ann) Dunwoody briefs four stars and senior leaders she always refers to this aviation and missile enterprise as a model for the whole Army."

That doesn't mean that 2009 — and consequently 2010 — haven't come without their challenges. Myles said the "turbulence of growth as related to BRAC (2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations) has created an ever increasing need for highly qualified personnel in the Tennessee Valley."

AMCOM — as with other Army organizations — is committed to providing employees the freedom to seek better opportunities both within AMCOM, and with partner organizations and private industry. At the same time, AMCOM must manage to maintain its

up tempo performance while working through issues related to employee turnover.

"We want to encourage employees to go wherever they see their best opportunity because we know a happy employee is an effective employee," Myles said. "I hope our employees come to work every day knowing they are coming to a place where people respect each other, where their accomplishments are rewarded, where their work is valued and where people really care for each other.

"A lot of great Americans receive less money so they can work in a place that's more rewarding to them. We have to make sure the work force knows how important they are, and that their contributions are recognized and rewarded."

The entire Arsenal work force will be affected as more and more BRAC-related changes become reality. Although some changes have already occurred — such as the merger of the Redstone Technical Test Center and Fort Rucker's Aviation Technical Test Center into the Redstone Test Center, the standing up of the Army's Security Assistance Command at Redstone and the growing number of employee transfers and hires with the Army Materiel Command, the Missile Defense Agency and other organizations — Myles said the Redstone community will see even more significant changes during 2010 and into 2011. The deadline for all 2005 BRAC-related changes is Sept. 15, 2011.

"I ask that all our employees open their doors to our newest employees and greet them with our Southern hospitality," Myles said. "We need to all recognize the changes going on around us. AMC headquarters will be here shortly. Welcome them with open arms and show them the Southern charm this community is known for."

See Mission on page 3

# An open lane random survey

## What's your New Year's resolution?

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



**Danielle Moore**  
Education Center  
"I'm going to get my 4.0 back in law school. After I dropped down to 3.5. That's my New Year's resolution, I guess. Just to try to work and get ahead."

Gaybrielle Valverde  
Garrison Resource Management

"My New Year's resolution is to finish my bachelor's degree. I've only been working on it six years (laugh)."



**Edward Givan**  
Post Exchange  
"Graduate college. I've been in school too long. Trying to get that degree."

Master Sgt. Cory Everhardt  
832nd Ordnance Battalion  
S-3 (Operations)

"My New Year's resolution is to get back into Iraq shape – because I'm getting older."



# Motorist concerned about deer strikes

In 2009, I was struck by a deer on Redstone Road just east of Warehouse Road. There is a line of trees and underbrush that proceeds almost to Redstone Road. There is insufficient clearance to be able to see ahead of time when deer approach this area. I was wondering if there is any way to have this tree line cut back so there would be more clearance. I believe it would reduce the possibility of future deer strikes.

**Byron Smith**  
AMCOM G-8  
(Resource Management)

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your letter. While it is unfortunate that your vehicle was struck by a deer, we are proud that the overall number of deer collisions on Redstone this year is down 40 percent from last year and 47 percent from 2007. We have looked at the area where your collision occurred and believe there are some steps we can take around Redstone Road to help drivers and reduce the potential for*

*deer strikes in the future.*

*"The area just east of Warehouse Road is used heavily by deer to cross Redstone Road because it provides the most undeveloped travel corridor between major habitat areas to the north and south. So we can expect deer to continue to use this area as a crossing.*

*"Since this area will continue to be used by deer to cross Redstone Road, we will put up deer crossing signs to the east and west of this area to remind motorists to be watchful. During our inspection of the area, we found that the timber stand that you pointed out on the south side of Redstone Road is relatively open. However, it has been taken over by very dense growth of Chinese privet, one of the invasive species we are working to control here on Redstone. We can clear some of the privet close to the road and add this area to our prescription fire program this year. This should make it much easier for drivers to see deer approaching the road and avoid them. It will also make it much easier for the deer to see and hopefully avoid the cars."*

# Sturdier paper appreciated

Just wanted to say "thank you so much" to whoever decided to purchase the "plush" toilet paper! That thin stuff was really inexcusable!

In that regard, is there any way to purchase sturdier paper towels as well?

**Joyce A. Scharf**  
IMMC

# Letter policy

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



# Getting to know you

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

**Name:** Angela Wilkerson

**Job:** Logistics management specialist, 2nd Recruiting Brigade S-4 (Supply)

**Where do you call home?**  
Chicago, Ill.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I like the challenge. It's definitely a challenge, and I enjoy it. I enjoy the challenge of this job basically.



**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I like to watch old movies and listen to old music.

**What are your goals?**  
I don't have any goals right now. I just take one day at a time and take life as it is.

**What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?**  
The top of my bucket list is to marry my son off to some lucky young lady. That's it. Just straight up – marry him off. He's 24, he's the only child.

# Redstone Rocket

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# Quote of the week

Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average. Which means you've met your New Year's resolution.

– Jay Leno

■ Commanding general thanks everyone for 'great year'

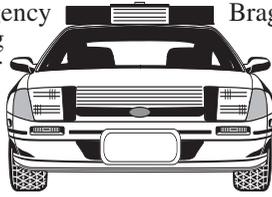
# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Dec. 28:** A contractor was found to be driving with a suspended Georgia driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Dec. 28:** Two subjects at Gate 9 were found to be illegal immigrants. After coordination with Immigration Customs Enforcement officials, they were processed and released.

**Dec. 28:** A Soldier was arrested by Winston County sheriff deputies for desertion. He was later released to Redstone law enforcement and processed to his Fort



Bragg, N.C., unit.

**Dec. 28:** Post Exchange security observed a subject shoplifting in the main exchange. The subject was processed by Redstone law enforcement and released.

**Dec. 30:** A subject at Gate 1 was found to be driving with a suspended Georgia driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Traffic accidents reported:** four without injury, including two which involved deer strikes, and none with injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 3 speeding, 2 driving while suspended, 4 traffic control device, 1 improper backing and 1 inattentive driving.

## Mission

continued from page 1

He also urged existing employees to have patience as the Arsenal grows in employment numbers and capabilities. "With more people comes more traffic, more construction delays. But eventually things will get better," he said.

For Myles, the challenges often revolve around providing existing and incoming employees with the services they need to perform their job and to enjoy the amenities that make the Tennessee Valley a great place to live and work. As AMCOM's and Redstone Arsenal's commander, he spends much of his time communicating with local, state and national leaders on projects that affect the Arsenal working environment.

"We are continuing to collaborate with the leadership of the Tennessee Valley and the state to ensure our critical infrastructure needs are recognized and action is taken," he said.

Road projects, including improvements at Gate 7 on Martin Road, the construction of a quadruple bypass around Huntsville, the widening of Highway 53 and Winchester Road, and other improvements on roads west of the Arsenal, along with the area's educational systems, health care and work force development are all high priority items for Redstone Arsenal.

"The education piece is so important. We need to sustain and improve our educational system here while at the same time grow the system by 10,000 children," Myles said. "We are seeing a significant impact right now in Tennessee Valley schools. But we also predict a significant impact in 2012 and 2020. We want to ensure quality of education for children who we hope to reach out and hire someday."

As one of the Army's largest civilian installations, the local and state community is much more entwined with the Arsenal population than on installations with large Soldier popu-

lations. As a result, the "local community has a significant impact on our work force. Our employees have lived and worked here for a long time," the general said.

Myles said his "interaction with the local community and senior leaders at the local, state and federal level is much higher than I had anticipated. But it is important to make sure an environment is created that allows the work force to come onto the Arsenal in a safe way and that we have the right environment for our families so that our work force can focus on the job that needs to be done."

**A**lthough local and state leaders are facing challenging issues, Myles said it has been rewarding to work with Tennessee Valley leaders. "The relationship we have with the Tennessee Valley is as close a relationship that I've ever seen between an installation and a community in my 35 years in the Army," he said.

AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal leadership are focused on assuring that "the right environment is set for the work force to execute their mission. Leaders must provide a safe environment, ensure that employees clearly understand the mission and make sure employees are resourced to accomplish the mission," he said.

Mentioning Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco of PEO for Missiles and Space; Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby of PEO for Aviation; Robin Buckleby, acting executive director of AMRDEC; Ronnie Chronister, the AMCOM deputy commander; and all of Team Redstone's deputies and program managers, Myles said "this leadership team is focused on one effort and that's the Soldier. I wouldn't trade this group of leaders with anyone."

And, adding to that mix Team Redstone's employees, Myles continued: "At the end of the day, I want to thank everyone for a great year. The work force is in my prayers. I look forward to working with this great team during 2010. I enjoy working with the best of the best, and that's what we have here at Team Redstone."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Top 50

AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates dons his 50th birthday cap Dec. 15 as members of the Command Group help him celebrate the milestone. "This is my family," he said.

# Operation Christmas Bear brings Christmas cheer

*Youngsters of deployed troops entertained by volunteers*

By **AMY GUCKEEN**  
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Their Christmas list was simple – to have mommy or daddy home for the holidays.

On Dec. 12, some 200 volunteers from the community took time out of their busy Saturday to give a special gift to 350 children of active, National Guard and Reserve, and DoD civilians currently deployed in a war zone at the sixth annual Operation Christmas Bear.

“It’s wonderful to see so many great people supporting Soldiers and their family members at probably the most important time of the year,” Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said.

The Cahaba Shrine Temple in Huntsville was transformed into a child’s winter wonderland, complete with face painting, a magician, clowns, cookies, live music, Santa land, Mrs. Claus and even Thomas the Tank Engine choo chooing around a train track.

For Isaac Gamble and his mom Sarah, the event was not just a time to celebrate the holidays, but to also remember dad and husband Jason serving in Iraq.

“It’s really sad,” Sarah said. “I was sitting here getting teary eyed looking at all the military uniforms. At home I don’t see it every day.”

Lucky Isaac had the opportunity to speak to his dad in the car on the way to the event.

“He told him to have lots of fun, that he loves him and to take lots of pictures,” Gamble said.

Volunteers like Katherine Calvert, 16, helped to ease the sorrow of missing a parent and spouse at Christmas at the various play stations. Her responsibility for the afternoon was transforming kids into train conductors.

“I’m proud of our servicemembers overseas,” Calvert said of her volunteerism with the Military Order of the World Wars. “I like to take advantage of every opportunity I can.”

Sirens rang as the guest of honor, Santa, made his appearance by fire truck, bringing new meaning to the words “Santa Claus is coming to town.” Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, and even the Grinch took a break to help welcome the jolly old elf as the kids shouted in excitement. Each child had the opportunity to have a one-on-one session with Santa and received a special teddy bear.

All the holiday cheer was a welcome diversion for Holly Forester, and her son, Benjamin Potter, 8, whose husband and stepfather, Staff Sgt. Reid Forester, has



Photo by Amy Guckeen

**FACE PAINT—** Isaac Gamble waits patiently as a teddy bear is painted on his face. Isaac had the opportunity to speak to his father, Jason, deployed to Iraq, prior to the event, who told him “that he loves him and to take lots of pictures,” mom Sarah said.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

**POSTER CHILD—** Jamal Burks Jr. sends holiday wishes to the 375th Engineer Company.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

**CLOWNS—** Bubbles and Checkers, left, work diligently to create everything from balloon animals to swords for the children.

been deployed to Iraq since September.

“Christmas has been the hardest so far,” Holly said. “It is just a time when loved ones are supposed to come home and be close together, and that simply isn’t possible. Operation Christmas Bear was absolutely fabulous in that it took away some of the sadness of missing our loved one during the holiday season. It also helped our Soldier far away, because we made things there that we ended up sending him so he could have something festive from home.”

## 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:

### Bowling league

Short Season Bowling League will be held each Tuesday at 6 p.m. beginning Jan. 12 at Redstone Lanes. For more information or to register, call Christal Howard at 876-2073 or e-mail christal.howard@us.army.mil.

### Scale Back Alabama

FMWR Sports and Fitness is serving as an official weigh-in site for the statewide program Scale Back Alabama, Jan. 20 through April 16. Teams of four will compete to see if all team members can lose at least 10 pounds (1 pound per week). Official weigh-in sites are Pagano Gym, Redstone Fitness Center and Sparkman Fitness Center. Two informational meetings will be held Jan. 20, at Pagano Gym at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Sparkman Center. Register your teams by Jan. 22. Initial weigh-in is Jan. 23-29. For more information, call Gaylene Wilson at 842-2574 or visit [www.scalebackalabama.com](http://www.scalebackalabama.com).

### Army Family Team Building

Army Family Team Building Level I, Army 101, will be taught from 6-8:30 p.m. Jan. 12-14 at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Child care is available with advance registration, and food will be provided each night. To register for this class or for more information, call ACS at 876-5397.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

**MRS. CLAUS—** Alexandria Hayes, left, and Jeanette Massuy take a break from the hustle and bustle to read a book with Mrs. Claus.

Holly and Benjamin sent a T-shirt, ornament, coupon book and picture with Santa to Iraq for Reid to enjoy. Benjamin was one of many children to receive a prize in the toy drawing.

“I was very impressed with all the things available for the children and their families to do together, and was very grateful that all these wonderful volunteers would come out and put all this together to spread some Christmas cheer to those of us having a hard time,” Holly said. “It was a beautiful thing to see, all those smiling children’s faces. It was very nice to see the Army men and women who were still here at home helping.”

# Free cinema shows every Friday at Heiser Hall

## Movie nights open to Team Redstone

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

Staff writer

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With people tightening their belts these days, many are trimming entertainment dollars from their budgets. Thanks to Free Movie Fridays at Redstone, saving money doesn't mean losing fun.

Every Friday evening at 6, Heiser Hall opens its doors to the Redstone community and serves as the installation theater. The movies are newer releases, not re-showings of older films.

"Some are still in theaters, some have just left theaters," DeLisa Francis, recreation delivery system coordinator for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "But they're not on DVD yet."

The program began as a way to provide entertainment to Soldiers who were unable to leave post. It has grown to welcome all of the Redstone community.

"This is for everyone who has installation access," Francis said. "A lot of people wanted this and have asked for it. It's been brought up at Army Family Action Plan meetings many times."

An Army & Air Force Exchange Service program lets FMWR receive movies on a weekly basis free of charge, so an

admission fee isn't necessary to cover the cost of the film. The only cost involved is at the concession stand, where Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offers

popcorn, sodas and candy as a fund-raiser.

Free Movie Friday has been growing steadily in popularity since it went full time in June. Francis credits the populari-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**IN THEATER— DeLisa Francis, recreation delivery system coordinator for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, works the controls each week. Free Movie Fridays are presented by FMWR and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.**

ty of the titles they've shown for the steady stream of attendees.

"Our last two movies were 'The Hangover' and 'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince,'" she said. "We're averaging 60 to 70 people every Friday night."

Heiser Hall accommodates 226 people, so there is still plenty of room for more moviegoers.

Because they receive their movies each Monday, it is difficult to publish advance listings for upcoming showings. Once the movies are received, they go through an approval process before the title is announced. Francis said they then try to get the word out quickly.

"Our marketing team sends out an e-mail blast to all of Redstone with the details two or three times during the week," she said. "We also put up flyers all over Redstone."

Francis encourages everyone to come have a low-cost night out. For less than the price of one movie theater Coke, you can have a movie and refreshments. Plus the money from the goodies goes directly to a worthwhile organization.

The popularity of the program is helping to ensure Free Movie Friday sticks around.

"We appreciate everyone coming out to support this," Francis said. "We're working hard to make this a constant and successful program for Redstone."

# 'Make my tooth fall out'

*Arsenal children share wishes during Santa's pre-Xmas visit*

By KARI HAWKINS  
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For many children, Santa Claus comes to their neighborhoods quietly in the night, sneaking down their chimneys to place presents under the tree. But for the kids of Redstone Arsenal, Santa makes a special pre-Christmas Eve visit that includes lots of noise from bells and whistles, a bellyful of "Ho, Ho, Hoes!" and shouts of "Merry Christmas to all!"

Santa Claus and his rambunctious

group of merry elves once again visited children in Arsenal neighborhoods on Dec. 12. Escorted by Arsenal police officers and firefighters, and hosted by the Sergeants Major Association, Santa's visit was heralded by the sounds of sirens and the flashing of emergency lights.

The bells and whistles brought children – and some adults — running from houses throughout the neighborhoods, many dressed in their pajamas and slippers with a coat thrown on to chase away the cold. Babies as young as 1-month-old were bundled up and brought out to visit with old St. Nick. Older children greeted Santa in their basketball robes, car slippers and camouflage pajamas.

"Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!" Santa exclaimed as he invited children to

sit on his lap, tell him what they want for Christmas and smile for a parent's camera. Elf Doug Patrick led the volunteers of the Sergeants Major Association as they helped the children up into the back of a fire department pickup truck and onto Santa's lap.

Michael Deitz, 4, whispered into Santa's ear his wish for a blue rocketship suit, 5-year-old Madison Williams asked for a toy puppy and 7-year-old Shayne Austin wished for "the biggest Nerf gun." The Bell siblings all asked for something different – Eric, 13, asked for an iPod Touch; Erica, 12, asked for "the best Christmas ever and a safe trip to New York City"; and Erin, 10, asked for a "whole bunch of Barbie dolls."

Some children left Santassess their Christmas letter. One, with a village colored in crayon on orange paper, said simply "Merry Christmas Santa. I love Santa" while another child asked for an Xbox 360, writing "I will clean my room, promise." Another child asked for a Playstation 3, explaining "I have good grades this year." Another letter, colored with crayons, asked for the Littlest Pet Shop and a Seahorse Littlest Pet Shop along with "love for my family" and "make my tooth fall out."

Each child along the Santa Run received a promise from Santa that he would talk to their parents about making their dreams come true. He and his elves also gave them a fistful of candy and a Christmas memory of a visit they will not soon forget.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**BABY, SO TENDER—** During their first stop on the Santa Run, Santa Claus and his elf pause to enjoy the real meaning of Christmas – the gift of a baby, so tender and mild. New mom Teresa Torres brought her month-old baby Kristina out in the cold air for just a few minutes so that the baby could visit with Santa for the first time.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CHRISTMAS TREAT—** Redstone Arsenal's number one elf – retired Sgt. Maj. Doug Patrick – gives Christmas candy to Kaden Smith, 3, after his visit with Santa Claus. With him is his mom, Jennifer Smith. His dad is Pfc. Ryan Smith.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CUDDLING WITH SANTA—** Caytlin Ray Josey, 2, cuddles up to Santa as he gives her the wish she asked for — candy. She is the daughter of Pvt. Brian Josey.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SMILES FOR SANTA—** Kids are never too old to visit with Santa. Just ask the Bell siblings. Enjoying their moment with Santa are, from left, Erin Bell, 10, Erica Bell, 12, and Eric Bell, 13. They are the children of Sgt. 1st Class Keith and Catina Bell.

# Redstone artists draw worldwide recognition

## Army Arts and Crafts contest produces 14 local winners

By AMY GUCKEEN  
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As a student, Linda Morton's art teacher gave her an "A" for her quiet demeanor – and told her to never take an art class again. She had no talent.

The 2009 Army Arts and Crafts Contest would beg to differ.

Morton received third place in the contest for her water-based painting "Brake Wheel," joining fellow Redstone winner Leslie Wood, who received third place in fibers and textiles, mixed media 3D and metal and jewelry, and seven others from the installation. More than 490 pieces of art from Army installations across the world were entered. The contest was open to deployed Soldiers, as well as Guard and Reserve Soldiers, civilians and family members, according to Jean Neal, program analyst with FMWRC-Community Recreation in San Antonio.

"Contest judges, professionals in arts and crafts fields, commented on the high degree of talent and inspiration in the contest entries," Neal said.

Morton and her husband Joe arrived in Huntsville from St. Louis in 1997, thanks to BRAC. Once a secretary for a construction company, the move for Morton turned her passion for art from a hobby to a full-time profession.

"I can't live without it. It's so much a part of me. Without it, I might as well be dead," said Morton, who is largely self-taught in her artwork, learning most of her



Photo by Amy Guckeen

**PROLIFIC—** Linda Morton displays one of the hundreds of pieces she has done in her art room, at her home in Madison.

craft from books. "It's so much a part of me, it's just like breathing. I have to do it."

Despite the opinion of her art teacher, today Morton holds the honor of being the only artist in Alabama to hold Signature Status with the Colored Pencil Society of America, and has had her work shown across the country. Working in everything from multimedia to watercolor, pastels to graphite and mixed medium, Morton prefers colored pencil and acrylic.

Her award-winning piece, "Brake Wheel," captures the brake wheel of a

train, used to slow the train down in the event that the brakes fail. The realistic style of the painting, Morton's preferred style, captures one of Morton's favorite art expressions – depicting something in an unexpected way.

"I take things from strange perspectives," Morton said. "I want it to be different and look different."

"Each painting is different. I hope they (the viewer) find serenity, peace, enjoyment, power, strength. Each painting tells its own story. It has its own meaning and its own feeling."

While Morton has spent years establishing her career as an artist, Wood has just begun to pioneer her pathway in the art world, even though she entered her first art contest in the second-grade. As an aerospace engineer doing risk manage-



Courtesy photo

**ANGEL—** Leslie Wood's "Red Junk Angel" received third place in the category of mixed media 3D.

ment for NASA's Constellation Orion Project's Launch Abort System at the Marshall Space Flight Center, Wood spends her days engineering, and her nights art journaling and hammering out pieces.

"It's kind of an escape," Wood said of her artwork, which has taken on new meaning for her since she enrolled in a few art courses at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. "I do it for my own joy. It's taken me further than I thought it would."

Finding that others find joy in her work as well, and that she can even win awards for it, has been twice the fun.

"It's fun, an honor really," Wood said of her honors in the Army contest. "It thrills me when somebody loves it so much they want to take it home."

## Arts and crafts honor roll

Congratulations to the following winners of the Army Arts and Crafts Contest from Redstone Arsenal:

### Accomplished category —

- Angela Sekerak, drawing, "Freed," first place
- Linda Morton, drawing, "Anemones," honorable mention
- Leslie Wood, fibers and textiles, "Small Green Collage Bag," third place
- Leslie Wood, metal and jewelry, "African Shield Series Flower," third place
- Linda Morton, mixed media 2D, "Ballerinas In the Breeze," honorable mention
- Leslie Wood, mixed media 3D, "Red Junk Angel," third place
- Linda Morton, water base painting, "Brake Wheel," third place
- George Tatum, water base painting, "From Cotton Fields to the Moon," honorable mention

### Novice category —

- Joshua Hanson, drawings, "Janie," second place
- Patricia Tatum, glass, "3 Dolphins Swimming," first place
- Joshua Hanson, mixed media 3D, "Jamie," third place
- Gary Braden, water base painting, "America Art," first place
- Charles Mullins, wood, "Grandfather Clock," second place
- David Wilson, wood, "The Keep," third place

# Research development lab under construction

Product Director for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment held a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 17 for PD TMDE's new Research & Development Laboratory Facility at building 3655 on Army TACMS Road.

Col. John Myers, project manager for Joint Combat Support Systems; George Mitchell, product director for TMDE; and Robert Cox, operations chief for PD TMDE, officiated the ceremony with representatives from the Garrison Project Engineers Office and

the project contractor CCI in attendance. Construction is expected to be completed by June.

PD TMDE develops, acquires, deploys and supports standardized, general-purpose, test, measurement, diagnostic and calibration equipment that supports all levels of maintenance for multiple Army Weapon Systems and Vehicle Platforms. PD TMDE consists of four major product lines: Test Equipment Modernization, Calibration Sets, Off-Platform Automatic Test Systems, and

At-Platform Automatic Test Systems.

The building plans call for a 7,000 square foot facility, which will include a technologically advanced R&D lab for Calibration Sets and a new R&D lab for the Test Equipment Modernization program. Once completed, the state-of-the-

art facility will support PD TMDE's research on improving the readiness of current and future Army weapon systems and vehicle platforms, and facilitate PD TMDE's continuing goal of providing Soldiers enhanced test capabilities for the 21st century.



Courtesy photo

**BREAKING GROUND—** From left are Col. John Myers, project manager for Joint Combat Support Systems; George Mitchell, product director for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment; Patrick Largent, information management officer/information assurance manager for PD TMDE; Kevin Gould, assistant product manager for Test Equipment Modernization, PD TMDE; Russ Fleming, assistant product manager for Calibration Sets, PD TMDE; Richard Maranville of Garrison Project Engineers Office; and Matt Prater, construction and QC inspector, CCI Group.

# Tax Assistance Center makes return for 2010

By Capt. DEREK EICHHOLZ  
For the Rocket

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center will reopen on Jan. 26.

The Tax Assistance Center provides free personal income tax return preparation to all active duty, reservists on active duty for more than 29 days, retired military personnel, and the dependents of all these individuals. The center also provides free tax services to surviving family members of active component, reserve component, and retired members of the armed forces who would have been eligible if the service or retired member were alive. The center is in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax and Zeus roads. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The center is supervised by a judge advocate and staffed by volunteers trained to the standard demanded by the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. These volunteers are trained and tested according to IRS approved standards. Additionally they are trained to address military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits, the effect of the new Earned Income Tax Credit guidelines, and the new Military Residency Relief Act. The supervising attorney oversees all tax assistance services including the preparation, advice and electronic filing. If you choose direct deposit, you may receive your refund in as little as 10-14 days.

Unlike many commercial tax preparation facilities, the center is a permanent facility and has been recently renovated to

provide greater comfort, ease of access, and privacy throughout the preparation of your return. These renovations include ceiling and wall repairs, heating and air-conditioning unit repairs, new furniture, newly carpeted floors and partition walls.

If you would like to take advantage of the free services provided by the center, you should call 842-1040 to schedule an appointment. Clients should bring the following items to their meeting with the tax preparer:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Current year's tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form

W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers

- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)

Finally, to file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

For more information, call 876-1040 or you may visit the center at [www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html](http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html).

## Command honors contract competition efforts



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**POSTER WINNER—** AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister presents an award to poster campaign winner Eric Denson, an information technology specialist.

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
[skip.vaughn@htimes.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@htimes.com)

Of the \$18.9 billion awarded in contracts throughout AMCOM in 2009, some \$5.5 billion was done competitively.

"That is indeed excellent," Shelley Muhammad, competition advocate for the Aviation and Missile Command, said.

The Competition Management Office held an awards ceremony Dec. 15 to present commercial item significant awards, competition achievement awards, and a poster campaign award.

"I want to thank you all for what you've done to deserve this recognition," said AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister, who made the presentations.

Eric Denson, an information technology specialist for AMCOM Chief Information Officer G-6, won the poster campaign.

"They put out an e-mail for a new poster that reflects competition. And I put something together and it won," Denson said of the winning entry he submitted in August. "I threw together a poster about acquisition and competition. And they liked it. They wanted something to reflect how competition's good for the base."

Commercial Item Significant Acquisition Awards went to Lettorkenny Army Depot, Pa., Product Director for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment, Lower Tier Project Office, and Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office.

Competition Achievement Awards went to Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office, Tactical Operations Centers Product Office, Aviation Systems Project Office, and Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.



Courtesy photo

### Scout wrapper

Glen Meza of Wolf Cub Scout of Pack 451 donated unwrapped gifts then spent some time volunteering at the Toys for Tots location at the old Goody's store on South Parkway. He counted and marked items donated by businesses then shelved items according to age and gender.

# Answering the call of a wandering spirit

*Worker's love of travel and service takes her to Iraq to support troops*

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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A wandering spirit – combined with the desire to help Soldiers – took the Garrison's Angela Bailey halfway around the world.

As a quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance) – or QASAS – employee and an Air Force Reserve master sergeant, Bailey has had plenty of opportunities to travel with her work. She added Iraq to her list of destinations during a six-month tour where she worked at two ammunition supply points – with three months in Talil and the other three months in Balad. She returned in late November.

“Like the military, they need QASAS employees to cycle through and go to Iraq,” Bailey said. “I had a very strong feeling of obligation to go to Iraq. Eventually, I would have been assigned to deploy. Sometimes it's better to pick the time that's best to go and volunteer. You're more in control that way and you can prepare yourself better.”

QASAS employees, who are trained at the

Defense Ammunition Center in McAlester, Okla., are charged with inspecting the quality and reliability of the Army's ammunition stockpile. They sign a mobility agreement that states they will relocate every three to five years.

Bailey was assigned to Redstone Arsenal's Garrison in July 2008 to inspect the ammunition used by Soldiers in training and the missiles used in testing as well as the ammunition stored in the earth-covered magazines that dot the south side of the Arsenal. Before that, she was assigned to the Anniston Army Depot.

In May 2009, she volunteered for a deployment to Iraq, where she worked for the Army Materiel Command to inspect all types of ammunition, including grenades, shoulder-fired rockets, mortar rounds and tank rounds, before assigning it to Soldier units.

“In Iraq, we worked 12 hour days, seven days a week. We did tons and tons and tons of ammunition inspections,” she said. “There was a lot of work outside. You see so much in that kind of environment. We inspected all items coming in and going out to the units. You had to make sure everything you were giving the Soldiers is serviceable, in good condition and not hazardous.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SETTLING DOWN FOR NOW—** Angela Bailey, a quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance) assigned to the Garrison, is back home from a six-month deployment to Iraq. The deployment was appealing to Bailey for two reasons – she loves to travel and she loves to provide hands-on support to Soldiers in theater. Bailey, standing in front of maps displaying the ground-covered magazines she inspects on Redstone Arsenal, hopes to deploy again in the future.

See **Spirit** on page 11

# Spirit

continued from page 10

When Soldiers returned from missions, they were required to turn in their unused ammunition for inspection. Undamaged ammunition was returned to the inventory for reissue on another mission. But items such as mishandled or dropped rocket motors, dropped and damaged Hellfire missiles, ammunition with broken links and ammunition with serial numbers rubbed off had to be removed from inventory.

“I worked with Soldiers and Army civilians,” Bailey said. “The ammunition was pretty much the same from one place to another. It was pretty much all missiles and rockets and signal flares. But, at Talil and Balad, the bases themselves were very different.

“Talil is brown and flat, and really far south. Balad is busier. It’s greener and not as flat. You can see farmers with sheep in their fields, and little kids playing and working in the fields.”

Bailey enjoyed working with Soldiers, so much so that she hopes to return to Iraq for a second deployment.

“There’s no way to mentally prepare yourself for 12 hour days, seven days a week. But you just get used to it,” she said. “You get to so do much, and you get to help and make a difference. I really enjoy that.”

Bailey said everyone – Soldiers, civilians and contractors – can learn a lot about themselves and others from participating in a deployment.

“Anyone deploying should use their deployments as an opportunity to learn. They should take pride in their work, no matter what it is, because it will affect other people,” she said. “And keep an open mind because nothing is ever all bad.”

For civilians or contractors who are deploying, Bailey suggested they get in touch with who they will be working for to find out about the living and working conditions, and the things they should take with them on deployment.

“I took too much stuff with me when I deployed,” she said. “If I did it all over again I would take four to six lightweight cargo pants, 10 T-shirts and good running

shoes. I would also take my teddy bear and a very nice set of sheets.”

Bailey enjoyed the camaraderie and teamwork that she and other civilians shared with Soldiers.

“I was surprised about the community – the sense of community – among U.S. military, several foreign militaries, DoD/DA civilians and contractors,” Bailey said. “There’s a huge amount of people there, ages 17 to 70, and some have been there for years. It was astounding to see so many people from so many different countries and cultures all working together. There are a lot of good people in this world.”

Although most of her time was spent working, Bailey recalled two highlights of her deployment – one involving a simulation and the other a trip in a helicopter.

“Our boss wanted us to go through MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle roll-over training,” she said. “So, we put on the gear and went through the MRAP simulation. The MRAP rolled over and then we had to be able to get out of it.

“The other thing that was really neat was, right before I left to come home, I was flown down to Baghdad in a Black Hawk. It was my first time in one. It was very, very nice and very exciting. I also saw some of the palaces.”

The only downside of the deployment, she said, was missing her husband, and not being home to enjoy her Martin houses and gardening at her Huntsville home.

Bailey’s career in the munitions field began in 1981, when she left her college studies in civil engineering to enlist in the Air Force. One of the first things she had to do was choose a military occupational specialty.

“At the time, I just didn’t know what I wanted to do,” she said. “They suggested munitions specialist, so that’s where I ended up. It was such a man’s career field. But when they started telling me I’d never make it, I dug in my heels and I’ve been doing this ever since. I’m stubborn that way. I also enjoy hard work and being outside. I’ve always been sort of a tomboy.”

She spent 13 years in the active Air Force, during which she served in such places as Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; Abu Dhabi Air Force Base; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz.; Nellis



Courtesy photo

**INSPECTION—** During her deployment as a QASAS employee with the Army Materiel Command, Angela Bailey inspected several different types of munitions. Here she inspects 120mm HE mortar rounds from a forward operating base. The rounds were missing the propellant support assembly. Bailey and other employees at the ammunition supply point replaced the assemblies prior to storage or shipment.

Air Force Base, Nev.; and Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

But, as a single parent of a then 7-year-old daughter, Bailey decided to leave the Air Force so they could settle down in Florida. After working odd jobs – driving a dump truck, cleaning houses and digging foundations for construction sites – Bailey was hired by the U.S. Post Office.

“I wanted my daughter to get to know her family. When she was little, we were always overseas or in Arizona,” said Bailey, referring to her now grown daughter, Wendy, who works at the Arts and Crafts Center. “My parents live in Rainsville. So, we transferred from Florida to Huntsville in 1998. But by 2001, I was getting a little stir crazy. I still wanted to do things and see new places.”

She rejoined the Air Force as a reservist in 2001. She is assigned to an Air Force Reserve Ammunition Team at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and she drills at the Bluegrass Army Depot, Ky. She often takes temporary assignments at various Air Force bases where QASAS expertise is needed, such as Oson, Korea, United

Arab Emirates and Diego Garcia AFB, Indian Ocean. She’s worked on upgrades on the Joint Direct Attack Missile and other missile programs.

“We do a lot of maintenance and inspection,” she said. “On systems that are unserviceable, we will fix them and put them back into serviceable condition.”

Deploying to Iraq fulfilled two of Bailey’s dreams – to see different parts of the world and to be a hands-on contributor in support of Soldiers in overseas contingency operations.

“I really, really love to travel and see new stuff and do new stuff. If there’s a place I haven’t been I want to go,” she said.

“Then there’s the satisfaction of helping Soldiers. If you can help protect these guys and teach these guys about their munitions, you know you’ve made a difference. Soldiers rely on us to make sure they get the ammunition, signal flares and other munitions that they need to do their mission. They rely on us to make sure they are serviceable when they need them.”

# Program review in Iraq marks first for command

*Foreign military sales team meets with Iraqi leaders*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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In order to provide the best support possible, it is not unusual for members of U.S. Army Security Assistance Command to travel to the nations it works with. On Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 they were a part of a historic conference when a Foreign Military Sales Program Management Review was held in Iraq for the first time.

Fifty people, military and civilian, flew from the United States to attend the PMR, including 13 from USASAC and its supporting life cycle management commands. Once they arrived, they joined 75 others from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the Iraq Security Assistance Mission.

The attendees traveled by commercial carrier into Baghdad International Airport, then took CH-47 Chinook helicopters to downtown Baghdad in the heart of the International Zone before being bused to their accommodations at Forward Operating Base Union III. The event site at the Black Hawk Conference Center is part of the former "Believer's Palace" complex.

During the conference, they met with other members of the U.S. security community and Iraqi military leadership. While their backgrounds were different, the goals expressed by conference speakers were similar.

"As senior leaders from the U.S. and Iraq spoke, each emphasized the need to continue to move the Iraq FMS processes toward full Iraqi ownership in advance of the Dec. 31st, 2011 withdrawal of U.S. forces," Col. Timothy "Mac" McKernan,



Photo by Master Sgt. Rahsan Mitchell

**ON SITE— Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker, USASAC commander, speaks to Iraqi Army trainees at the Besmaya Training Center.**

USASAC liaison to MNSTC-I, said. "Much of the discussions over the first two days centered around training the Iraqi representatives and ensuring they understand the FMS process so they are more effective in dealing with the U.S. government."

The U.S. contingency included civilians, Army, Air Force and Navy representatives. The conference covered issues such as FMS program overviews, training and force development plans, above standard level of service issues, and freight forwarder usage and benefits. Breakout sessions enabled Iraqis to discuss their issues directly with program case managers.

It was also a chance for both the Iraqis and the attendees to sit together and simply talk. While much of the conversation focused on FMS and training programs, there was also a chance to get to know each other as people. The shift in viewpoint was obvious over the five days.

"The first day of the conference Iraqis and Americans largely ate and socialized



Photo by Master Sgt. Rahsan Mitchell

**MEMENTO— Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker, USASAC commander, accepts an Iraqi flag from Col. Abbas Fadhil, commander of the Iraq Battle Command Training Center. The flag now hangs in the USASAC headquarters as a daily reminder of the importance of their FMS work in building a safe and secure environment in Iraq.**

amongst themselves. By the end of the PMR, Americans and Iraqis shared lunch tables with their newfound friends and spoke of the things all free people speak," McKernan said. "Love of families, a hope for a better future for the next generation, and a genuine hope for peace in Iraq and throughout the world was first and foremost on everyone's minds."

The bonding between people at the event coupled with the work accomplished fostered a renewed sense of purpose for USASAC employees. Some had never been to Iraq before and some had. All left with a deeper sense of the impact of their jobs on the Iraqi future.

"The conference was a wonderful opportunity to forge closer bonds with our Iraqi counterparts," Betty Taylor, USAF security assistance program manager-Iraq, said. "It also gave me a greater appreciation of the conditions the Iraqis and MNSTC-I personnel deal with each day. The graciousness and resilience of the Iraqi people was truly heartwarming. I have a stronger commitment to my program knowing the people I am assisting. I am proud to have a role in helping rebuild this historical land."

Due to the success of the event, others are being planned; and the next is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010.

# HIMARS facility opens at Letterkenny

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. – The Dec. 13 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the HIMARS facility at Letterkenny was both a celebration and a formal handshake between partners Letterkenny Army Depot, Lockheed Martin and Precision Fires Rocket and Missile System Project Office out of Redstone Arsenal.

More than just partners, these groups came together as a team in sync with each other's needs to complete the performance based contract.

The facilitization of Letterkenny allowed PFRMS to meet core capabilities as required by title 10, regulatory guidance and Acquisition Decision Memorandum. Lockheed Martin's management approach for facilitization allowed the Original Equipment Manufacturer and Letterkenny to work hand-in-hand in an orchestrated effort for training requirements, documentation requirements and review, installation of equipment and processes required for repair.

The facilitization included the Special Test Equipment, Special Tooling, tools, training, testing and, ultimately, Letterkenny's demonstration of capabilities required to repair various M270A1 and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Fire Control and HIMARS launcher components. Test stand, testing and repairs replicate the ongoing production; this eases accomplishment of any changes made to support production thereby keeping Letterkenny current. The capabilities provided by PFRMS move Letterkenny into the 21st century for mechanical hydraulic repairs; troubleshooting and repair of digital circuitry for circuit card assemblies and line replaceable units. *(Letterkenny Army Depot release)*



**RIBBON CUTTING—** From left are PFRMS project manager Col. David Rice, Letterkenny Army Depot commander Col. Cheri Provanca and Michael Syring, director of After Market Enterprises and Logistics Modernization.

Courtesy photo

# Engineering Directorate Summit supports war fighter

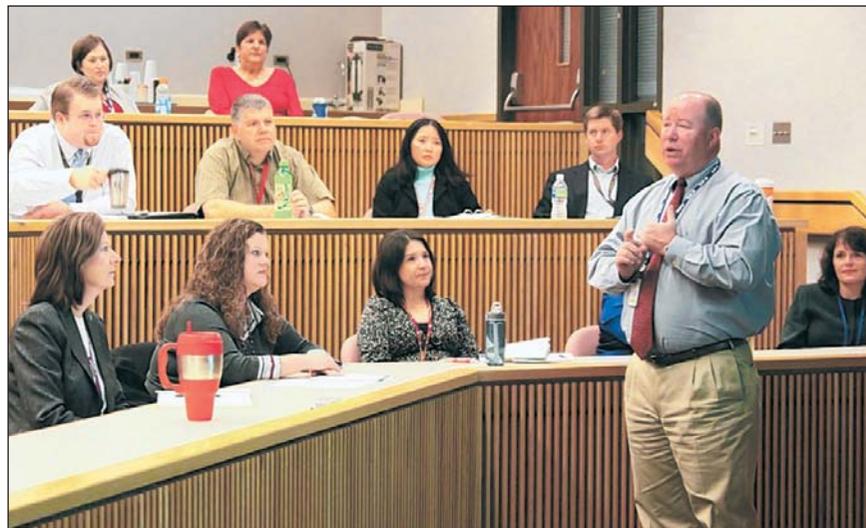
Gathering busy engineers from across Redstone Arsenal wasn't easy but it was necessary so they could share new information and lessons learned to support the Soldier.

Throughout the year, the Engineering Directorate holds Program Support Integrator Summits bringing together the group of 48 primary and alternate PSIs in one room to address their issues, concerns and "best practices." Summit facilitators conduct new and refresher training using both presentations and roundtable discussions to keep the PSIs current.

The Engineering Directorate PSIs are the primary liaisons to the program management offices.

"They are critical to ED's mission of serving the war fighter through world class life cycle engineering support," said Dr. Amy Grover, acting deputy director for ED. "The PSIs are leaders in the ED who must take a systems engineering viewpoint and ensure PMOs receive responsive answers to ED-wide questions and issues."

One of the Engineering Directorate's PSIs is Mythanh Nguyen, a quality engineer for the Program Director, Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar in the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical. She has a long title and a vital mission.



Courtesy photo

**FIRST SPEAKER—** Randy Harkins, acting director of the Engineering Directorate, opens the Program Support Integrator Summit at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's SELA Auditorium. The ED holds quarterly summits.

"It's my privilege to serve as a liaison between the ED and the PMO," Nguyen said. "I play an important role in promoting the ED services and in maintaining awareness of the level of technical support to the PMO across the ED. My role includes informing the ED of the current ongoing activities

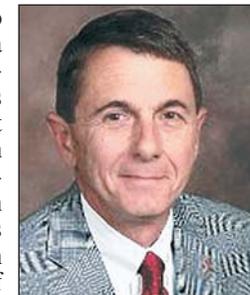
and needs at the PMO. Also, as a PSI, I help to ensure that the ED continues to provide quality products and services to our PMO customers and ultimately our war fighters."

The ED holds quarterly PSI Summits. *(Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center release)*

# Phoenix CEO appointed by governor to council

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley has appointed Phoenix CEO Bryan Dodson to the State Rehabilitation Council.

The State Rehabilitation Council is a 28-member body which meets quarterly to advise the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services regarding issues that affect people with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation services. Its members include people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and employers. Among other things, the council has been responsible for the creation and implementation of a needs assessment that would document unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities.



Bryan Dodson

"I am grateful that the governor chose to appoint me to this very important council," Dodson said. "It is an honor to serve Alabamians with disabilities and their families as they continue to seek to improve the quality of their lives."

The governor announced the appointment in a personal letter to Dodson in the fall.

"I have made honesty and integrity a priority in my administration, and I know that you will embody these two virtues while serving the people of Alabama," Riley said in his letter to Dodson.

The appointment to the council allows Dodson to extend the work he does every day as the CEO of Phoenix, a private, non-profit agency, that serves nearly 900 persons with disabilities, providing them with jobs through its plant or contract services, job placement, and other services designed to help them to be self-supporting. According to a recent study, Phoenix helps save taxpayers at least \$1.5 million annually because its workers no longer need food stamps and welfare benefits, pay more in federal and state income taxes, have increased their annual wages, and have decreased their dependence on Medicare. *(Phoenix release)*



Courtesy photo

## Outreach volunteer

**AMCOM's Hollis Armstrong lectures fifth-graders at Rolling Hills on "Developing Good Ethics." His presentation is one of the many AMCOM Educational Outreach Programs in the community.**

## 'I want to continue to serve'

*University student biding his time until he redeploys as Marine reservist*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

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Jeff Moran has a standing invitation with his Marine Reserve unit in Montgomery.

This University of Alabama-Huntsville student is on standby with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines just in case the unit gets orders for a deployment to Southwest Asia. If and when the unit does deploy, it will be Moran's third time to go to war.

"If they were deployed next month, I would be with them," Moran said. "They will go to Afghanistan if they are deployed. The work there is not done. We must root out the Taliban and Al Qaida. The work will not be done until they don't have the ability to reorganize and hurt us again, and the people of Afghanistan have some sense of the idea of what freedom really is."

Moran, who served in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2005, and in Haditha, Iraq., in 2007, said he is encouraged by the new focus on Afghanistan.

"Because of Iraq, Afghanistan was forgotten," he said. "It's a hard fight over there. Every aspect of it is tough because we are dealing with a country that essentially has

never had a democracy. It is a tribal country."

While he is waiting for a deployment, Moran is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in communications. And, although he doesn't wear the uniform every day, Moran continues to carry the Marine slogan – "Once a Marine, always a Marine" — in his heart.

"I didn't even know what the Marines were before I joined," the 28-year-old recalled. "But I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Moran joined the Marines on Oct. 11, 2001. Four days later, he was a 20-year-old leatherneck at Marine boot camp at Parris Island, S.C.

"I joined because of the 9/11 attacks. I wanted to get who was responsible," he said. "I didn't know what to expect. My uncle was a Marine, but the only thing I knew about the Marines was that when you get yelled at during boot camp you need to stand there and shut up."

From 2001 until 2005, Moran's duty assignments skirted around opportunities to go to war. He served in 2002 during Operation Enduring Freedom, providing security for merchant ships sailing into Kuwait. He served in Bahrain, Iraq, leaving that country in February 2003, just prior to the outbreak of war in March. And, during the initial years of the Iraq war, Moran was deployed twice to Japan for unit training.

See **Reservist** on page 17

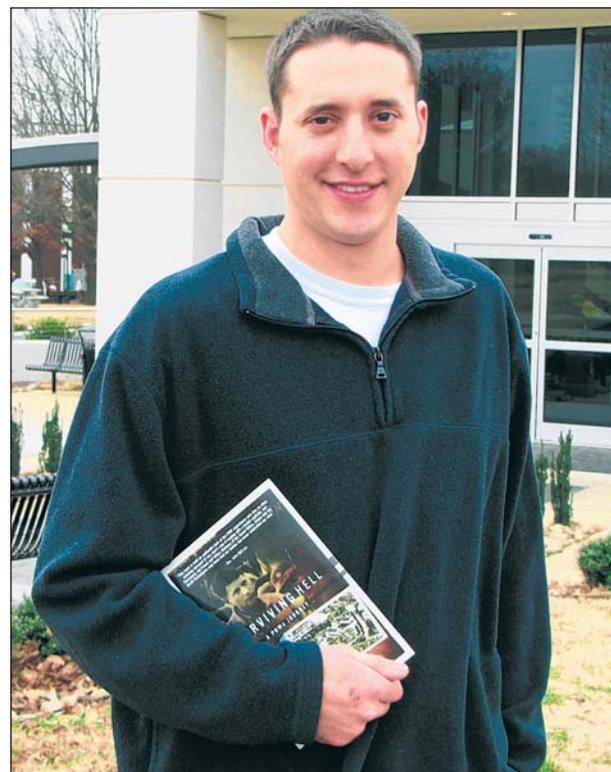


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**STUDENT WITH EXPERIENCE— Marine Reservist** Jeff Moran often shares his experiences as a Marine serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom during his political science classes at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Moran, who has served two tours in Iraq, hopes to deploy to Afghanistan with a Marine Reserve unit in Montgomery.

# Federal employees association celebrates holiday

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 443 of Huntsville held its annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 12.

The entertainment was provided by the Columbia/New Century High

School Choral Department under the direction of James Kendrick. The Christmas project for the chapter was to provide funds to Army Emergency Relief on Redstone Arsenal to assist with the cost of mailing Christmas

packages to servicemembers overseas. The chapter was also making gifts for some of the residents at the Tut Fann Veterans Home.

“Many of the residents do not have any family in the area or any family at

all and we want to make sure they have a present under the tree at the Christmas party,” said Barbara Boomershine, president NARFE Chapter 443.

For more information on NARFE and the chapter events, check [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

## ■ Collegiate values his wartime service with Marines

### Reservist

continued from page 16

“It was very frustrating,” he said. “We kept saying ‘We’re trained and we’re ready. Let’s go!’”

Finally, his opportunity came, and Moran found himself in the midst of fire-fights in Fallujah.

“We got there right after Operation Phantom Fury (a Marine-led, U.S.-Iraqi offensive involving heavy urban combat in late 2004 against the Iraqi insurgency in Fallujah),” he said. “People were shooting at us. Rockets were shot at us. We took regular small arms fire. After a month, I went from patrol leader to squad leader to platoon sergeant with 28 Marines reporting to me.”

Moran and his unit were responsible for security patrols in Fallujah, during which they gathered intelligence from the local residents. They also went on ambush patrols and cache sweeps.

“I loved it. There’s no greater feeling in the world than to be with other Marines in an environment like that. I’d have done it for free,” Moran said.

His second deployment to Haditha provided Moran with a glimpse of the country under much different circumstances.

“The political situation had changed,” he said. “It was right towards the end of the surge in Iraq and after the incident in Haditha (when 24 Iraqi civilians were killed by a group of Marines). We were stationed in a house on the street where it happened.

“We were providing security in the neighborhood. It gave us more of an opportunity to be out there with the people. The people engaged us. They understood why we were there. We ate meals with them. We went on a lot of meet-and-greet patrols. We did humanitarian things. We would visit their homes and ask them what was going on, what they didn’t like. It was more about intelli-

gence gathering and building relationships. I think we left a good mark.”

As an older, more experienced student, Moran said he enjoys discussing political science issues with his UAH classmates.

“It’s interesting to hear their perspective on things,” he said. “I listen and then I throw in my two cents. I have a real life perspective on what’s going on.”

He has especially enjoyed a recent Laws of War class taught by former Marine Jay Town, who is now a Madison County assistant district attorney. During the class, Moran read “Surviving Hell: A POW’s Journey,” an autobiography by Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor recipient retired Air Force Col. Leo Thorsness. The book has become one of his favorites.

Although Moran said going to college on the GI Bill is definitely a benefit of serving in the military, he said such benefits shouldn’t be the sole reason for wearing the uniform.

“There’s got to be more of a meaning behind it,” he said. “It has to be about

service to the country or, maybe, you are lost in life and the military can give you some direction. There’s got to be a deeper meaning if you are going to do something positive.

“Serving in the military has changed me for the better. It reinforced a lot of my regular upbringing. I had an idea of discipline and commitment, but the Marines really hammered it home for me. It reinforced what my parents taught me.”

When leading other Marines, Moran said it’s important to give them a sense of safety through instilling a high level of skills, self-esteem and a sense of justice.

“It’s almost like arrogance,” he said. “But, if you think you’re the baddest in the valley, then no one can hurt you. There is nobody out there that’s tougher than us. It’s about setting an example.”

After college, Moran hopes to use his experience and knowledge in the federal intelligence field.

“I want to continue to serve,” he said. “If I can, I want to spend the rest of my life in some kind of service to my country.”

# HHC 59th answers wakeup call in preseason final

## 'Raise Up bunch' defeats Bravo-2 for championship

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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HHC 59th may have underestimated Bravo-2 in the final of the Holiday Basketball Tournament.

The "Raise Up bunch" had advanced from the winners bracket by breezing through its first three games by an average of 18 points. This included a 23-point win over Bravo-2 in the second round.

But the Bulldogs got the 59th's attention in the final by beating the defending post champion 50-34 to force a second game.

The 59th rose to the challenge with a 48-38 victory over the Bulldogs on Dec. 15 at the Redstone Fitness Center for the preseason championship.

"They got their head in the game," HHC 59th coach Kevin Thomas said of his players. "Their head wasn't in the game at the beginning. They didn't take Bravo seriously. And that's how it started off and it showed. It took for that wakeup call for them to get their heads in the game."

Travis Roop, Aaron Skiles and David Harden scored 10 points apiece to pace the 59th. Skiles made two 3-pointers and four steals. Roop and Harden made two assists apiece.

"We came out pretty rough," said Roop, a shooting guard. "But we ended up coming through in the clutch."

Leroy Early, a small forward/shooting guard, had a similar impression about the team's start. "Honestly we came in a little rusty," he said, "but at the second game that's when we put everything together."

Harden, the point guard, has already predicted that the 59th will repeat as post champions. "Go hard or go home," he said.

William Ewings made a key three-point play with seven minutes left and the 59th pulled away. Jeff Reuter, the 6-foot-8 center, finished with eight rebounds and one block.

Brandon Jackson scored 13 points for Bravo-2.

"We just let it go in the second half," Bulldogs coach Roosevelt Jackson said. "They executed pretty well. We just couldn't make any shots at the end. I thought we hustled pretty well. We just came up short. My hat's off to them. They played pretty well."

Here are earlier results in the Holiday Basketball Tournament:

On Dec. 7, HHC 59th defeated 326th Chemical Company 59-39; Bravo-2 beat the Marines 35-14; and Headquarters & Alpha topped National Guard 50-44.

On Dec. 8, HHC 59th beat Bravo-2 57-34; Charlie Company won by forfeit over Bravo-1; and 326th Chemical edged the Marines 52-51.

On Dec. 9, Headquarters & Alpha defeated Charlie 59-49; and National Guard beat Bravo-1 37-35.

On Dec. 10, HHC 59th outscored Headquarters & Alpha 49-39 to advance

to the Dec. 15 final; Charlie beat 326th Chemical 52-47; and Bravo-2 defeated National Guard 46-41.

On Dec. 14, Bravo-2 stopped Charlie 45-34; and Bravo-2 beat Headquarters & Alpha 41-23.

The second week in January is the projected date for the start of the season, according to sports director Gaylene Wilson.



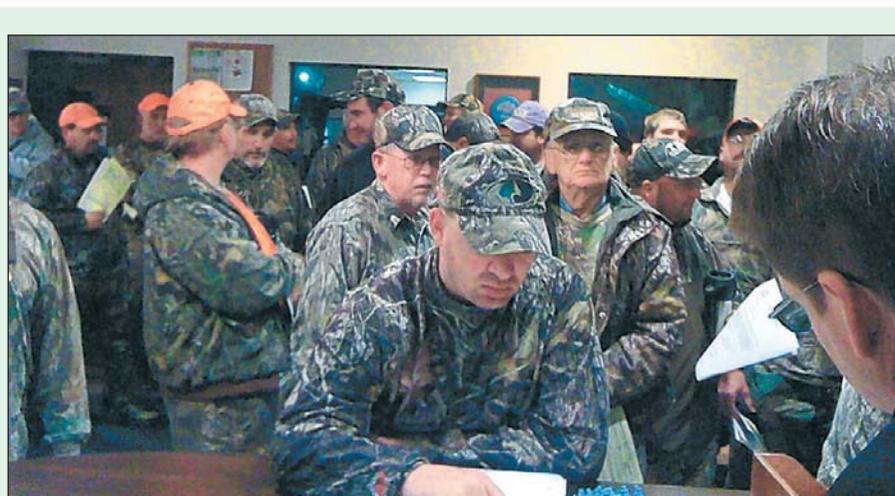
Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ON THE RISE**— HHC 59th players celebrate their championship from the Holiday Basketball Tournament. From left, in the front row, are Rasheen McCullers, Jeff Reuter and David Harden. In the back row are Leroy Early, William Ewings and coach Kevin Thomas.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**LOOKING TO PASS**— HHC 59th's Travis Roop inbounds the ball against Bravo-2 defender Atland Williams in game one of the preseason final.



Courtesy photo

## Ready to hunt

Hunters line up for deer season opening day Nov. 21. For information on hunting at Redstone Arsenal, call Bill Moreland at 842-2188.



Fowler, a chaired history professor and director of the Bandy Heritage Center at Dalton State College in Dalton, Ga. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

### Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

### Aviation symposium

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle will be on hand to declare Feb. 11 as "Joseph P. Cribbins Day" as the Army Aviation Association of America will sponsor the 36th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium. The symposium is for interested members of industry and the aviation logistics and acquisition communities. It will be held Feb. 10-11 at the Von Braun Center with the theme "Sustaining Operations While Recovering." For more information, call David Kather 539-1700, ext. 104 or 617-3771.

### Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Jan. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. The speaker is national ASMC executive director Al Tucker. For ticket information, call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

### Federal employees

Huntsville-Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10. Chapter service officer Ernest Williams will address federal income tax highlights and changes. Also, for those who did not receive a \$250 stimulus payment through Social Security, he will explain how to receive a tax credit when filing tax returns for 2009. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.



### Miscellaneous

#### Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into

the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9435 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

#### Civilian deployment

DA civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil> for your use. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Department of Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Nicole Massey 876-2082. Contractors and others interested can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

#### Surplus sales

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

# Rocket Announcements

#### 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](mailto:93hdstc@bellsouth.net). The Garrison Safety contact is Keith Coates at 876-3383 or [keith.coates@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.coates@us.army.mil).

#### Reserve unit

The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King [jwk108@yahoo.com](mailto:jwk108@yahoo.com) or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

#### 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

See **Announcements** on page 23

**Merit awards**

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is accepting applications for Merit Awards. These awards are available to graduating high school seniors, college students and spouses that are U.S. military and DoD civilian family members whose primary residence is within the Redstone Arsenal community and meet the eligibility criteria. The deadline for applying is Feb. 2 and the application is available online. For more information and to download the application, visit [www.redstoneocwc.org](http://www.redstoneocwc.org) or contact the Merit Awards chairs at [meritawards@redstoneocwc.org](mailto:meritawards@redstoneocwc.org). The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

**Cervical cancer awareness**

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Fox Army Health Center's Wellness Center will present a beneficiary educational opportunity. Mary Bouldin, nurse educator from the Wellness Center at Fox Army Health Center, will provide a presentation about cervical cancer risk factors, prevention and treatment on Jan. 27 from noon-1 p.m. in the Wellness Center Classroom. Feel free to bring your lunch to the event. RSVP for the class by calling 955-8888, ext. 1026 or 1440.

**Glaucoma awareness**

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month.

Fox Army Health Center's Wellness Center will present a beneficiary educational opportunity. Dr. Matthew Habel, chief of optometry at Fox Army Health Center, will provide a presentation about glaucoma risk factors, prevention and treatment on Jan. 13 from noon-1 p.m. in the Wellness Center Classroom. Feel free to bring your lunch to the event. RSVP for the class by calling 955-8888, ext. 1026 or 1440.

**Scholarship program**

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter is accepting applications for its 2010 Scholarship Program. Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 28. The ASMC Scholarship Program's purpose is to provide financial assistance to ASMC members and their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. Applicants must be either a current ASMC member or high school senior/college student who is directly related to a current ASMC member. Applicants must also have at least a 3.0 gpa. For more information, call Cody Swinford 842-9492, Lisa Lowry at 876-7086 or Jessica Dunaway 313-0533.

**Commissary hours**

The Commissary is closed Monday, Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Day and open Jan. 19.

See Announcements on page 23



Courtesy photo

## Cadet scholarships

Lt. Col. James McLinnah, center right, presents a donation to retired Command Sgt. Maj. Marion Mike and students of the Columbia High School JROTC program to fund college scholarships for graduating JROTC students. The funds were raised at the annual Military Leadership Symposium breakfast at Applebee's in Madison. The symposium is coordinated through the Youth Friendship Foundation and hosted by the Psi Kappa Kappa chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Columbia JROTC students attended the breakfast for free, thanks to sponsorships by COLSA, Intuitive, Huntsville Hospital, Landers McClarty Chevrolet, Service 1st Bank, QuantiTech and DESE Research.

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](http://www.redstoneocwc.org).

### **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](http://www.redstoneocwc.org) (click on community assistance). The deadline for submission is Feb. 27. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form and must be postmarked or received by the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information call Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, 882-6064 or e-mail her at [communityassistance@redstoneocwc.org](mailto:communityassistance@redstoneocwc.org). OCWC is a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

### **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.

### **Thrift Shop grants**

The Thrift Shop Welfare Committee announces its annual grant program. This program is designed to assist local organizations with funds for 2010. This grant program is awarded only to organizations, not individuals. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28. Requests will be reviewed and awarded in April. For an application, call Jennifer Kennedy 682-6981 or e-mail [jkhunter\\_1999@hotmail.com](mailto:jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com).

# Rocket Announcements

## Founder's Day celebration

Alabama A&M Phi Beta Sigma will host its 96th Founder's Day Celebration on Saturday at 6 p.m. with a semiformal dinner at the Holiday Inn Research Park. The celebration's theme is "Changing Lives Through Service." Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from any Phi Beta Sigma member. For more information, call Lt. Col. Louis "Lontrell" Harris 372-4021.

## Buffalo Soldiers monument

A fund-raiser to preserve part of history is under way locally. You can participate by buying one of the first 300 bricks to be laid at the site of the "Buffalo Soldiers" Memorial Monument in Huntsville. For more information or to request an order form, call 325-0979. Orders must be submitted by Feb. 15.

## Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives include the following: Jan. 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency and from



7-noon at MDA building 5222. ... Jan. 12 from 4-8:30 p.m. at Bravo Company. ... Jan. 14 from 7-noon at building 5400 and at the Sparkman Center. ... Jan. 15 from 7-noon at the Corps of Engineers and at building 5400, and from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. ... Jan. 21 from 7-noon at building 4488.