Redstone Rocket

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Community news

Family Covenant remains strong

Page 4

Around town

General officer addresses jobs

Page 6

Helping hands

Co-workers give to youth group

Page 8

To your health

Smoking cessation program available

Page 10

Win or lose

Navy cruises in bowl game

Page 17

Hope for continuing service

National Guard wounded warrior works toward her health, future

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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A chance meeting with Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell in June 2009 led to a dream job for Iraqi war veteran and Purple Heart recipient Sgt. Sophia Malone.

This Alabama Army National Guard Soldier, who is assigned to Redstone Arsenal's Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit due to injuries she sustained while deployed, is continuing her service to the nation as an administrative assistant in G-1 Human Resources at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. In her job, she takes care of the administrative requirements for awards, appraisals, in-processing actions and other tasks required at G-1.

"I love my G-1 family," she said. "General Campbell wanted to bring wounded warriors on here. I met him at the Wounded Warrior Army Birthday Bash they had here in June. He talked to Major (Jim) Clark (commander of the Arsenal's CBWTU). General Campbell is the best general I've ever met. He and his wife are awesome.

"Coming from Military Police to this is a transition. But the people here work with me. I know I've found a home here."

With her dedication to service, vast combat experience and pretty blonde looks, Malone could very well be a model for Army recruitment campaigns.

In 1989, at age 19, Malone joined the active Army, serving a four-year stint that took her to Operation Desert Storm to support MLRS maintenance. With her enlistment, she continued her family's tradition of serving in the military. Her grandfather served in World War II, and her dad was a Korean War and Vietnam War veteran. Her brother is in the Reserves and other family members are also serving.

Malone left the Army for nine years, during which she married and had three children – twin daughters Lacy and Lexy, who are now 15, and son E.Z., now 10. But 9/11 led her to recommit to national service.

"I had to do something. I had to get back in," she said. "I joined the National Guard so that I could be a part-time Soldier and a mom at the same time. But I've been on active duty orders since 2005 as a battalion career counselor with the 203rd Battalion out of Athens. I've done more with the National Guard than I did while on active duty."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

LOOKING AHEAD— Sgt. Sophia Malone, assigned to the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit at Redstone Arsenal, is working toward getting back to 100 percent health from wounds she sustained during her deployment to Iraq with the Alabama Army National Guard's 128th Military Police Company. During her physical recovery, she has been assigned to the G-1 Human Resources at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Malone is hopeful that she will recover, return to the 128th as a National Guard Soldier and continue at SMDC/ARSTRAT as a civilian employee.

Her full-time Guard service included hurricane relief efforts on the coast following hurricanes Ivan, Rita and Katrina, during which she participated in Military Police security activities. In October 2006, she deployed with the 128th Military Police Company for a year to Iraq, during a time that was extremely volatile in the war-torn country.

"Our squad would get hit all the time," she said. "The 3rd platoon became known as the IED (improvised explosive device) magnets. We were rolling so much outside the wire that we took a lot of hits and we lived through a lot of ambushes. We were ambushed twice while crossing the Tigris (river). Once we rolled up on an IED attack on a unit where a guy with the Air Force was killed by shrapnel. We saw other convoys attacked and a lot of other stuff."

In one situation, when a mosque was blown up with a vehicle-borne IED, Malone

See **Hope** *on page* **9**

An open lane random survey

What's your favorite season of the year?

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

Mitch Delk
Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate, AMCOM G-3
"I guess my favorite season of the year is springtime because it's a time for hope, growth and beauty.

Tisha Wellington
AMCOM G-8 (Resource Management)
"Winter because I love to see the white flakes falling. Winter is beautiful."

Julie Armstrong
NETCOM contractor
Alutiiq
"Summer because it's warm. You can wear bathing suits and spend your time on the beach."

Steve Cataldo
NETCOM contractor
Alutiiq
"Spring because I'm tired of the cold, and it's warm enough where you can go outside."

Letters to the Editor

Workers should take security seriously

I have been on post for several years. We have taken pride in the past for the established security measures that help protect our Defense Department work. Over the years, we have identified new technologies and techniques that may pose a threat to our security and have incorporated new measures to beef up enforcement.

Today we have so many new devices to breach security. Cell phones and iPhones, as well as all the other electronics that fit in a shirt pocket, can upload or download data or simply take photos and videos of anything an adversary might want to exploit. Want data from somebody's laptop? Want a photo of schematics or relate troop strength to an outside source? Want the GPS coordinates of a test site? Use any of these handy personal devices.

I see that visitors to our facilities are subject to surrendering these items. Yet, personnel assigned to a given facility are not. We may carry in and operate these devices without challenge. We are told to report any violation of things like taking photos of classified data if we are aware of it, but an enemy is not going to obtain information in plain sight.

I've been to other bases that do not allow anyone at all to carry thumb drives, cell phones, iPhones or any other electronics into the buildings. Visitors, government and contract workers are prohibited from even carrying any item that may be used to record, transmit or receive voice, files, data or GPS coordinates into the work areas. They take security seriously.

Allowing these devices within our facilities invites espionage. Security is serious business.

Name withheld by request

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Ron Garrett

Job: Human resources assistant, South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center

Where do you call home?
Lufkin, Texas

What do you like about your job?
I like the people and the atmosphere.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to go to NASCAR races and spend time with my family and friends, and do volunteer work at my church. (Family includes wife, Tracy, and daughters Mariah, 18, and Sarah, 13.)

What are your goals?
Just advance in my career and be the man God wants me to be.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
I'd like to drive a car in a race. And I plan on doing that. I'm going to go to Huntsville Speedway.

Stop-loss payments continue, but some no longer eligible

By DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The fiscal 2010 defense budget extends payments to servicemembers involuntarily extended on active duty under the so-called "Stop Loss" program, but those who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting or extending their service after being involuntarily extended no longer qualify for retroactive Stop Loss pay.

The Defense Department put the new policy into effect Jan. 5, modifying eligibility for retroactive special pay to comply with Section 8108 of the 2010 Defense Department Appropriations Act, which took effect Dec. 19.

Servicemembers affected by the new policy who already received Stop Loss payments will not be required to repay them, defense officials said. However, all outstanding applications from affected servicemembers will be returned, along with an explanation of the change in law that makes them no longer eligible to receive the payments, officials said.

Department officials announced in March their intention to eliminate the Stop Loss policy, which kept servicemembers on active duty beyond their contracted end-of-service date.

While the services work to phase out the policy, officials authorized a special pay of $500 a month for anyone retained on active duty due to Stop Loss. Retroactive payments applied for anyone who served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009, and the fiscal 2010 defense budget extended that authority through September 2010.

Servicemembers were able to begin submitting their claims for retroactive Stop Loss special pay on Oct. 21.

Quote of the week

'Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.'

– John Ruskin

Redstone Rocket

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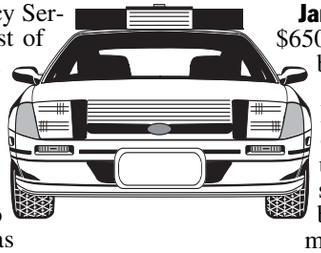
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences



The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Dec. 31 through Jan. 10:

Dec. 31: At Gate 9, a driver had an expired California license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Jan. 1: A subject who approached Gate 10 lost was found to be an illegal immigrant. After coordination with Immigration Customs Enforcement officials, the subject was released.

Jan. 1: A Soldier was arrested by Alabama state troopers for desertion. He was detained in the Blount County Jail and later released to Redstone law enforcement, who processed him to Fort Knox, Ky.

Jan. 2: A Soldier was arrested by Birmingham Police for desertion and was detained in the Birmingham City Jail. He was later released to Redstone law enforcement, who processed him to Fort Knox.

Jan. 2: A Soldier who was arrested for desertion by Alabama state troopers was transported to Gate 9. He was processed by Redstone law enforcement to Fort Knox.

Jan. 2: In the Post Exchange, a subject concealed cologne valued at $55 and exited the store. He was processed by Redstone law enforcement and released to his sponsor.

Jan. 4: Someone removed $650 from an unsecure safe at building 4140.

Jan. 4: In the Post Exchange, a subject concealed video games valued at $110 and exited the store. He was processed by Redstone law enforcement and released to his unit.

Jan. 5: A Soldier entered the police station and surrendered as AWOL. He was processed back to his unit at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Jan. 6: Someone inflicted scratch damage to an employee's private vehicle while it was parked at building 4489.

Jan. 6: A driver who approached Gate 1 lost was found to be intoxicated. He was transported to the police station where he submitted to a Dreager Test with a result of .15 percent blood alcohol content. He was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until his BAC reached an acceptable level.

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

Violation notices issued: 7 speeding, 1 suspended driver's license, 1 driving while intoxicated, 1 failure to yield, 1 inattentive driving.

Claims process explained for household goods

By ERIKA McPHERSON
Chief of claims

Each year hundreds of Soldiers and their families relocate to different duty locations and await arrival of their household goods. Unfortunately, furniture and personal items are sometimes lost or destroyed during the move.

Generally, the claimant has 70 days from the date of delivery to note any damage and start the process of notifying the moving company of the damaged items. The claims process can take several months to finalize any payments or make repairs. However, essential items may need to be replaced immediately to prevent undue hardship to the claimant.

Essential items are items necessary for everyday living, which would reasonably need to be replaced promptly such as seasonal clothing, beds and kitchen items. Items used solely for entertainment purposes are not considered essential. Fungible items that are regularly used up or worn out and must be routinely replaced are not considered essential.

Ideally, the moving company is responsible for promptly dealing with owners who have had essential items lost, destroyed or made unusable due to damage. Owners are responsible for notifying the moving company of such a loss within seven days of the date their goods were delivered. Upon notification of the loss of an essential item the moving company shall either pay for such items, provide temporary or permanent replacements for them, or make such other arrangements as agreed to with the owner. Such action must be taken within two business days of notification, regardless of whether a claim has been filed. Nonetheless, there are times when a Soldier may need money immediately to repair or replace essential items and he is unable to resolve the matter with the moving company. In such instances, the local claims office may make an emergency partial payment that allows the claimant to repair or replace the property.

In general, emergency partial payments less than $5,000 can be approved at the local claims office. The commander of U.S. Army Claims Service or the chief, Personnel Claims and Recovery Division at USARCS is the approval authority for payments over $5,000. In order to receive an emergency partial payment, the claimant will complete DD Form 1842, DD Form 1844 listing items for which immediate payment is sought, and will provide evidence to support payment of these items. Next the claims office will execute an acceptance agreement with the claimant which explains that any amount paid in advance will be deducted from the final payment. Finally the claimant will be responsible for submitting claims for additional items that were lost or damaged, but were not included within the emergency payment.

Claimants are seen on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at building 111 on Goss Road. For more information on emergency partial payments or other claims issues, call James E. Friday at 876-9006. You may also visit the claims website to download claims forms and get other claims information at www.redstone.army.mil/legal/claims.html.

Shuttle service temporarily curbed

The Garrison's new shuttle service initiative is temporarily suspended until further notice. The commanding general of Installation Management Command has issued fiscal 2010 funding guidance to Garrison commanders which directs implementation of several cost-saving measures. Garrison funding for the new shuttle service is directly impacted by this new guidance.

As a result of the IMCOM funding guidance, Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli has directed that the Directorate of Logistics suspend shuttle service.

To mitigate the impact on Garrison customers, the Garrison Taxi Service will immediately resume full operational capability. Customers requiring transportation to or from official locations on Redstone will be provided duty location transportation via the taxi service. The taxi service goal is to provide customer requested transportation within 20 minutes of receiving and confirming a telephone request. Taxi service hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding weekends and holidays. Garrison supported customers may request taxi service support by calling the taxi dispatch office at 876-2261.

Customers are reminded that Garrison taxi service is not unlimited and during a spike in demand may not be available to meet customer requested transportation services. The taxi services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis to optimize efficiency of resources. Customer advance planning for alternative transportation is recommended as a backup in the event taxi service is not available on the date and time requested.

The Garrison and DOL apologize for any inconvenience resulting from this temporary suspension of the new shuttle service and will continue to work toward the goal of providing Garrison customers with an efficient and effective duty location mass transit system. *(Garrison release)*

Northrop Grumman receives contract

The Army announced Dec. 30 that the $577 million Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase Contract Option has been awarded to Northrop Grumman.

The contract award follows the successful Milestone B Defense Acquisition Board chaired by Dr. Ashton Carter, OSD AT&L, Dec. 15, and a Dec. 23 Acquisition Decision Memorandum providing approval for the Army to exercise the EMD Contract Option.

The Army IAMD Program moves forward to provide the war fighter a single Air and Missile Defense Command and Control system that simplifies workload while providing Army contribution to a Joint Single Integrated Air Picture.

Courtesy photo

Major promotion

Lt. Col. Joseph Hoecherl is promoted from major Jan. 4 at the Program Executive Office for Aviation. Presenting the certificate of promotion is Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer. Hoecherl was joined by his wife Kelly, daughter Kristin, parents-in-law Charles and Judy Scheibly, and one of his sons Cadet Sgt. Kevin Hoecherl who is attending West Point and plans to become an aviator like his father. Hoecherl's other son, Air Force 2nd Lt. Joey Hoecherl, also a pilot, was not able to attend due to flight training.

Army continues commitment to family members

File photo

LOCAL SUPPORT— The Army wants family members of Soldiers to know just how important they are. That's why leaders throughout the Army signed a covenant affirming their commitment to families. Redstone officials and members of the local community gathered Nov. 5, 2007 for a signing ceremony at the Youth Center.

Family Covenant support affirmed

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Redstone leaders gathered at the Youth Center on Nov. 5, 2007 to recognize a valued part of the Army: families.

They signed a covenant affirming their commitment to families. The Army Family Covenant was originally signed by Army leadership the preceding month.

More than two years later that commitment remains. The Installation Management Command is raising visibility of the covenant during January.

Army Community Service division chief Sue Paddock described how ACS supports the Army Family Covenant.

"We have an Exceptional Family Member Respite Care Program that provides child care support to the EFMP families," she said. "And that's one of the initiatives that was generated from the Family Covenant.

"The other initiative is that all of our ACS programs are now standardized so that each installation should have the same services provided."

In addition, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provides discount cards to family members of deployed Soldiers and geographically-separated families. FMWR has also developed special discount cards for the surviving spouses of active duty servicemembers.

Then Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, chief of staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston originally signed the Army Family Covenant in a ceremony Oct. 17, 2007 at the Fort Knox (Ky.) Community Center.

Casey said similar signings would occur at each Army installation, recognizing that while Soldiers may be the strength of the nation, their strength is in their families.

"The health of our all-volunteer force, our Soldier-volunteers, our family-volunteers, depends on the health of the family," Geren said.

"The readiness of our all-volunteer force depends on the health of the families. I can assure you that your Army leadership understands the important contribution each and every one of you makes. We need to make sure we step up and provide the support families need so the Army family stays healthy and ready."

The covenant represented a $1.4 billion commitment in 2008 to improve quality of life for Army families. The Army has long had support services for family members, but services were sometimes not funded to

See **Covenant** *on page* **5**

Garrison reports year free from serious accidents

Safety manager encourages continued momentum

By AMY GUCKEEN
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For the Garrison Safety Office, a year without any serious incidents or fatalities is cause for celebration, but it also isn't enough – until it becomes an annual tradition.

"I am proud of our Redstone Soldiers, civilians and contractors," Safety Office manager Mike Moore said of the achievement in 2009. "They come to work with a positive safety attitude and frame of reference. All we have to do is to continue this momentum. The one caution is, as our workspaces and test areas become more crowded because of BRAC, we cannot afford to conduct business as usual."

Business will be anything but usual in 2010, as construction will continue to challenge drivers on post and workspaces change.

"We all are an integral part of safety," Moore said. "As more manpower, missions and equipment move to Redstone, we all need to think about the safety impact, both immediate and long-term."

"Safety is everyone's job; we need everyone's support."

— *Mike Moore*
Garrison safety manager

In the new year, Moore said, everyone should make a conscious effort to keep safety in the forefront of their minds. Primary incidents of concern on Redstone, according to Moore, continue to be slips, trips, falls and parking lot fender benders. While the Safety Office is there to ensure Redstone is a safe working environment, the person most responsible for your well-being is yourself.

"Always be aware of your surroundings, from the weather, to cracks in the pavement," advised Bobby Taylor, safety specialist in the Safety Office. "Pay attention. You as a person have to be responsible for your safety."

Part of that responsibility includes not using cell phones while driving, being on the lookout for wet surfaces and uneven pavement, paying attention when behind the wheel for construction and congested areas, and watching where you are walking. Even if something is not a hazard to you, report it, so it is not a hazard to someone else.

"Let's prevent by being proactive," Moore said. "Report hazards and get them fixed. Safety is everyone's job; we need everyone's support. Let's work together and solve things."

Even explosives safety is everyone's responsibility. With new construction, bigger missions and increased numbers of people on post, the probability of finding dangerous unexploded ordnances around Redstone will increase, according to Rusty Brands, safety specialist.

"We're locked in," Brands said. "Our land here is not expanding any, but the missions are. It's a challenge. Don't touch it. Just report it."

Anyone that encounters a UXO should not touch, move or disturb it, regardless of how large or old it appears. Carefully leave the area, Brands said, and immediately notify law enforcement.

Safety not just on land, but also in the air, will also be an area that will be addressed in 2010.

"Future based risk also includes our air space," Moore said. "Our Redstone Airfield is dramatically increasing its rotary wing aircraft fleet. They will have more aircraft flying around the Arsenal and into surrounding air corridors. Adjustments will be made to ensure safe flight activity while ground testing operations are occurring simultaneously."

The Safety Office is also working with outside agencies on post to ensure that everyone abides by the same safety standards.

"A positive challenge to take on in the safety arena is the expanding presence of the FBI and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) on our Army installation," Moore said. "We are working closely with these agencies to ensure their safety programs align with the Army Safety Program to allow safe training and work on our Arsenal footprint."

Here's to another safe year

This year, consider adding safety to your New Year's resolutions, with the help of these tips from Safety Office manager Mike Moore:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times – from warning cones indicating wet pavement to construction activity.
- Before backing your vehicle, check to the rear and sides to ensure you have a clear view.
- Do not talk or text on your cell phone while driving. Wait until you have arrived at your destination or safely pull to the side of the road to use a cell phone or Blackberry.
- Consider wearing non-skid sole or low-heeled shoes for the drive into work and walk to your building, to avoid falling on uneven concrete surfaces.
- If you encounter an unexploded ordnance, follow the three Rs: recognize that you may have encountered a UXO, retreat from the munitions and report the UXO to law enforcement.

■ Army Family Covenant initiatives remain relevant

Covenant

continued from page **4**

the highest standard. The Army leadership is committed to Soldier and family readiness as the foundation of the all-volunteer force.

Here is the text of the Army Family Covenant:

- "We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our families are making every day.
- "We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families.
- "We are committed to providing Soldiers and families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.
- "We are committed to providing our families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.
- "We are committed to building a partnership with Army families that enhances their strength and resilience.
- "We are committed to improving family readiness by:
- "Standardizing and funding existing family programs and services;
- "Increasing accessibility and quality of healthcare;
- "Improving Soldier and family housing;
- "Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care;
- "Expanding education and employment opportunities for family members."

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. at Redstone Lanes. For more information, 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.

Wild game cookout

The fourth annual Wild Game Cookout is Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Sponsors include the club, Outdoor Recreation, Cycle Nation, and Woody Anderson Ford. Sample favorites like venison and duck as well as exotic meats. Special guest is reptile expert William Cruger. For more information or tickets, call the club at 830-2582 or Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

Army aims to employ nation's warriors

General says local community good place to launch veteran-to-civilian hiring initiatives

By KARI HAWKINS
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Outlining the future hiring needs for civilian employees, the Army's top Human Resources policymaker said at a Women In Defense luncheon that he would like to use Redstone Arsenal and the Huntsville community for a veteran-to-civilian employee hiring pilot program.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, director of the Army's Human Resources Policy Directorate, told Thursday's gathering of members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women In Defense at the Huntsville Marriott that the local community would be an ideal environment in which to launch programs putting veterans – some as young as 21 and many wounded warriors – to work in fulfilling Redstone Arsenal's needs for civilian employees.

Huntsville would be an ideal place to "identify best practices, identify issues associated with why we're not hiring more veterans, identify challenges veterans face in the work force and identify ways to connect them to employers," Horne said. "This would be a good place to sort out what we need to do nationally to get veterans in the work force so they can lead full and satisfying lives … This is one of the most caring towns I know."

Horne is responsible for developing strategy, programs and plans to sustain and assure the readiness of the Army's Soldiers, civilians, families, retirees and survivors. His nearly 30 years as a Soldier includes extensive operational and command experience, with positions that include effects coordinator of the Multinational Corps-Iraq and special assistant to the commanding general of the Space and Missile Defense Command.

A recipient of a Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star, among other military awards, the general said he hopes the Army's Veterans Hiring Initiative will put to work the 130,000 veterans who are looking for jobs outside the military every year. Of those, 30,000 are retirees, 50,000 to 60,000 are between the ages of 25 and 28, and a "vast majority are wounded," he said.

"We are going to approach the hiring initiatives for those folks like never before," Horne said. "If they don't want to stay in uniform, then we want them in civilian service or serving in the National Guard or Reserve or in industry where they can continue to help us. No one knows better about work ethic, patriotism and sense of duty than people who have gone through the gauntlet."

The general went on to say there are plenty of opportunities for hiring veterans within the civilian ranks. Because of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission

See **Warriors** *on page* **7**

Photo by Kari Hawkins

ENCOURAGING SOLDIER HIRING— Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, director of the Army's Human Resources Policy Directorate, is leading efforts to put veteran-to-civilian hiring initiatives into place throughout the Army. He told members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women In Defense that Redstone Arsenal and the Huntsville community would be a good place to start pilot programs for hiring veterans in civilian, contractor and industry positions

■ Support encouraged for veterans hiring initiatives

Warriors

continued from page **6**

recommendations, the Army has 200,000-plus jobs to fill, with 42,000 of those created due to uniformed jobs being transitioned into civilian jobs.

The Army also contends with a turnover rate of one in every three or four civilian employees leaving their positions every year, something that leaders hope to change by incorporating more leadership development initiatives. Compounding that situation are the 57 percent of civilian employees who are eligible for retirement and the movement of 235,000 civilian jobs from overseas to the U.S.

"This is the highest transformation the Army has ever seen," Horne said. "We have to hire huge quantities of people."

It is particularly important for the Army to fill its civilian ranks with the 21- to 25-year-old Soldiers, many disabled, who are returning to the civilian work force.

"We need to coach, teach and mentor these young people to take your places someday," Horne said, referring to the senior employees in his audience.

In the field of Human Resources, Horne said the Army is also looking at programs that will positively impact what is referred to as the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness model, which includes physical, emotional, spiritual, social and family as the five dimensions of strength for a Soldier.

The Army is focused on healing Soldiers from post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, working to bring its suicide rate down and finding ways to meet the health needs of wounded warriors, particularly wounded female Soldiers.

"The Army is on the leading edge of all the academic excellence on dealing with behavioral issues in the country right now," he said. "Soldiers are experiencing adversity like they never have before. Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is the basis of our future" Soldier and family programs.

Despite being at war for nearly nine years and requiring large numbers of deployments – currently 194,000 Soldiers, more than 100,000 civilians and 10,000 Corps of Engineer employees — the Army has "met every retention goal, satisfied every military mission and have held families together at a time when Soldiers have been through five, six, seven, eight, nine deployments. Our job satisfaction is the highest it's been in 20 years," Horne said.

The biggest complaint the Army has heard from its Soldiers is that they are not getting enough mentoring and counseling, he said.

"Today's Soldiers are fundamentally different than the way we were years ago," Horne said. "They require much more instant feedback. (As a young Soldier), I was happy to get quarterly counseling. Today's Soldiers want to hear about every mission and they want to hear about their future."

Today's Army has also changed, relying on young Soldiers with less experience to be able to make "life and death decisions. And they are doing an incredible job at it," he said.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

ENCOURAGING SOLDIER HIRING— Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, director of the Army's Human Resources Policy Directorate, is leading efforts to put veteran-to-civilian hiring initiatives into place throughout the Army. He told members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women In Defense that Redstone Arsenal and the Huntsville community would be a good place to start pilot programs for hiring veterans in civilian, contractor and industry positions.

Horne mentioned the use of the Army Force Generation model to "provide a common level of service to Soldiers and their families as they move around installations and deploy."

ARFORGEN is a three-phased process occurring over two years that moves a unit from post-deployment to being mission-ready by synchronizing capabilities and readiness with equipment and resources. The model predicts when forces will be available and decreases the uncertainty of whether units will be prepared for future missions.

In all areas of Human Resources, "there is a fundamental change in the way the Army is looking at people," Horne said, adding that the Army is putting its people – both Soldiers and civilian employees – first and instituting programs that mentor, develop and encourage them toward job satisfaction and career fulfillment.

"I know we are helping Soldiers every day," he said.

Courtesy photo

Intern graduates

The AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center recognized its graduating Army interns Dec. 17. Certificates were presented to, from left, in front row, Amy Twilley, Michelle Spaulding, Joezer Lopez, Mary Ann Riley, Lindsay J. West, Keyana Malone, Jessica McGinnis, Birvid Atkins-Warner and Liz Biondi. In middle row are Stacy Holt, Rachel Beard, Masheldia Green, Teresa Chaney, Jamie Franklin, Audrey Baker, Cathy Borden and Jonathan Beuoy. And in top row are Laura Kesting, Shantese Igbinoba, Nakeisha Tatum, Jeni Moreno, Wes Sandefer, Winston James, William Calloway, Scott Valent, Beverly Suits, Dan Davis and Jeremy Harper.

Courtesy photo

Outstanding cadet

Army ROTC cadet Kirsten Bertsch, a senior at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., receives the Legion of Merit, Bronze Cross for Achievement award from retired Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Edwin Kelly. This award was given to only eight ROTC cadets out of 4,700 eligible cadets this year. Kirsten will be commissioned upon graduation in May and has been selected to become a military intelligence officer. She is the daughter of Redstone's John D. Bertsch.

Helping *hands*

Rocket Boys volunteer remembered by co-workers

Donation to youth rocket club honors Mike Murphy's life

By KARI HAWKINS
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He was an aviator, pilot, engineer and veteran.

But more than that, he was a youth mentor.

Mike Murphy's passion for working with middle school youth in their pursuit of rocket science was remembered Jan. 4 by his co-workers during a special presentation to members of the Stone/Westlawn Middle School chapter of the National Team America Rocket Challenge, known as the Rocket Boys Club.

Murphy, who died suddenly from a heart attack on Dec. 2, worked for the Program Directorate, Aircraft Survivability Equipment, first floor, building 5309. He was an engineer for Computer Sciences Corp., a retired Army reservist and decorated Vietnam War veteran.

Murphy's co-workers collectively donated $500 to the Rocket Boys Club. Their donation was matched by CSC, represented at the gathering by company vice president Randy Cash.

"Mike's passion was developing youth, mentoring youth," said Lt. Col. Raymond Pickering, who leads the directorate.

Pickering presented the donation check to Murphy's wife, Barbara Murphy, who is a gifted education teacher at Stone/Westlawn and who coordinates the Rocket Boys Club, and two students who are associated with the club – Rocket Boy and sixth-grader Jonathan Durant and former Rocket Boy New Century Technology High School student Anthony Nelson, who is a freshman in the school's aerospace engineering strand.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

LIFT FOR LEGACY— Lt. Col. Raymond Pickering of the Program Directorate, Aircraft Survivability Equipment, presents a donation from program employees to the Rocket Boys Club on behalf of Mike Murphy, one of the program's engineers who mentored the Rocket Boys in his spare time. Murphy died suddenly Dec. 2. The donation was matched by Murphy's employer, Computer Sciences Corp. With Pickering are, from left, Barbara Murphy, Murphy's wife and a gifted education teacher who coordinates the Rocket Boys Club at Stone/Westlawn Middle School; Rocket Boy Jonathan Durant; former Rocket Boy Anthony Nelson, who is now in high school studying aerospace engineering; Rocket Boys volunteer Steve Odell of NASA; and Randy Cash of CSC.

"Thank you so very, very much," Barbara Murphy said. "This was Mike's dream."

Murphy's work with the Rocket Boys will continue through the volunteer efforts of Steve Odell of NASA, and Army contractor and retired Air Force officer Lee Huntington. They are looking forward to continuing the Rocket Boys success.

"In the three years we've done this program, the Rocket Boys have gone to the national competition twice," Barbara Murphy said. "This team represented the state of Alabama at the national competition."

In 2009, Murphy helped the Rocket Boys from Stone become the only team from Alabama to make the finals in the nationwide Team America Rocketry Challenge, the largest rocket contest in the world sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry in conjunction with NASA, the Defense Department, the American Association of Physics teachers and 34 AIA member companies. Out of 653 teams registered for the competition, Stone Middle School's six-member team was one of the top 100 teams selected nationwide based on their qualifying score to travel to northern Virginia in May for the National Fly Off.

Co-worker Jim Mahan talked to the employees crowded in the 5309 conference room about Murphy's dedication to the Rocket Boys.

"He did a lot of work for these kids. He had a lot of patience. Mike was very proud of these boys," he said.

Barbara Murphy said the donations will be used to purchase rocket motors and supplies, and hopefully assist in the costs of taking the Rocket Boys once again to the national competition.

■ Wounded warrior wants to return to her unit

Hope

continued from page **1**

and several other Soldiers from the 128th put their training as combat life savers to work. They assisted Army medical personnel in providing first aid to Iraqi civilians injured in the attack.

As a Military Police training force, Malone, who served as a truck commander/team leader, and her fellow Soldiers were tasked with helping to reduce the violence by training the Iraqi police force.

"I was part of a Police Transition Team that trained Iraqi police," she said. "We left our base every day to travel to Iraqi police stations in the different cities."

Each day, upon arrival, her team, consisting of nine to 12 Soldiers, would set up a security parameter around the police station. Then they would assess the station's training and equipment needs, meet with police chiefs and establish working relationships with the police station personnel.

"We started from scratch at every station. At some of these stations, they had never seen an American Soldier before. Ours was such a new mission, the rules of engagement were changing all the time and we were all learning about the Iraqi society and culture. So it was a real challenge," Malone said. "On top of all that, for security reasons, we never built a pattern of visiting the same stations. We never left at the same time either."

Malone and her team worked at police stations in Muqdadiyah and Tikrit. At times, Malone's unit went on patrols with Iraqi police officers and interacted with Iraqi civilians in the marketplaces. They also went on special missions with the 82nd Airborne, including "flipping a jail," which involved a surprise visit at an Iraqi jail where Soldiers would search for contraband.

Malone's gender, blonde looks and position of command made her stand out, with varying results.

"Some Iraqi police chiefs wouldn't even talk to me or work with me at all," she said. "Others were very friendly. It depended on how westernized they were. To many Iraqi police and civilians, I was a novelty. They were curious about me. They wanted to take pictures of me on their cell phones.

"But with the Soldiers of the 128th, I was very well respected. They knew me and how I reacted to certain situations, and they knew I wasn't afraid to do what I had to do. They knew I wouldn't expect them to do anything I wouldn't do."

There were plenty of intense situations that called on Malone to be at her best as her unit's lead Soldier. Twice, Malone's convoy took direct hits as the lead vehicle traveling through Tikrit. The impact of the attacks left her with shoulder, neck and back injuries that cause her daily pain, and that she hopes to overcome through surgery and physical therapy.

The first direct hit with an IED happened in November 2006, when two antitank mines wired together exploded and damaged the front right corner of Malone's Humvee.

"The IED was set off by a command wire," she said. "The enemy panicked and set off the command wire too early. If he had waited, the IED would have been directly under my seat and I wouldn't be here right now."

The explosion left Malone's Humvee severely damaged in the "kill zone." Malone, her driver, gunner, interpreter and Iraqi Police logistics officer were evacuated by a Quick Readiness Force. The attack left Malone with occasional tingling in her right arm.

In August 2007, a second direct attack occurred as Malone's Humvee, which was the lead vehicle carrying the platoon sergeant, was traveling on a main supply route. As they crossed a bridge, the Humvee traveled over a pressure plate, with the IED exploding directly on the passenger side of the vehicle.

"My arm was resting on the window," Malone said. "Some kind of slivers went into my arm and it was injured. We were only 12 minutes outside the gate. The third truck in our convoy pulled us home. My gunner also had shrapnel injuries. We both went to the CASH (combat support hospital). But I was more upset that they blew up my truck than I was about what happened to me. I had just gotten it out of the shop."

After two days of recuperation, Malone was once again out on missions. She safely returned to her family in October 2007. But instead of taking time to focus on recuperating from her experience and addressing physical ailments caused by the impact of the two IED explosions, Malone accepted an instructor position at Camp Shelby, Miss. Her days were filled with training other National Guard Soldiers for deployments through various simulation exercises.

"I was still in Humvees rolling around," she said.

After the instructor assignment, Malone was required to go through a medical screening before she could return to her National Guard position with the 128th. During the screening, her shoulder and neck injuries were identified and she was sent to Fort Gordon, Ga., in January 2009 for further medical evaluation.

Since November 2006, "I was having numbness and tingling in my fingers and arm. I had neck and shoulder pain," she said. "But when you are out the wire and have all that adrenaline flowing you don't think about that. And there was no way I was going to let my guys roll without me. In that situation, if you take one piece out of the unit, everyone else has to work twice as hard. There was no way I was going to do that to my guys.

"Then, when I was at Camp Shelby, the workload was twice that of the students. As instructors, you spend a lot of time preparing and then a lot of time training. I didn't have time to think about what had happened to me and what was going on with my neck and shoulder."

But her time at Fort Gordon made Malone aware that she did need to address her physical issues. In April 2009, she was assigned to the CBWTU at Redstone, which has worked with her to develop a plan of surgical treatment, physical therapy and pain management that will get her back to 100 percent health. The CBWTU allows Soldiers to live at home, and work at local armories and installations while undergoing medical treatment.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to me. I am able to be with my children while at the same time I am getting healthy and I am able to work at SMDC," said Malone, who is divorced. "It was like a sigh of relief for me when I got this assignment because I can see a future here for myself as a civilian while still serving in the National Guard. I want to get healthy. I want to return to duty with the 128th."

Malone expects the 128th will be deployed again, possibly to Afghanistan. And she plans to be with them.

"That unit is filled with my brothers and sisters. We went through hell together. We have a very close camaraderie," she said. "I think we still have another deployment in us. I know I have another one in me. Serving my country, being with my guys. It's kind of hard to explain."

Even with a Purple Heart to her credit, Malone brushes off any suggestions that she is a national hero.

"I wasn't the only one in a truck that got blown up," she said. "And there were the guys who risked their lives to pull us out of those situations. We all signed up. We knew what we were doing, what we were getting into. You do your job and keep going."

Courtesy photo

SIGN OF HOME— Sgt. Sophia Malone spends time getting to know a group of Iraqi youths during her deployment to the country in 2006-07. A Texas native, Malone told the youths about her favorite college football team, the University of Texas, and tried to teach them the symbol for "Hook'em Horns."

To your *health*

Taking away the urge to use tobacco

Cessation program provides support, medicine to quitters

By AMY GUCKEEN
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No one ever said quitting tobacco is easy, but Harold Smith is proof that it can be done.

"I won't lie to you, I still have the nicotine cravings," said Smith, who chewed tobacco for more than 30 years but has been tobacco free for two years. "You're a prisoner to that can of tobacco."

Tobacco use kills more than 5 million people a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and an estimated 46 million adults in the U.S. smoke cigarettes. While approximately 40 percent of smokers try to quit each year, actually giving up the habit is much harder than simply listing the reasons why it should be done.

"You can't do it for anybody," Smith, a substance abuse counselor at Fox Army Health Center, said. "You have to do it for yourself. You have to find what your internal motivation is."

Fox Army Health Center is committed to helping those on the Arsenal that are ready to say goodbye to nicotine with the tobacco cessation program, which provides users with the necessary tools to kick the habit for good.

For 12 weeks, approximately 24 participants receive education on quitting tobacco, as well as support through classes, counseling and checkups. A five-week class kicks off the program, covering topics tobacco users need to be successful in their quitting, such as coping habits and identifying their triggers. Participants that are a good match will receive free medication for the 12 weeks to aid them in quitting. All participants are required to set a quit date.

Photo by Amy Guckeen

NOT ALONE— An estimated 46 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes.

"It's accountability," said Valerie Francis, program manager and nurse educator at Fox Army Health Center. "You have to come in and say, 'OK, this is it.'"

After the five-week class concludes, participants come in once every two weeks for a checkup and to discuss any problems they may be encountering. Participants are checked in on by phone for a full year. For those who need more support than just once every two weeks, Francis and coordinators are available. A dietitian is even provided for those concerned about gaining weight.

"We're here for them," Francis said. "There are people here committed to helping them quit. They know if they need to call us they can do it. We tailor it to what the patient needs."

The center's level of commitment is obvious in their success rate. While the national average for success 12 months after quitting is 30 percent, the tobacco cessation program boasts a 48 percent success rate. Research indicates that people enrolled in a structured class, such as the tobacco cessation program, that also take a tobacco cessation medication double their success rate, according to Francis.

"Eventually the medicine is not going to be there," she said. "You have to learn to identify your triggers and modify your behavior."

With his experience, Smith is able to offer peer support to participants who may be grappling with the difficult withdrawal symptoms, such as irritability, anxiety, difficulty concentrating and increased appetite.

"Just because you decided to give up smoking or chewing, life is not going to be a bed of roses," Smith said. "Life is going to continue to come at us. We just have to find new ways to deal with it."

For more information on the tobacco cessation program or to sign up, call Francis at 955-8888 ext. 1431 or Rick Stock, ext. 1443.

Statewide weight loss program kicks off at Redstone

Scale back pounds with teamwork

By AMY GUCKEEN
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Sweet home Alabama has perhaps been a little too sweet, a little too fried, too high in calories and way too high in fat. This year, the whole state, including Redstone Arsenal, is making a New Year's resolution: to scale back and score health.

In 2008, 31.4 percent of Alabamians were considered to be obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, making it one of the fattest states in the nation. Beginning this month, Scale Back Alabama, a statewide weight loss contest, will challenge residents to change that statistic.

"It's very startling," said Desiree Walker, Scale Back Alabama program coordinator for the Arsenal and registered dietitian for the Wellness Clinic at Fox Army Health Center. "If you look at the statistics, Alabama is one of the top three states that has a prevalence of obesity that is greater than 30 percent. (Scale Back Alabama) is definitely needed in this area to try to encourage people to change their lifestyle behaviors to get to a healthier wellness."

The program, sponsored by the Alabama Hospital Association and Alabama Department of Public Health, encourages participants to set a safe and realistic goal: lose one pound a week for 10 weeks.

"It's a reasonable, attainable goal," said Gaylene Wilson, program coordinator for Scale Back Alabama at Redstone, and FMWR sports and fitness director. "A lot of the time with New Year's resolutions, people set unrealistic goals. This is something people can reach. It's a safe weight loss."

Individuals form teams of four, including a team captain, to work through their weight loss transformation together. Teams must start and end the competition together. Guidelines and tips will be provided to participants over the course of the 10 weeks. Participants will receive e-mails to cheer them on in their weight loss efforts as they go along. The team spirit and encouragement behind the program helps participants stick to their goals, according to Wilson.

"We all struggle with the same things," she said. "We all know the right things to do, it's just doing them. It's the encouragement, the support. You don't want to let your team members down."

Last year, 40,722 people from across the state participated in the program, losing a total of 183,135 pounds, simply by increasing their fruit, vegetable and water intake, and exercising more.

"A few little changes can help you lose a pound a week," Wilson said.

In addition to the health benefits, participants will also be eligible for cash prizes. Teams that maintain all four original members who lose 10 pounds per member are eligible for one of three grand prizes: $250 for each team member, $500 for each team member, or $1,000 for each team member. Individuals that complete the program and lose at least 10 pounds are eligible for one of 50 cash prizes of $100 each. Prizewinners will be announced April 28.

To sign up your team or learn more about the Scale Back Alabama program, attend one of three information sessions: Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m. at Pagano Gym, Jan. 20 at 1 p.m. at Sparkman Fitness Center or Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Fox Den at Fox Army Health Center. Teams may also register by contacting Wilson, at gaylene.wilson@conus.army.mil or 842-2574. Anyone unable to find a team, may contact Wilson, who will assist you in finding one. The program is open to anyone 18 years of age and older who have access to the Arsenal.

Weigh-ins will be held Jan. 25-28 at the Pagano Gym and Sparkman Fitness Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., as well as the Redstone Fitness Center from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weigh-ins will also be recorded that week at the Fox Army Wellness Center.

Bites of weight loss advice

Kick off your weight loss goals and scale back with these tips from Desiree Walker, registered dietitian at Fox Army Health Center:

- Exercise. Can you fit in some activity, either with a buddy or on your own, on a regular basis? At the very least, increase your activities of daily living, such as taking the stairs or parking further away.
- What you eat. Are you eating out or eating at home? What are you filling your plate with? Add healthy selections for a healthier lifestyle.
- How much you eat. Consider cutting back how much you eat. Just by committing to only eat two-thirds of what is on your plate can make a big difference.

Value engineering programs again top savings goal

The Value Engineering and Operations and Support Cost Reduction programs had an outstanding fiscal 2009 in cost cutting initiatives, according to the Aviation and Missile Command VE Office.

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles presented plaques and certificates during the annual VE and Life Cycle Cost Reduction Awards Ceremony on Dec. 10 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

The following Team Redstone organizations received VE award plaques for achieving their fiscal 2009 savings goals: Air Warrior Product Office, Apache Attack Helicopters Program Managers Office, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Joint Attack Munitions Systems Project Office, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office, PD TMDE, PM Aviation Systems (Aviation Ground Support Equipment; Air Traffic Control; Fixed Wing), Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office, Missile Defense Agency (THAAD Project Office; X-Band Radars Project Office), and the Utility Helicopters Project Office.

Value Engineering certificates were also presented to VE coordinators for their fiscal 2009 accomplishments. Fiscal 2009 VE efforts saved $226 million in total VE savings, attaining 174 percent of the savings goal of $130 million. This is the 24th year in a row that Team Redstone surpassed the VE savings goal.

Fiscal year 2009 was another great year for the AMCOM SMA-OSCR program.

A total of four projects were approved with a total initial investment of $11.065 million and field savings are estimated to exceed $198 million over the next 10 years. Currently, 117 projects have been funded in the SMA-OSCR program since fiscal 1996. This includes a total of $89.528 million invested in redesign funds with 10-year projected field savings of $1.637 billion. To date, there are 57 completed OSCR projects with $21.81 million invested in redesign funds and a 10-year projected field savings of $748.28 million.

The following Team Redstone organizations received OSCR award plaques for their fiscal 2009 accomplishments: Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Apache Attack Helicopter Program Managers Office, and the Cargo Project Office. Operating and Support Cost Reduction certificates were also presented to key OSCR personnel for their accomplishments.

"These achievements are the results of teams and individuals from both government and contractor communities dedicated to improve our savings of current funding and containment of future operations and support costs," Myles said. "Reducing cost, increasing effectiveness, and increasing safety for our Soldiers — these are typical results when using the VE and OSCR methodology." *(Command VE Office release)*

Deployed logistics teams provide support in theater

Courtesy photo

KUWAIT TEAM— At work in the LOGSA ARMT lab at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, are from left, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez of PBO, Steve Tesh (standing) of LOGSA and Terrill Cofield of TACOM LCMC.

By GEOFFREY EMBREY
Logistics Support Activity deputy commander

The Logistics Support Activity has a growing footprint in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As a major part of this footprint, LOGSA has placed Department of the Army civilian liaison officers in Balad (Iraq), Arifjan (Kuwait) and Bagram (Afghanistan) whose mission is to represent the command as the face to the field working LOGSA related issues.

These officers also provide hands-on training on all the products and services LOGSA offers inside the Logistics Information Warehouse. LOGSA also has contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan who are partnering with the officers to augment this critical training mission.

In the past, most of this training was conducted in a distributed fashion on site at the unit location. Although LOGSA still conduct some training in a distributed manner, with the help of the 401st and 402nd AFSN, the activity recently opened computer based training laboratories in Joint Base Balad and Victory Base Complex in Iraq, Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and Arifjan Forward Operating Base in Kuwait. With the addition of these labs, LOGSA can centralize training and offer more courses with larger numbers of students.

Through these deployed training teams and training labs, LOGSA is actively supporting the Army's efforts to speed the redistribution, retrograde and reset of equipment deployed to Southwest Asia and ensure that the Army maintains a high level of combat readiness. The main focus of this training is on two critical enabling tools that are used in theater to facilitate the redistribution, retrograde and reset process. They are the Automated Reset Management Tool and the Theater Provided Equipment Planner.

ARMT is a web-based application that assists in managing reset and increasing the velocity to get equipment back in the hands of units. ARMT automates the process for requesting planning disposition for field and sustainment level reset plans. The tool autogenerates the reset plans from PBUSE for the unit and the unit simply validates that the plan is correct and then executes the plan in the tool. The visibility of these reset plans in ARMT allows the AMC LCMC's maintenance facilities to forecast workload, capacity, parts requirements, and cost to expedite the repair and reset process.

The TPE Planner is a web based tool that automates the theaters current manual process used to vet lateral transfer, redistribution and disposition decisions for non-mission essential TPE. It was built to improve the process velocity and synchronization at all levels in the vetting process, and provide centralized visibility by documenting decisions and directives in tailored reports. It will also provide visibility of the equipment that is due into, and at, the Redistribution Property Assistance Team yards to assist in forecasting workload, capacity and transportation requirements.

LOGSA's forward deployed teams and labs have proven to be a success providing and enabling outstanding training, as well as, sustainment logistics support throughout the AOR. They will continue to play a key role supporting the Army's evolving mission in theater ensuring the war fighter receives the highest quality training and support where and when it is needed.

Soldier's remains return home from Korean War

Courtesy photo

ARMY FAMILY— Marie Cleghorn and her family wait planeside on the runway of Birmingham International Airport with Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper and Master Sgt. Loren Vigil for the remains of Master Sgt. Silas W. Wilson.

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced Dec. 22 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Master Sgt. Silas W. Wilson of Upshaw. Wilson was assigned to M Company, 3rd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Representatives from the Army's Mortuary Office met with Wilson's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process on behalf of the secretary of the Army.

In November 1950, the 3rd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment engaged in heavy fighting in and around their Command Post during the battle for Unsan, North Korea. On Nov. 2, the 3rd Battalion became entrapped in their positions and most of the able bodied escaped, leaving the wounded behind. Wilson was among the wounded that was taken as prisoner of the Chinese and North Korean forces in the area. On Nov. 16, 1950, at age 31, Wilson died from enemy action.

In 2004, a Recovery Team excavated a burial near the North Korean town of Chonsung-Ni. After forensic anthropological and odontological examination and mitochondrial DNA testing, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory identified the remains of seven Soldiers of the 8th Cavalry Regiment including Wilson.

His remains will be returned to his daughter, Marie Cleghorn of Arley. There was a planeside ceremony Dec. 23 at Birmingham International Airport.

Student apprentice serves nation, supports the war fighter

By MERV BROKKE
AMRDEC public affairs

High school students spend their summer vacations in as many ways as there are students. Of those who seek employment and strive to improve their skills and abilities in preparation for future careers, many look to the Army's Science and Engineering Apprentice Program as a means to earn money while serving the nation.

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center is one of many research facilities across the country where students can work directly with mentors on meaningful projects that support the war fighter.

According to the Army Educational Outreach Program Overview, the Army has long recognized that a scientifically and technologically literate citizenry is this nation's best hope for a secure, rewarding and successful future. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics will continue to play a dominant role in all aspects of everyday life in the 21st century and for this reason, the Army created the AEOP which greatly expands and integrates an array of Army educational opportunities for the future generations of America's work force and their teachers.

One of these students is Dakota Joseph Eldridge. Eldridge is a junior at Arab High School who participated in the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program under the mentorship of AMRDEC employees Brit Frank, chief, Systems Support Branch, Engineering Support Division, Engineering Directorate; and John Elrod, electronics engineer, Systems Support Branch.

The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program, sponsored by George Washington University and the Department of Defense, is an eight-week summer program for high school and college students. This opportunity provides students with valuable experience needed to make informed career decisions.

Photo by Merv Brokke

LAB EXPERIENCE— Dakota Joseph Eldridge, a junior from Arab High School, and participant in the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program performs integration of Test Program Set changes on a Kiowa Warrior Line Replaceable Unit as his mentors Brit Frank, chief, Systems Support Branch, Engineering Support Division, Engineering Directorate; and John Elrod, electronics engineer, Systems Support Branch, supervise. According to the SEAP website, the program provides students with opportunities in and exposure to scientific and engineering practices and personnel not available in their school environment.

"I learned a lot about electrical engineering through what work I did. I was not very familiar with electrical components and it gave me a greater idea of what I would like to major and pursue a career in," Eldridge said.

The mentor's role is multifaceted and doesn't end after an assignment is given. A mentor is a supervisor, teacher, coach and role model.

"One of Eldridge's tasks was to aid in the development and integration of a Test Program Set for the Improved Master Control Processor Unit, Line Replaceable Unit for the Kiowa helicopter (OH-58D)," Frank said.

War fighters depend on their equipment being ready to operate around the clock and under the harshest conditions around the world.

"Eldridge gained insight into how technology is used to maintain readiness of equipment in the field," Elrod said.

According to the SEAP website, the students contribute to the research of the laboratory while learning research techniques in the process. This "hands-on" experience gives students a broader view of their fields of interest and shows students what kind of work awaits them in their future career.

"I like how we would meet and do group projects," Eldridge said. "Every member of the SEAP program would be highly involved. That made the program more enjoyable and helped me gain a higher understanding of the various areas of engineering."

For Eldridge, working in the SEAP program at AMRDEC was an awesome experience; one he hopes to continue and recommends to his friends.

"I really liked the program a lot and, yes, it is very beneficial to engineering students in the fact that it allowed you to see true engineering in practice," he said.

High school students wishing to participate in this year's SEAP Program, here at Redstone, must apply by Jan. 29. For more information, visit the Army Educational Outreach Program website at http://www.usaeop.com/index.htm. *(AMRDEC release)*

Corpus Christi Army Depot producing new facility

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Construction is slated to begin on the first of nine phases to replace Corpus Christi Army Depot's 50-plus year old, 2 million square foot main production facility. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Dynamic Component Rebuild Facility was held Thursday at the depot.

The DCRF is a 142,000 square foot, wide-span, high-bay facility used to house transmission test cells and repair operations.

This first phase represents the beginning of a 10-year modernization program, ensuring continued helicopter repair and world-class fleet sustainment to the Army and other DoD services and aviation agencies.

This new production building, incorporating modern design and the latest technology, will provide a safe and energy efficient industrial work environment to enable lasting support to this nation's finest.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast awarded a $26.7 million contract Sept. 29 to Walbridge Aldinger of Detroit, Mich., for construction of the DCRF. Local subcontractors will be used, employing hundreds of workers for the project.

"This is the beginning of critical upgrades to CCAD's aging infrastructure which will dramatically increase our ability to effectively support the war fighter," Kresten Cook, Corpus Christi's director of engineering services, said. "For several decades, CCAD has effectively maintained a continually modernizing helicopter fleet by upgrading its production capabilities. However, timeworn facilities and infrastructure are well overdue for a comparable upgrade to maintain continued safe and efficient operations for our 5,000 employees."

The facility will comply with anti-terrorism/force protection standards and incorporate sustainable design features including new energy saving, environmentally responsible design.

The DCRF phase of the project is expected to be complete in May 2011. *(Corpus Christi Army Depot release)*

Logistics product team meets locally

By ROBERT SALINAS
Logistics Support Activity

The LOGSA Logistics and Engineering Center hosted a meeting for 62 participants of the Headquarters, Department of the Army Item Unique Identification Integrated Product Team on Dec. 1-3 at the Jacobs Conference Center in Huntsville.

The product team was formally established in 2008 to provide governance, resolve issues and guide Armywide policy and implementation of IUID. The process owners are the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Department of the Army G-4. The product team was co-chaired by ASA(ALT) director of logistics policy Larry Hill and Army G-4 maintenance representative Carl Hoeninger.

Key activities during the meeting included: IUID policy and Army IUID Task Force updates by ASA(ALT) and Army G-4; lessons learned on the IUID Small Arms Demonstration project; updates on legacy marking activities; a review of LOGSA IUID support actions; and IUID program overviews by representatives from the Office of the Project Manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, OPM Joint Attack Munitions, OPM Force Protection, OPM AH-64 Attack Helicopter; Ground Combat Systems; and the Communication-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command.

This is the third time for Logistics Support Activity to host the event. LOGSA serves as the Army's IUID Support Office, Army IUID Warehouse, and IPT Executive Secretary. The next IUID IPT is planned for mid-May.

Jacksonville native returns from year in Afghanistan

Courtesy photo

AFGHAN AWARD— Ken Valine, right, receives the honorary rank of colonel in the Afghan National Army during a ceremony in Gardez, Afghanistan.

Just in time to celebrate the holidays with family, Jacksonville native Ken Valine returned to Alabama Dec. 23 after nearly a year of working with the Afghan National Army in Gardez, Afghanistan.

Valine, 57, is the son of Ernest and Margaret Valine of Jacksonville. He lives in Lacey's Spring.

For the past year Valine, under contract with MPRI out of Alexandria, Va., has been a logistics mentor to the ANA, teaching members of the 203rd Thunder Corps how to organize and account for property. This is part of the effort in Afghanistan to train the ANA to be self-sufficient.

Shortly before leaving Afghanistan, Valine was made an ANA honorary colonel. In a ceremony Nov. 11, Afghan Maj. Gen. Abdul Khaliq, the 203rd Corps commander, awarded Valine the colonel rank insignia and a certificate.

"I wish to extend to you my personal gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding performance as the MPRI ANA G-4 mentor from 11 Jan. to 15 Dec. 2009," the certificate said. "I am proud of your hard work and determination. Your contributions and assistance have been invaluable to the growth of the 203d Corps and you have planted the seeds for its future."

The certificate is signed by Khaliq and Col. Saeed Alisha Kazimi, the 203rd Thunder Corps G-4.

Upon arriving in Huntsville, Valine and his family drove directly to Jacksonville to help Ernest celebrate his 90th birthday.

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Stay in school

Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation, speaks to more than 70 ninth- to 12th-graders Dec. 14 at New Hope High. His message: Stay in school and be the best you can be in whatever profession you choose.

Courtesy photo

Care packages

Chaplain Mickey Jett passes out care packages to Soldiers in Afghanistan from Redstone Arsenal. More than 59 boxes were sent to the Soldiers in time for Christmas, thanks to the generosity of donors such as the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition, Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville Chapter and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation North Alabama Chapter that helped with shipping costs.

Special Operations aviation eyes faster transport

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army Special Operations aviation needs faster helicopters to meet the speed and range requirements needed to conduct operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the 160th SOAR commander.

Col. Clayton Hutmacher, commander, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), discussed regiment initiatives during the Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land Warfare Army Aviation Symposium and Exposition, Jan. 5-7 in Arlington, Va.

"I think the way ahead for us is we have got to break that 120-knot barrier," he said. "For us, some of these targets that we are trying to range — strategic targets — basing is a big problem for us — trying to get close enough to that target. And we are looking to go farther, faster and carry more stuff."

In Afghanistan and Iraq, speed and range are critical to conducting the special operations mission, Hutmacher said.

"If you look at the fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is a nonlinear battlefield," he said. "I think speed, while maybe not realized by the operations at large — that speed and range are very important when you are dealing with non-state actors and fleeting targets. I think Army aviation would be well served by starting to look at that a little bit more."

Hutmacher mentioned two aircraft, the Piasecki Speedhawk and Sikorsky X-2, as examples of the kind of capability he's looking for.

While Hutmacher didn't specifically say the two airframes were the ones the Army needed — he did say their kind of capability was what he thought the Army special operations community needed.

"Speed and range are essential for the SOF community," he said.

The colonel also said special operations would need to partner with the larger Army aviation community to get those capabilities.

"What I am looking for is a capability," he said. "We are very interested in partnering with the conventional force to try and find a common air frame — quite frankly we can't do it without you."

Hutmacher also discussed pursuit of a hostile-fire indicator system for Special Forces aviation.

"We have a suite of radio-frequency countermeasures on the aircraft," he said. "But what's shooting us down – what's killing us on the battlefield and what's killing conventional aviation — are small arms and rocket-propelled grenades and we are aggressively pursuing a solution. We have a pretty aggressive plan to get after that threat."

To illustrate the need for better small-arms protection for Special Operations aviators, he cited a recent mission where three MH-47 Chinook helicopters took heavy enemy fire.

"During infil and exfil they had 42 ... RPGs shot at the aircraft, multiple frag damage," he said. "Our aircrews ... they expended 18,000 rounds addressing that threat. It's hard to find these guys when they are in the hedges and undercover — they are not stupid. So we are looking for that HFI system to get integrated onto our airframes."

Navy runs over Missouri in bowl game

HOUSTON – Ricky Dobbs ran for 166 yards and three touchdowns and Navy manhandled Missouri with its triple-option offense in a 35-13 win over the Tigers in the Texas Bowl on Dec. 31.

Dobbs also threw a touchdown pass to Bobby Doyle and Marcus Curry ran for a score as the Midshipmen (10-4) rushed for 385 yards against Missouri's 12th-ranked run defense. Navy won time of possession by nearly 22 minutes and ran 81 offensive plays to only 57 for the Tigers.

Blaine Gabbert threw a 58-yard touchdown pass to Danario Alexander on Missouri's second play from scrimmage, but the Tigers mustered only 298 yards the rest of the game — largely because they only had the ball for just over 19 minutes.

Gabbert also threw two interceptions and was sacked four times as Missouri (8-5) lost for the second time in its last five bowl appearances.

Alexander, who led the nation in receiving yards coming into the game, took a short pass from Gabbert and outran the Navy defense just 24 seconds into the game. It was Alexander's 14th TD catch of the season and eighth covering more than 50 yards.

The Tigers knew what to expect from Navy's offense and still couldn't stop it.

Navysports.com

BOWL OF FUN— Quarterback Ricky Dobbs, a junior from Douglasville, Ga., ran for 166 yards and three touchdowns and had a TD pass in Navy's 35-13 win over Missouri.

Dobbs broke a 24-yard run on Navy's second possession, diving into the end zone with 2:58 left in the first quarter. It was Dobbs' 25th touchdown run of the year, adding to his NCAA single-season record for a quarterback.

Tigers' defensive end Aldon Smith sacked Dobbs on the first play of the second quarter, setting a Missouri record with his 12th sack of the season.

Dobbs wasn't sacked again, and the Midshipmen drove to the Missouri 22 late in the half. Dobbs ran up the middle, but Missouri safety Jasper Simmons forced a fumble just before Dobbs crossed the goal line and the Tigers recovered in the end zone.

It only slowed down the Middies temporarily.

Missouri's Derrick Washington fumbled on the next play, Navy recovered and Dobbs scored on a 12-yard run with 45 seconds left before halftime.

Gabbert's 36-yard pass to Washington set up Grant Ressel's 31-yard field goal on the last play before the break to make it 14-10.

But Navy had already set the tone for the game, rushing for 216 yards in the first half and holding the ball for more than 21 minutes.

Dobbs' 3-yard touchdown pass to Doyle finished the first drive of the third quarter and put Navy up 21-10.

Navy's Ross Pospisil picked off Gabbert's pass near midfield on Missouri's next play. Gabbert had not thrown an interception since a 36-17 win over Colorado on Oct. 31.

Missouri only slowed down Navy's offense when the Midshipmen made mistakes. Dobbs fumbled the snap on fourth-and-1 from the Missouri 3, and the Tigers' offense finally got back on the field.

Wes Kemp caught a short pass and got help from several blocks on a 56-yard gain to the Navy 9. The drive stalled there and Ressel kicked another 31-yarder to make it 21-13.

Dobbs threw a 47-yard pass to Curry on Navy's next play. Dobbs joined Craig Candeto (2003) as the only Midshipmen to run and pass for over 1,000 yards in a season.

Curry ran 11 yards for a touchdown on the next snap, finishing Navy's second-fastest touchdown drive of the season (35 seconds).

Dobbs, named the game's most valuable player, finished one more time-consuming drive with a 1-yard touchdown run with 4:56 left.

The Midshipmen went 6-0 this season and improved to 41-5 over the last seven years when they've scored at least 30 points. *(Navysports.com)*

Basketball season rolls in next week

Redstone's basketball season will tip off Jan. 20.

Games will be played three nights a week – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday – at 6 and 7 p.m. at Pagano Gym. A coaches/officials meeting will be held 5:30 p.m. Jan. 20.

Defending champion HHC 59th, which won the holiday tournament, is among the anticipated nine or 10 teams. The others include Bravo Company (two teams), Charlie Company, Civilian Welfare Fund, Marines, Headquarters & Alpha, and the National Guard.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

WARMUP— HHC 59th and shooting guard Travis Roop (7) are ready to defend their post championship.

Army staff college extension lands on post

Command and General Staff College opens satellite campus at Redstone

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Even as Redstone Arsenal begins to lose its schoolhouse traditions with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission move of the 59th Ordnance Brigade and the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, it is making a name for itself with a different sort of instructional initiative.

On Friday, the Redstone Arsenal campus of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College officially opened for its inaugural 15-week class of 72 mid-career officers — mainly at the rank of major with a few senior captains — in a renovated facility at the corner of Aerobee Road and Zeus Drive.

"Redstone Arsenal has always been considered for a satellite campus," said retired Brig. Gen. Dr. Chris King, the college's dean of academics. "One of the reasons we select a particular place is that it is a location where there is a large number of majors. Redstone Arsenal fits that criteria because it's always been a location for high-ranking officers, and with the relocation of the Army Materiel Command and acquisition officers that number will increase."

The new Arsenal location is the college's fourth satellite facility. With its opening, the Command and Staff College expands its 129-year tradition at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., of providing intermediate level education courses that prepare Army officers for service in key developmental and leadership positions. Redstone Arsenal now joins Fort Belvoir and Fort Lee, Va.; and Fort Gordon, Ga., as a college satellite campus.

"The Army needs to expand its instructional capacity because it is committed to educating every major. This satellite adds the ability to educate 220 majors per year," King said.

The satellite campus, located in a building that was renovated for nearly $2 million, provides a state-of-the-art academic environment where each student is equipped with a computer work station, video teleconferencing capability and touch-sensitive plasma presentation screens in each classroom.

"We're investing everything we need to make this succeed right out the gate," King said.

The satellite campus will offer three classes each year, with about 70 students per class. Most of the students will be housed on the Arsenal.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

GRAND OPENING— Officials with the Army's Command and General Staff College and Redstone Arsenal cut the ribbon signifying the opening of a college satellite campus on the Arsenal that will provide leadership development instruction for three classes of mid-career officers (majors) each year. From left are Col. William Raymond, director of the Command and General Staff College; Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli; retired Brig. Gen. Dr. Chris King, dean of academics for the college and retired Col. Mary Goodwin, Redstone Arsenal senior faculty member and team leader.

The college administration has been very pleased with the services the Garrison and its Directorate of Public Works have provided since announcing its intent to locate a satellite campus at the Arsenal.

"When we came to Redstone Arsenal and told them of our plans, we asked to look at the master plan," said King, who was once stationed at the Arsenal as a Corps of Engineers officer.

"We told them of our requirements and asked what would be a good location for our satellite. This was the facility they offered up to us. Everything has been done first rate."

The satellite has a staff of 13, with 12 of those teaching courses in leadership, history, tactics, strategy and operational planning. Retired Col. Mary Goodwin is the senior faculty member and team leader.

"The focus is on leader development," King said. "These officers will go on to do planning and to manage the execution of plans and operations in battalions and brigades, and eventually be battalion commanders.

"We are preparing them for the next 10 years of their careers as they move into command opportunities. We are developing adaptive leaders who are agile, and plan and execute well."

Many of the majors who graduate from the college will be assigned to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, theaters where many have already served at least one tour. King said the mission of the college and its satellites is critical to the Army's continued success.

"We need every major in the Army today, actually we need 120 percent of them, and we need their A game," King said. "They will all take on critical missions and make life or death decisions under the harshest of conditions. We need leaders that can solve hard problems, make great decisions and execute these decisions in adaptive ways."

In an era of persistent conflict, King said "we cannot fail to develop our future senior leaders for short-term expedience."

The college and its satellite, he added, are dedicated to preparing officers to continue in their leadership roles. The class prepares them for their future in the Army and as Army leaders.

"This is your time to reflect on the Army as a profession and you as a leader in that Army," King told the satellite's first class. "You will study leadership, strategy, tactics, decision making, effective communications and more. You will discuss and debate issues and challenges that we face as an Army and a nation with these discussions being informed by historical analysis.

"You will bring your experience into the classroom so we can analyze it in the context of history, doctrine and theory. Our goal is to empower you to become even more agile and adaptive leaders than you are today."

The Arsenal satellite will provide instruction for students like Maj. Andrew Carter, who has recently returned from deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I hope to learn from the experiences of everybody else here," Carter said. "I want to put in context the lessons learned and how they relate to my professional development.

"We don't often have the time to reflect on what we have experienced and learned from those experiences. Being here will allow me to slow down and reflect on my experiences and how they apply to my future and the Army's future."

Maj. Rick Allbritton, who has served in the Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., will use his course training at the satellite to continue his career as the group logistics officer for the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg.

"I want to become a better staff officer," he said. "It's vital for a future executive officer to understand leadership and Army processes."

Maj. Mark Bird left his position as the aide-de-camp to Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command to participate in the satellite's first class. The instruction will better prepare him for his next assignment in acquisition at the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

"I want to increase my understanding of the Army decision-making process. That will help me with the work I will be doing on the SLAMRAAM program with fielding and acquisition," Bird said.

The Army began expanding its intermediate level education courses in 2000 after a study showed that the training majors were receiving was inconsistent. That expansion led to the establishment of satellite campuses.

"We are here (at Redstone Arsenal) because the Army made an important and appropriate decision 10 years ago to invest in the development of its leaders," King said. "Today, we can assure that this will make us a stronger and more capable Army. This program has exceeded what we expected back in 2000."

Hunters can find harvest at Redstone Arsenal

Permits available for great outdoors

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
Staff writer
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Diverse wildlife makes Redstone a great place for hunting and fishing. "We've sold 525 permits this season," recreation assistant Missy Ruffner said.

Hunters must purchase a Redstone hunting permit for $50. They must also have a state hunting license and a certificate from a state hunters' education course, just as they would to hunt anywhere else in the state.

Then they must go through the Arsenal's hunting orientation. In addition to scheduled orientation dates throughout the fall, hunters may complete an electronic version at Outdoor Recreation's Sportsman Drive location during business hours.

"It goes over the rules and regulations for hunting on the Arsenal," Ruffner said. "It covers a lot of safety issues."

Once hunters have met the requirements, they must sign in at Outdoor Recreation before heading into the woods. For hunters' safety, officials need to know who and how many are in Redstone's wilderness at all times. Ruffner said they try to make signing in as easy as possible for their patrons.

"Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, sign-in opens here at 4:30 in the morning," she said. "For other days, hunters can come by and sign in for the next day."

Courtesy photo

BOUNTY— NASA contractor Barry Wilson brought down a 9-point buck while hunting on Redstone Jan. 2.

Hunting on Redstone is restricted to shotguns, muzzleloaders and bow hunting – but not crossbows. It is also restricted to specific seasons for the type of game in question. Regardless of season, there is no hunting on Redstone on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Deer are the most popular pursuit. Deer season on Redstone began in October for bow hunters and in November for gunmen. It continues until the end of January. At this phase of the season, bow hunters still have the choice of buck or doe, but gun hunters are restricted to bucks only.

In addition to deer season, other game seasons are under way. Raccoon, opossum, rabbit, quail and squirrel seasons will end Feb. 28. Duck, woodcock and goose seasons will end Jan. 31. Turkey season has not started yet; and it will run for the entire month of April.

Game shot on Redstone must be brought to Outdoor Recreation to be weighed, measured and possibly photographed, Ruffner said.

Redstone also offers special youth hunts for ages 10-15. Kids don't have to pay a permit fee, but they must be accompanied by a permit-holding adult.

"We want to get these kids interested in hunting," Ruffner said. "We fix a lunch for them here. We want them to have a great time in the outdoors."

The next youth hunt is scheduled Feb. 6-7 for duck hunting. A turkey youth hunt is also slated March 27-28. A list of other youth hunts throughout the year is available from Outdoor Recreation.

Fishing is a year-round sport at Redstone. In addition to Tennessee River access, Ruffner said Redstone boasts some great fishing at ponds. Some are only accessible on weekends, such as those near missile ranges. They are secured areas, so anglers must check in at Outdoor Recreation to gain access. The only licensing required to fish on post is a valid state license.

Hunting and fishing on post is open to most of the Redstone community. Government civilians, retirees, NASA and contractors located on post are eligible as well. Active duty, National Guard and reservists and their dependents are eligible to hunt Redstone. Hunters with Redstone permits may bring up to two guests per day. Civilians and contractors may bring two of their dependents per day. The criteria for who constitutes a dependent is simple, according to Ruffner. "If you can claim them on your taxes then they're OK," she said.

For more information on hunting and fishing at Redstone, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

Sports & Recreation

Indoor flying
Madison United Methodist Church welcomes pilots and spectators of all ages to its Christian Life Center Aerodrome for indoor small radio-controlled and free-flight airplane and helicopter flying Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 772-3946.

Fitness fair
Heart of the Valley YMCA will have its sixth annual Health and Fitness Fair on Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Southeast Family YMCA, 1000 Weatherly Road. Activities include Health Screens, more than 40 vendors, speakers every hour, YogaDay USA Classes, free Les Mills Body Pump Class, and a blood drive. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Sharon Allen 883-9622 or Patrice Rowe 428-9622.

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 Colsen. 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.

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.

Toastmaster clubs
Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Club 9783, which meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the building 4610 cafeteria. For more information, call Paul Pickett 544-6078. The Research Park Club 4838 meets Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 1217. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Margrit Carr 313-1952.

Civil War discussion
Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. "The Siege and Surrender of Port Hudson, La., 1863" will be presented by Dr. John 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 Thursday 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.

Training seminar
The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 15th annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," Feb. 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. A luncheon, continental breakfast and snacks along with Office Expo booths will be provided to attendees. The course is in TIPS by the course number PPE; and the vendor name is IAAP. Tuition fees are $125 and student rates are $50. You do not have to be in the administrative career field to attend the training event. For more information or to register, call Susan Douglas 313-2079.

Space society
HAL5 (local chapter of the National Space Society) presents Audra Herriges, graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, speaking on "Next L.E.A.P. to the Future! Lunar Explorational Architecture Possibilities," on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library. Les Johnson, co-author of "Paradise Regained, The Re Greening of the Earth," will speak March 4 at 7 p.m. at the library. For more information, go to HAL5.org or hal5.help@gmail.com.

Women's connection
Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will meet Jan. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. northwest. Carolyn Sofield of Seymour, Tenn., will speak on "Understanding the Fine Print in Life." Cost is $15. Free child care for ages 6 and under is provided off site. Reservations, essential for the luncheon and for child care, are due by Jan. 21. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

Engineer society
This month's SOLE luncheon is Jan. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Dan Parker, deputy director of AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate, is the speaker. Cost is $20 for non-members, $15 for members. For reservations call Jane Campbell 544-1001 or Dave Welch 489-1688.

Professional development
The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will be sponsor its annual Mini-Professional Development Institute Training Sessions on Feb. 3 and 4 at Trinity United

See **Announcements** on page **22**

Courtesy photo

Garrison adoptions

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli poses with five youngsters from the Alabama School for the Blind who the Garrison adopted for Christmas. Workers collected $2,115 in donations for gifts. Some also purchased items off the children's list. The Garrison learned about the youngsters through the Alabama Industries for the Deaf and Blind, which operates the base supply store.

Methodist Church new room auditorium on Airport Road. This is a one day training session; and participants can pick which day to attend. Lunch is included. Deadline to register is Jan. 29. Registration/doors open at 7:30 a.m.; and the Mini-PDI begins at 8:30. Cost is $100 for members, $125 for non-members. On Feb. 3, retired Brig. Brig. Gen. Sandra Gregory will present an update on financial management work force initiatives. On Feb. 4, Sandra Richardson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, will discuss key issues in the DoD comptroller world. Dr. John Kline will present soft skill management topics and will do a lunch presentation on both days. Participants can earn up to seven Continuous Learning Points. Enter into TIP System; catalog F102MPDI, course title ASMC MINI-PDI 2010. Call in reservation with IMPAC credit card to Dee Kowallik 313-4020, Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Sandy Brock 313-4494, Theresa McBride 842-9272 or Freida Waits 313-4986.

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.

Technical symposium

Huntsville Chapter 198 Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association presents a classified Technical Symposium that will explore the topic "Force Protection Systems" on Feb. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Raytheon Company, 401 Jan Davis Drive. Presentations will include C-RAM, EAPS, Directed Energy, APS,RAID, and ATIRCM Systems. For reservations call Nancy Herthum 425-2158, e-mail nherthum@dcscorp.com or visit www.conferencesbysigma.com//all/index.php?=23. No refunds after Jan. 25. Transmit clearance information to: Raytheon Company, ATTN: Visitor Control (SeKitha Nunn), 401 Jan Davis Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806; phone 542-4200, fax 542-4115, SMO code OHG555.

Genealogical group

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Main Branch auditorium. For more information, call 883-5650.

Communications/electronics

Huntsville Chapter 198 Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will meet Jan. 20 and will at the Holiday Inn, Madison Square Mall. Check-in opens at 11 a.m. and lunch begins at 11:30. Bill Waite of the AEgis Technologies Group will speak on "Modeling and Simulation Challenges Associated with Complex Systems — How Much is Enough?" For reservations call Nancy Herthum 425-2158 or e-mail nherthum@dcscorp.com.

Engineer post

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers meets Jan. 21 at the Holiday Inn, Madison Square Mall. Registration begins at 11 a.m. and the luncheon begins at 11:30. Brian Benson of Weston Solutions will speak on "Indoor Air Quality Management." The cost is $15. For reservations contact Dan Foran at dforan@shearerassociates.us.

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 for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Appreciation event

Emily Vandiver takes a bow and thanks all the volunteers that supported the first Girls' Science and Engineering Day event held Nov. 14 at the Shelby Center for Science and Technology at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. As chairperson for the Women's Leadership Council, Vandiver, along with council members Eula Battle, April Harris, Dr. Pam Hudson, Alice Myles and Margie Williams, sought to coordinate an event with activities that would inspire young girls to take a bigger interest in science, math and engineering. More than 500 girls in the third- to fifth-grade attended the event where they immersed in activities such as making DNA bracelets, doing experiments, meeting scientists, learning about microscopes, viewing robots, missile simulators, infrared camera images and more. Maj. Gen. Jim and Alice Myles hosted the appreciation event in the commander's conference room at AMCOM headquarters.

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.

Community grants

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

Reserve unit

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

See **Announcements** on page **24**

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF 7 Jan 2010	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING DATE	ORGANIZATION LOCATION	PAY PLAN & SERIES	GRADE LEVEL	POT GRD	PAY RANGE (FROM - TO)	WHO CAN APPLY? A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																			
SCBK09860674	Supv Intergration Systems Analyst	7-Jan-10	AMC Integration Support Office	YA-0301	3	3	96,346 - 147,322		X										
SCBK09953748	Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt	8-Jan-10	Command Group	YA-0301	3	3	90,473 - 147,332		X										
SCBK09953047	General Engineer	8-Jan-10	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	81,532 - 105,993			X		X	X		X	X		X	
SCBK09953047D	General Engineer	8-Jan-10	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	81,532 - 105,993												X
SCBK09947721	Program Analyst	8-Jan-10	DCS/G-8	GS-0343	13	13	81,532 - 105,993		X	X			X		X	X		X	
SCBK09932038	Logistics Management Specialist	8-Jan-10	Security Dir	GS-0346	11	11	57,204 - 74,360		X						X			X	
SCBK09958137	Fire Chief	8-Jan-10	GARRISON	YN-0081	2	2	67,130 - 113,908				X				X			X	
SCBK09948214	Logistics Management Specialist	8-Jan-10	Security Dir	GS-0346	12	13	68,564 - 105,993		X										
SCBK10953015	Industrial Property Specialist	10-Jan-10	Corp of Engrs, Huntsville	YA-1103	2	2	83,156 - 108,102		X						X			X	
SCBK09055343	Logistics Management Specialist	10-Jan-10	Security Dir	GS-0346	13	13	81,532 - 105,993						X		X	X		X	
SCBK09855983R	Electronic Engineer	10-Jan-10	RDECOM	DB-0855	4	4	96,346 - 147,332		X										
SCBK10772297R	Assistant Product Manager	11-Jan-10	Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0301	13	13	81,532 - 105,993			X	X				X			X	
SCBK09955283	Logistics Management Specialist	13-Jan-10	Security Dir	GS-0346	12	13	68,564 - 105,993						X		X	X		X	
SCBK10949038	International Program Management Specialist	14-Jan-10	Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0301	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X	X										
SCBK09970656	Logistics Management Specialist	14-Jan-10	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102		X										
SCBK09948042	Budget Analyst	14-Jan-10	SMDC	GS-0560	14	14	98,265 - 127,743		X										
SCBK09947686	Supv Information Management Specialist	14-Jan-10	SMDC	YC-0301	2	2	58,141 - 113,908		X										
SCBK10928043	Management Support Specialist	14-Jan-10	Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0301	11	11	57,204 - 74,360	X	X										
SCBK09922087	Supv Automation & Information Specialist	14-Jan-10	IMMC	YC-0301	2	2	81,532 - 105,993		X										
SCBK09934659	Supv General Engineer	15-Jan-10	USADTC	YD-0801	3	3	78,359 - 133,985				X				X				
SCBK09863644	Program Manager	15-Jan-10	RDECOM	DE-0340	5	5	113,331-147,332		X						X	X		X	
SCBK09929996	General Engineer	18-Jan-10	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	96,346 - 125,254			X		X	X		X	X		X	
SCBK10975429	Supv International Program Mgmt Spec	18-Jan-10	Security Dir	YC-0301	3	3	96,346 - 157,779						X		X			X	
SCBK09929996D	General Engineer	18-Jan-10	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	96,346 - 125,254												X
SCBK10964122	Logistics Management Specialist	19-Jan-10	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	69,930 - 90,907		X										
SCBK10960698	Logistics Management Specialist	19-Jan-10	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	69,930 - 90,907		X										
SCBK10975957	Health Physicist	19-Jan-10	TMDE	GS-1306	13	13	83,158 - 108,102						X		X	X		X	
SCBK09970639	Logistics Management Specialist	20-Jan-10	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102		X										
SCBK09928273	Lead General Engineer	20-Jan-10	RDECOM	DB-0801	4	4	96346 - 147,332		X		X		X		X	X		X	
SCBK10955603	Supv Logistics Management Specialist	21-Jan-10	IMMC	YC-0346	2	2	67,130 - 131,518		X						X			X	
SCBK10704039E	Enterprise Business Analyst	21-Jan-10	Lead AMC Integration Spt Ofc	GS-0301	14	14	98,265 - 127,743												X
SCBK09783548OC	Supv, Contract Spec	18-Feb-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	YA-1102	3	3	96,346 - 147,332			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK09783548OC	Supv, Contract Spec	18-Feb-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	YA-1102	3	3	96,346 - 147,332			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK09783545OC	Contract Specialist	22-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	14	14	96,346 - 125,254			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK09783534OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	12	12	68,564 - 89,128			x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
SCBK09783541OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	13	13	81,532 - 105,993			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	

WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)

A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)
F- All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)
H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)
R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)
T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)
V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
U - All U.S. citizens

NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.

NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e. Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender, etc. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the

Resumes are now being accepted for AMC Fellows and Business Enterprise Solutions Trainee,. Visit **www.amccareers.com** or **www.cpol.army.mil**, search for **Vacancy Announcement Numbers: NEAEJ04710482 &**

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.

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 or contact the Merit Awards chairs at 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.

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.

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.

Health center hours
Fox Army Health Center will be open Friday from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. All clinics and services, to include the Pharmacy, Medical Records window and the Tricare Service Center, will be open until noon only. The Central Appointments telephone line will be answered until 4:30 p.m. All other clinics will be closed. Fox will be closed Monday, Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Science/engineering apprentices
The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens, with a Social Security card, and at least 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 1. The apprentice program is divided into periods of eight, 10 and 12 weeks. The points of contact for application information are senior counselors at high schools and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at Redstone Arsenal include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The application deadline is Jan. 29. For application information, call Angela Jefferson 313-3198 or Tiffany Tiller 842-6784 of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center or visit www.gwseap.net or www.usaeop.com.

Martin Luther King celebration
Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration is Thursday at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The scheduled speaker is Bob Love, former Chicago Bulls basketball star.

Burger King opening
The old Burger King will be closing Friday. The new Burger King will go live and introduce a soft opening Jan. 19, according to the Post Exchange.

Thrift shop
"What's in a name? Ann Taylor, Gap, Coach, Abercrombee, American Eagle Outfitter, Chicos; Levis, Chanel, Limited, Liz Claiborne, Coldwater Creek, Tommy Hilfiger, Merona, Gymboree, Sag Harbor, Columbia – the name (brand) is in the Redstone Thrift Shop," a prepared release said. The shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 10-5 and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. Call 881-6992 for more information.

Quarterly retirements
The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is March 18 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Call Sgt. Sheena Kershaw 842-3032 or Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up to participate is March 8. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled June 22.

Family focus group
Installation Management Command has established a Customer Management Services office at each Army Installation. Customer Management Services utilize a three-tiered feedback system to determine the satisfaction of the Soldiers, family members, teens, retirees, veterans and civilians who work, play and live on Redstone Arsenal. The input mechanisms for feedback come from multiple sources such as online submission of comments, annual leadership and constituent assessments and community forums/town halls. All family members (parents or civilians) who would like to participate in the Family Focus Group are invited to a meeting Jan. 28 from 5-9 p.m. in building 302 (Redstone Communities Clubhouse) on Hughes Road. Light refreshments will be served. This will be the time to share concerns, hear and possibly solve issues and communicate with each other. Anyone wishing to participate may call customer service officer Steve McFadden 876-3294 or e-mail rsacms@conus.army.mil.

Photoshop classes
The UAH English Department and Huntsville-North Alabama Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication are holding two workshops on Adobe Photoshop CS2 on Jan. 23 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's Salmon Library Computer Lab, Room 211. "Creating and Editing Graphics with PhotoShop CS2: Beginners" is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with registration from 9-9:25. "Creating and Editing Graphics with PhotoShop CS2: Intermediate" is 2-5 p.m. with registration from 1:30-1:55. The cost per half-day workshop is $20 for students, $30 for STC members and UAH faculty and staff, and $50 for non-members. Reservations are required by Jan. 20 by calling 824-6321 or e-mailing Cindi Brasher at brasherc@uah.edu.