

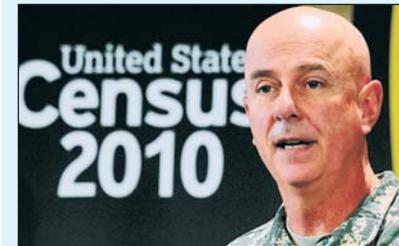
Redstone Rocket

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January 20, 2010

Community news



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Unit basketball opens tonight

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Let the Army music play on

AMC Band to arrive at Redstone in newly-constructed facility

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

The sound of construction near Gate 10 will give way to the tunes of an Army band by next year.

The Army Materiel Command Band is moving to Redstone Arsenal from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., as part of base realignment and closure. The move is planned from this November through March 2011.

Community members attended a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 12 for the 40-member band's new facility on Patton Road just north of Heiser Hall. Construction of the 16,082-square-foot building is expected to be completed by January. The contract was awarded to Dyson Construction Company from Decatur for \$4.383 million.

"It's really a pleasure to see this vision come to fruition," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Fred Ellwein, the band commander since Feb. 27, 2007.

See **Band** on page 3



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SETTING TONE— The brass quintet, called "All Brass... No Ammo," is part of the Army Materiel Command Band. Performing at last week's groundbreaking are, clockwise from left, Spc. Mark-Daniel Mitchell from Philadelphia, Pa., on trumpet; Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Davis, the music performance team leader from Palm Bay, Fla., on trombone; Staff Sgt. Stephen Edgerton from Durham, N.C., on tuba; Staff Sgt. Todd Swank from Phoenix, Ariz., on French horn; and Spc. Aaron Brizuela from Killeen, Texas, on trumpet.

Buses deliver after-school care on post

Transportation program expanding for youngsters

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

Staff writer

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With several hours between the time school ends and work ends, many parents seek out after-school programs for their children. Child Youth and School Services offers parents another choice for after-school care, including pickup at some area schools.

"We physically started doing the busing program in September," Andre Terry, Child Youth and School Services division chief, said. "The first bus arrived in October and the last one came in November."

Five 15-passenger buses now

travel the weekday routes to pick kids up at their school and deliver them to the Myra Gariott School Age Services building or the Youth Services Center next door, depending upon their age.

The buses were bought with funding from the Army Family Covenant, Terry said. There is no cost to parents for bus transportation to the after-school programs. Parents of SAS attendees pay only for the childcare program itself. Unlike many programs off post, there is no waiting list.

"Our new facility opened in April. Capacity for it is 195 children; during a regular school year we have 55-60 kids in the program," Terry said. "There is no waiting list. If a parent needs a spot, we can guarantee them one tomorrow."

For middle school kids and teens riding the buses to the youth center, there is no cost at all. Because older kids require supervision and not formal childcare, its services are free. It's a great way to keep a watchful eye on older kids, while providing them with fun activities and homework help, according to Terry.

"We'll pick them up and bring them to our facility. We feed them a snack. They are in an accredited program with trained staff. They have access to a homework tutor and our computer lab," he said. "We have recreation and sports programs there in that facility as well."

Both programs are open to all of Team Redstone. Civilians and contractors are welcome to make use of their services. For

those working on the installation, having kids on post during the hours between the end of the school day and the end of the work day not only gives peace of mind, it also saves driving time.

"We bring them here so you don't have to leave to pick them up at school," Terry said. "When your day is over they are here on post with you."

Currently the buses are picking up at 12 schools in the Madison area. Now they are shifting their focus to include schools on the Huntsville side of the installation. More schools are being added to the routes as parents request them. In order to keep track of requests, CYSS is keeping a list. While they cannot add another school to their bus

See **Buses** on page 5

An open lane random survey

How do you feel about Alabama's national championship?

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



*Brett Addington
AMCOM IMMC Scout
Observation Directorate*
"It's great for the state. It was entertaining to watch. I look forward to them repeating next year."

*Susan Blankenship
Phoenix Service*
"All I've got to say is: Roll Tide! And may they get another one next year. And we've got a pretty good chance I think."



*Erica Hereford
Northrop Grumman driver*
"Roll Tide. That's all I can say. They really did good this year."

*Johnny Mitchell
Northrop Grumman driver*
"I think it's great, because it's (national title) number 13. We love it. We hope to have 15 in five more years."



Commentary

Army delivers on family covenant

By Lt. Gen. RICK LYNCH
Installation Management Command commander

On Oct. 8, 2007, the Army unveiled the Army Family Covenant, institutionalizing the Army's commitment to providing Soldiers and families – active, Guard and Reserve – a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service. However, as I travel around the Army meeting with Soldiers and families I'm surprised to find that many are not familiar with the Army Family Covenant and the commitment Army leadership has made to provide a better quality of life to Soldiers and families.

We are delivering the Army Family Covenant with a focus on five specific areas: Standardization and funding of existing programs and services, Increasing accessibility and quality of health care, Improving Soldier and family housing, Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and Expanding education and employment opportunities for family members.

Some accomplishments over the past two years include: Standardized Army community staffing and programs at all Garrisons, added 1,079 Family Readiness Support Assistant positions to provide administrative and logistical support to commanders and FRG leaders, funded Exceptional Family Member respite care providing up to 40 hours of care per month for families; Increased primary care visits to more than 7 million people, meeting access standards for 90 percent of acute, routine and specialty appointments; Authorized Tricare standard coverage for more than 500,000 eligible members of the Selective Reserve and their family members and lowered the co-payment; Funded the Training Barracks Modernization Program to allow 11,306 Soldiers to move into newly designed or renovated barracks in FY '09, introduced the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative to enhance single Soldier quality of life; Reduced financial burden on Army families by eliminating CYSS registration fees and reducing program fees, collaborated with more than 373 school districts to support military connected students transferring to new school districts and increased placement of military spouses through the Army Spouse Employment Program, a partnership with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies to provide employment opportunities.

We are indeed making progress on delivering the Army Family Covenant, but we have much more work to do. I am dedicated to deliver on the Army leadership's promise to continue to provide the best care and quality of life possible to



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Commentary

See **Covenant** on page 3

Congress finally OK'd Dr. King holiday

By MELANIE BONE
AMCOM EEO specialist

Fifteen years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law making the third Monday of January a national holiday. Each year on the third Monday of January, schools, federal offices, post offices and banks across America close as we celebrate the birth and life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sen. John Conyers of Michigan introduced the bill to commemorate the birth and life of Dr. King. The bill had a hard time passing, and it took many years for Congress to decide to celebrate the holiday. For so many different reasons there were many who opposed the idea of a holiday for Dr. King. One senator from Georgia denounced Dr. King as a Communist. Others believed the King holiday would be interpreted as a way to make up to African-Americans for slavery. In the past, America had only honored two individuals with national holidays — Christopher Columbus and George Washington. Many felt that there were other Americans who were more deserving of a national holiday such as Abraham Lincoln or John F. Kennedy. Many felt the cost of the holiday would be too high, because of the extra overtime paid to federal workers who had to work on the holiday, as well as the millions that would be paid to those federal employees who would be off.

Sen. Bob Dole told those individuals who opposed the holiday to, "hurry back to their pocket calculators and estimate the cost of 300 years of slavery, followed by a century or more of economic, political and social exclusion and discrimination." In the years leading up to the official decree, many African-Americans took it upon themselves to celebrate King's birthday, with a few states declaring it a state holiday. The bill was finally passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and was signed into law on Nov. 2, 1983.

The first national celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday took place Jan. 20, 1986. This year the King holiday was celebrated Jan. 18. Team Redstone commemorated the holiday with a celebration Jan. 14 in Bob Jones Auditorium. As with previous year's themes, the theme of this year's celebration was "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

Quote of the week

'An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.'

– Martin Luther King Jr.

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Maj. Douglas Pope

Job: Assistant product manager for test for SLAMRAAM (Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile)

Where do you call home?
Freeman, Va.

What do you like about your job?

Producing a product that can benefit Soldiers on the battlefield. The bottom line is to increase Soldier survivability on the battlefield.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family (including wife, Melanie, and sons Jamar, 16, and Jarvon, 14).

What are your goals?

To get my Level III certification in Acquisition. And prepare my kids for college.

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

I like speed, so I would like to be on the NASCAR (circuit) to be able to drive one of those cars. I'm not going to win the Lotto, so...

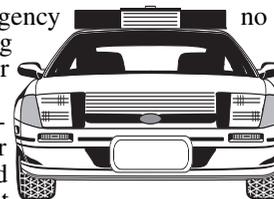
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 7-13:

Jan. 8: A Soldier was arrested by Trussville Police for desertion. He was later released to Redstone law enforcement and transported to Fort Knox, Ky.

Jan. 10: A passenger of a car that approached Gate 1 was found to be an illegal immigrant. After coordination with Immigration, Custom, Enforcement officials, the subject was denied entrance to Redstone Arsenal and released.

Jan. 11: Seven subjects who approached Gate 9 were determined to be illegal immigrants. They were transported to the Redstone Police Station and processed by Redstone law enforcement resulting in violations being issued for false documents and



no driver's license. They were later released.

Jan. 11: A Soldier was arrested by Tuscaloosa Police for desertion. The Soldier was later released to Redstone law enforcement and processed to Fort Knox.

Jan. 12: At building 5220, workers accidentally drilled into a water main supply pipe causing a parking lot to flood. Five private vehicles received water damage resulting in two of the vehicles being towed from the scene.

Traffic accidents reported: 11 without injury, including three that involved deer strikes.

Violation notices issued: 8 speeding, 2 failure to yield, 2 no driver's license, 1 fraudulent documents, 3 traffic control device operations.

Major charged with smuggling cash from Iraq

WASHINGTON – Maj. Charles E. Sublett, 46, of Huntsville, was arrested Jan. 11 on charges of bulk cash smuggling and making false statements to a federal agency, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Criminal Division.

Sublett was charged in an indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in Memphis, on Jan. 5 and unsealed Jan. 11 following his arrest in Huntsville. According to the indictment, Sublett smuggled more than \$100,000 in currency, concealed in a shipping package, into the United States from Iraq in January 2005. Sublett also allegedly failed to declare that he imported the money.

As alleged in the indictment, from August 2004 through February 2005, Sublett was deployed to Balad Regional Contracting Center on Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq. LSA Anaconda is a U.S. military installation that was established in approximately 2003 to support U.S. military operations in Iraq. According to the indictment, Sublett served as a contracting officer while deployed to LSA Anaconda. As a contracting officer, he was responsible for, among other things, evaluating and supervising contracts with companies that provide goods and services to the Army.

According to the indictment, on approximately Jan. 11, 2005, Sublett sent a package from Balad, Iraq, to Killeen, Texas, which was seized by Customs and Border Protection officers in Memphis. The international air waybill for the package said it contained books, papers, a jewelry box and clothes with a total declared customs value of \$140 but did not disclose the currency allegedly also contained in the package. According to the indictment, the package also contained \$107,900 in U.S. currency and 17,120,000 in Iraqi dinar. Sublett allegedly failed to file a Currency or Monetary Instruments Transaction Report as required by federal law when transporting currency in amounts of more than \$10,000 into or out of the United States.

The maximum penalty for each of the two charges contained in the indictment — bulk cash smuggling and false statements to a government agency — is five years in prison, and a \$250,000 fine, to be followed by a term of up to three years of supervised release.

The indictment also contains a criminal forfei-

ture allegation. Specifically, if convicted of the bulk cash smuggling charge, Sublett would be ordered to forfeit the \$107,900 and 17,120,000 Iraqi dinar he is alleged to have concealed in the package.

An indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is being prosecuted by trial attorneys Daniel A. Petalas and Justin V. Shur of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section. This case is being investigated by Army Criminal Investigation Command; Defense Criminal Investigative Service; the FBI; Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation; the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sublett, is assigned as an Integrated Fire Control assistant product manager in the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office, Huntsville, and has a basic active service date of Jan. 15, 1992. (U.S. Department of Justice release)

Progress seen from Army Family Covenant

Covenant

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Soldiers and their families. Our commitment to delivering the Army Family Covenant is non-negotiable. We will not depart from this commitment.

I would ask that we always take the time to accentuate the positive. We have so very much to be thankful for when it comes to health care, housing, services and programs, and many other things. Many times we immediately start talking about negative items, and many of those conversations are based on anecdotal evidence without firsthand knowledge. Let's be grateful for what we have, and strive together to improve. An attitude of appreciation will go a long way. Optimism is a combat multiplier.

As always, thanks for your continued service to our Army, and our nation. Together we are making history.

Construction begins on facility for Army band

Band

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The 389th Army Band includes 39 enlisted and one warrant officer. Together they perform as a concert band or marching band, depending on the occasion. Their smaller elements include a brass quintet, woodwind quintet, jazz combo, rock band, and a ceremonial band of 18 performers.

"There's a current force design update for Army bands that will likely increase the size of the AMC Band," Ellwein said. "That's to be determined. It will likely be (year) 2015 is my understanding at this point."

He won't be part of the move from Aberdeen because of his change of command there in May. Ellwein, originally from Sioux Falls, S.D., will report in June to the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps in Washington, D.C.

His successor, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pete Gillies, is already at Redstone. The Oxford, Mass., native arrived in August from Camp Zama in Tokyo, Japan.

"People in Huntsville are really eager to have an Army band here in town," Gillies said. "I've been welcomed with open hearts by the musical community here in Huntsville."

Gillies, 47, and his wife, Jo Myers, have a son, Tyler, 16, who is a junior at Sparkman High.

The band facility will include a large rehearsal room, individual practice rooms, music library, instrument storage, repair and cleaning, uniform locker rooms and band administration offices.

"This facility means a lot to not only the AMC Band but to Army bands as a whole," Ellwein said.

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said last week's ceremony marks the last groundbreaking for Redstone Arsenal's BRAC construction projects.

"We are about making sure the customer is taken care of," he said. "And we do it on time."

Ronnie Chronister, deputy commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, officiated at the ceremony which included music by the AMC brass quintet, also known as "All Brass... No Ammo." He joined 10 other dignitaries in the ceremonial shoveling of dirt.

"This is a great day again for Team Redstone," Chronister said. "It's more evidence that BRAC is moving forward. It's another milestone."

The band's arrival will also mark a musical revival of sorts for Redstone Arsenal, which served as the home of the 55th Army Band from 1959-75.

A formal concert, free and open to the public, of the AMC Band is scheduled March 21 at 2 p.m. at Huntsville High.

Census numbers count in federal funding

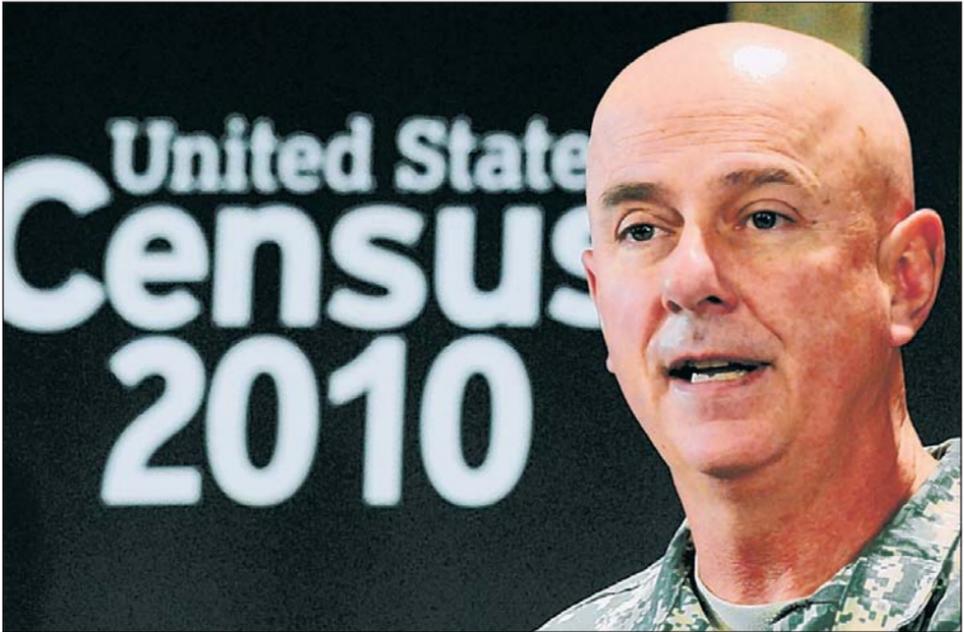


Photo courtesy of The Huntsville Times

KICKOFF EFFORT— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles declares this installation's support for Census 2010 coming up in March.

Local officials push for citizens response

By **KARA WALL**
For the Rocket

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles joined other local officials in signing a resolution Jan. 11 in support of Census 2010 and the increased funding it could bring.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Madison Mayor Paul Finley and Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie also signed the resolution.

Having a high census return rate will prove critical for improving roads and schools near Redstone since federal funding correlates with census numbers. Each person counted in the census will equate to \$1,200 in annual funding. For a family of five, this equals \$6,000 in annual funding or \$60,000 for the next 10 years.

In addition, Census 2010 numbers will stand until the next census in 2020. For Redstone, this means being ready for the

next Base Realignment and Closure round could rely on the return rate of this year's census.

"Our ability to support the current and future growth needs due to BRAC will be affected by our response to the census," Battle said.

Myles committed Redstone's support to the census and to being a "good neighbor."

"We (at Redstone Arsenal) represent 32,000 people whose mission is to support the war fighter and those defending the nation. We also have a responsibility to be a good neighbor. All of us need to give the right information so that our elected officials in D.C. can do what they do best," Myles said.

Residents of Madison County will receive the census in March. The census form is short and only has 10 questions per person. All personally identifiable information received from the census will be kept confidential.

For more information about Census 2010, call 800-923-8282 or visit www.census.gov/2010census.

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:

Scale Back Alabama

FMWR Sports and Fitness is serving as an official weigh-in site for the statewide program Scale Back Alabama, today 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 today, at Pagano Gym at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Sparkman Center. Register your teams by Friday. 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.

Spanish lessons

Learn Spanish with the SKIES Unlimited Program, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade Tuesdays and Thursdays. Register now. Group lessons are \$40 per student monthly or private lessons are \$50 per student monthly. For more information, call 876-6674 or 876-3704.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

JROTC speaker

Huntsville Police deputy chief of operations Mark Hudson gives an overview of the department Jan. 13 to Army JROTC cadets at Columbia High. "We're here to serve you and your families and your friends," he said.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

DESTINATION— Buses deliver kids from local area schools to the School Age Services after-school program every weekday.

Youth transportation grows under Family Covenant

Buses

continued from page 1

routes for one child, Terry said they only need a couple at a location to make it feasible.

"We're trying to find out where kids are whose parents are interested in our programs," he explained. "We want to have a minimum of four kids either at the same school or at schools close to each other in order to add that stop to our route."

At this time, the buses are operating at close to 70 percent of their seating capacity. CYSS has more buses in the works so that as demand increases with the addition of more schools, there is plenty of room without increased drive time for kids.

"We don't want the kids sitting on a bus any longer than they have to be," Terry said. "We're adding more buses beginning in April. The program is pick-

ing up faster than we expected."

For more information on after-school programs, schools currently serviced by buses or to request a school be added, call 876-3704.

"Even if your school is not listed, call us," Terry said. "As we build our list, we can include additional schools. Other people may have asked about that school already. All it takes is a couple of interested people to add that school to our route."

Schools currently serviced by CYSS buses include the following: Endeavor Elementary, Madison Elementary, West Madison Elementary, Harvest Elementary, Legacy Elementary, Providence Elementary, Westlawn Middle School, Monrovia Middle School, Sparkman Middle School, Providence Middle School, Sparkman High School, and Sparkman 9th Grade School.

To request additional schools, call 876-3704.

Obama makes Haiti response top U.S. priority

Country crippled by earthquake

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Thursday he's made helping Haiti in the wake of a crippling earthquake the top priority of every U.S. government agency.

Speaking from the White House,

Obama called the quake an unimaginable tragedy, and said the United States has launched "a swift, coordinated and aggressive effort" to help.

Flanked by his national security team, the president said the U.S. response will require help from every government agency and the compassion of Americans.

"I've made it clear (to Cabinet officers and government agency heads) that Haiti must be a top priority for their departments and agencies right now," Obama said. "This is one of those moments that

call out for American leadership."

American servicemembers are deploying to the area, the president said. "Several Coast Guard cutters are already there, providing everything from basic services like water to vital technical support for this massive logistical operation," he said. "Elements of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division will arrive today."

The United States also is deploying a Marine expeditionary unit, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and the hospital ship USNS Comfort.

"This is one of those moments that call out for American leadership."

— President Barack Obama

The first waves of the U.S. rescue and relief effort are on the ground and at work, the president said.

"An airlift has been set up to deliver high-priority items like water and medicine," Obama said. The United States is working closely with the Haitian government, the United Nations and relief organizations to deliver supplies, but it will take some time for supplies, personnel and equipment to arrive in Haiti, he added.

"Right now in Haiti, roads are impassible, the main port is damaged and com-

munications are just beginning to come online, and aftershocks continue," he said. "None of this will seem quick enough, ... but it's important that everyone in Haiti understand that one of the largest relief efforts in our recent history is moving toward Haiti."

The earthquake struck the evening of Jan. 12 near the capital of Port-au-Prince. The magnitude 7.0 quake flattened many areas of the city. Port-au-Prince is one of the largest cities in the Caribbean, and Haitian officials fear that at least 100,000 people may be dead.

American assets are pouring into the country. U.S. search and rescue teams have arrived, and medical personnel and relief supplies are arriving.

In the best of times, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The country suffers from extreme poverty, deforestation, a lack of infrastructure and political instability.

Obama pledged not to forsake the people of Haiti in their hour of need.

"America stands with you. The world stands with you," he said. "We know you are a strong and resilient people. You have endured a history of slavery and struggle and natural disaster and recovery. Through it all, your spirit has been unbroken and your faith unwavering. Today, you must know that help is arriving and much more help is on the way."



Courtesy photo

ON GROUND— Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division stack supplies Jan. 16 that will be delivered to the forward operating bases in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Letterkenny answers call in Haiti relief effort

Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., received a call on Thursday from the Air Force, 167th Air Lift Wing, Martinsburg, W.Va., in desperate need of borrowing large amounts of pallets.

The 167th is one of the many consolidation points for supplies and transportation to aid earthquake relief in Haiti. The unit was in standby because they had the supplies and the support but the pallets used to transport the goods wouldn't be able to arrive that day. That's when they called up Letterkenny.

Letterkenny in quick response got the authorization to help in this mission and within hours 180 pallets were en route to West Virginia. At approximately 5 p.m., two Letterkenny trucks carrying the 180 pallets and 14 Tri-wall containers were offloaded there.

The members of the 167th spent the next few hours properly configuring the pallets with supplies such as the much needed water, medicine and generators. An Air Force C-17 was on standby to transport the supplies; and late that night the C-17 departed West Virginia with 18 loaded pallets of supplies to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (Letterkenny release)



Courtesy photo

MEETING NEED— Water is palletized for the relief mission to Haiti.

Depot workers prep for transfer to defense logistics tenant

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER
Tobyhanna public affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Tobyhanna employees transferring to a new tenant organization have been notified as part of the shift of the supply, storage and distribution function from the Army to the Defense Logistics Agency.

Early this year, personnel working in the central receiving and automated storage and retrieval systems areas will move to DLA as an outcome of a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure SS&D Management Reconfiguration decision. The transition will affect 35 depot employees and 18 contractors in three Materiel Management Division branches — Commodity Procurement, Mission Materiel Staging and two forklift drivers assigned to Materiel Movement.

DLA Tobyhanna is scheduled to stand up on Feb. 28. Provisional commander Lt. Col. Gregory Rizzo will arrive in January.

Social Security announces new twist in the law

Medicare changes give help on prescription drug costs

Michael Astrue, commissioner of Social Security, and Chubby Checker, Grammy Award winner and rock and roll legend, have launched a new campaign to inform millions of Americans about a new "twist" in the law that makes it easier to qualify for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs.

The extra help program currently provides assistance to more than 9 million senior and disabled Americans — saving them an average of almost \$4,000 a year on their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. To apply for extra help, there is an easy-to-use online application available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

"The changes in the Medicare law that take effect this month will allow

hundreds of thousands of Americans who are struggling to pay their prescription drug costs to get extra help during these tough economic times," Astrue said. "I am thrilled that Chubby Checker has volunteered to help us spread this important message through a new television, radio and Internet spot as well as pamphlets and posters."

"Listen up, America! For 50 years, people of all ages and backgrounds have danced the Twist," Checker said. "Now it's important everyone learn about this new twist in the law. Check it out at www.socialsecurity.gov."

To qualify for extra help, people must meet certain resource and income limits. The new Medicare law eases those requirements in two ways. First, it eliminates the cash value of life insurance from counting as a resource. Second, it eliminates the

assistance people receive from others to pay for household expenses, such as food, rent, mortgage or utilities, from counting as income.

There also is another important "twist" in the law. The application for extra help can now start the application process for Medicare Savings Programs — state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. These programs help pay Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premiums. For some people, the Medicare Savings Programs also pay Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) premiums, if any, and Part A and B deductibles and co-payments.

To learn more about the extra help program and to view the new TV spot featuring Chubby Checker, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp. (Social Security release)

Ex-basketball star slam dunks his way through life

Bob Love offers advice at Dr. King celebration

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Bob Love's greatest personal achievement didn't occur during his professional basketball career.

The former leading scorer for the Chicago Bulls overcame his lifelong stuttering problem with the help of a speech therapist after his playing days were over.

Now he travels throughout the nation speaking to groups and serves as the Bulls community relations director.

Love was the keynote speaker during Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration Thursday in a filled 650-seat Bob Jones Auditorium.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I'm a living example that dreams do come true."

At 6-foot-8, he played with the Bulls for eight seasons from 1969-76. For seven straight years, he was the Bulls leading scorer and is the second highest scorer in team history – to legendary Michael Jordan.

"Remember, life is all about a dream," said Love, who received a standing ovation.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, complimented him for his inspiring accomplishments.

"It's about trying to be the best you can be in whatever you do," Myles said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

KEYNOTE SPEAKER— Former Chicago Bulls star Bob Love addresses a filled Bob Jones Auditorium during Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration.

Team Redstone held essay and static display contests for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance. The essay winners are: first place, Linda Mendenhall of AMCOM Legal Office; second, Kim Tycer of AMCOM Legal Office; and third, John Manfre, AMC Safety Director. The display winners are: first place, 2nd Army Recruiting Brigade; second, U.S. Army Security Assistance Command; and third, Army Materiel Command.

Program manager inducted into military honor society

By JOSH VOIGHT
SMDC/ARSTRAT

Donovan Etheridge has been recognized by the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for his work on Distributed Mission Operations-Air Defense Artillery.

Etheridge is the program manager for DMO-ADA at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. He provides sustainment training capability for the Air Defense war fighters who are involved in the homeland defense mission.

DMO-ADA has supported many training exercises, including America's Shields, Amalgam Arrows, Amalgam Dart, and Deployable-Homeland Air and Cruise Missile Defense.

"It is always great to be recognized, especially (considering) the high level of effort my team and I put into the development of this program," Etheridge said. "I am extremely honored to have received this award and I share this success with my team and the war fighter."

Etheridge oversaw the program from the earliest concept stage until the final program was completed.

He ran numerous field tests, training events and mission rehearsal exercises in order to prepare the system for actual war fighter use. The program is now being used at the Fires Center of Excellence in Fort Sill, Okla.

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara is a military honor society of the United States for both the Army and Marine Corps Artillery. The award, named for the patron saint of artillerymen, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the



Courtesy photo

ARTILLERY AWARD— Donovan Etheridge of SMDC/ARSTRAT accepts the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara award from Brig. Gen. Roger Mathews, commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense School, Fires Center of Excellence.

highest standards of integrity and moral character.

"DMO-ADA was designed and developed to sustain a high level of readiness for the war fighter with the homeland defense mission," Etheridge said. "The program provides complete battle management representation from National Command Authority to individual gunners with the war fighters in-the-loop making the decisions."

Maj. Gen. Herbert Newton of the Army Air Missile Defense Command nominated Etheridge for his service. The nomination was approved by SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Airport display

Passersby check out the new Team Redstone airport display's interactive screen and watch the various videos from different organizations at the Huntsville International Airport. The display was part of the airport's grand opening during the Chamber of Commerce's Regional Business After Hours event held Thursday at the airport's new public waiting area. The new state-of-the-art, interactive Team Redstone display highlights the people of Redstone Arsenal and the work they do. It represents more than 55 federal organizations.

3-D technology transforms design process

Engineering center applies new construction approach

By BECKY PROAPS

Army Engineering and Support Center

The Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is using cutting-edge computer technology to speed up and improve the quality of standard facility designs.

Building Information Modeling is a new three-dimensional design approach to facility design, construction and maintenance.

“Developing and maintaining a capability to design a facility in BIM is crucial to Huntsville Center’s ability to meet our mission and lead our industry in engineering and construction design tools. BIM is just the next tool in the evolution of how engineers and architects design a facility but it is crucial for us to stay on the leading edge of our profession,” Boyce Ross, chief of Engineering Directorate, said.

“BIM technology is the cutting edge in regard to facility design, not just for Huntsville Center and the Corps of Engineers but for the whole design and construction industry,” said Sandy Wood, a mechanical engineer serving as the Engineering Directorate’s Center of Standardization integrator. “Although BIM has been around for years, no large agency or organization has really pushed its use or development until the Corps became involved.

“The goal is to use BIM as a tool to help lower construction costs and shorten schedules for COS facilities,” Wood said. “Being a leader in BIM development and implementation is allowing the Corps to both define and set the standards to be used by the entire architect-engineer community. Such leadership and initiatives are important strides in moving from good to great.”

For years, the Corps has maintained standard designs on a variety of facility types, such as fire stations, physical fitness facilities and child



Courtesy graphic

FIRE STATION— Building Information Modeling can visualize a building design from any angle and any detail, inside and out. This is the design for a fire station.

development centers. However, these standards were based on traditional design and construction methods. To improve the design process, the Corps of Engineers is applying BIM technology in coordination with the existing standard design program.

Based on the success of the COS program, it appears that in the near future Headquarters, USACE will mandate the use of BIM on all new design projects, Wood said.

The BIM process is similar to a conventional design process with the exception that the design team focuses about the first 65 percent of the effort on developing a data-rich, 3-D model of the facility. BIM also makes the design process easier. Information is entered into the computer one time and linked accordingly; most 2-D drawings are generated automatically; quantity takeoffs are much easier and more reliable; and interferences between disciplines are readily known.

“BIM is a hot topic in the industry right now and many public and private owners are mandating BIM on their projects and even when it isn’t mandated, many design/construction firms are adopting it on their own,” said Arthur Dohrman, chief, Geotech-

nical Branch, Engineering Directorate. “The immediate benefit is clash or interference detection, which can pay for itself in avoided rework during construction. It has the potential to allow electronic design data transfer from designers to constructors to suppliers.”

The use of BIM can reduce change orders during construction; it improves visualization of the end product; and it links all vital construction data. It also helps in improved cost estimating and allows for the linking of operations and maintenance data to the design.

The center’s in-house personnel have developed seven preliminary BIM designs to date for the Centers of Standardization program. Six of the designs are child development centers while one design is a fire station. For fiscal 2010, Huntsville Center has been funded to develop a training support center, an Army Community Service center and various medical facility modules.

BIM is able to achieve such improvements by modeling representations of the actual parts and pieces being used to build a building. This is

See **Design** on page 13

Marines enjoy holiday season-ending tournament

By NATALIE CRAWFORD

For the Rocket

The stakes were high in the 2009 Marine Poker Tournament held Dec. 22-23 at the Recreation Center. Approximately 40 Marines participated in the two-day Texas Hold ‘em style tournament.

Sgt. Trong Nguyen, who organized the tournament with the help of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said, “I decided to have the tournament as a means of providing the Marines with something different to do during the holiday break. This event, as I viewed it, was an opportunity to boost morale for those students that would be away from their families for the first time during a major holiday.”

Alabama Marine Moms and FMWR donated prizes for the winners of the competition as well as provided refreshments for all participants. The prizes included Post Exchange, Hooters’ and Carrabba’s gift cards along with Huntsville Havoc hockey tickets, FMWR gear and Marine posters. Though all ranks were allowed to participate during the first day of competition, only student participants were eligible for the grand prize. Pvt. Brandon Miller took first place followed by Pfc. Samantha Duff and Staff Sgt. Robert Russell.

Competition mounted throughout the second day of play as all ranks were eligible to win the grand prize which included a custom plaque (and bragging rights). Staff Sgt. Joseph Kasmarski took first place, followed by Staff Sgt. Kijuan Sullivan and Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Garcia.

The event gave the students and staff a break from their normal routine.

“They got to sit down with the staff in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy some poker, one of the hottest trends due to the World Series of Poker,” Nguyen said. “Also, with the event being held at the Rec Center, the Marines were able to see the services provided by MWR and meet with the volunteers from Alabama Marine Moms.”

Students not participating in the tournament were allowed to enjoy other games and activities at the Recreation Center and prepare for the holidays. Alabama Marine Moms offered students the opportunity to share a little holiday cheer with their families by having their picture taken to send via e-mail later on the same day. Students who were unable to make the trip home for the break made plans to spend a portion of the holidays at the house of an Alabama Marine Mom.

“The event being a success,” Nguyen said. “I think everyone got to see the breadth of support truly available throughout the communities of MWR and Alabama Marine Moms.”

'I feel amazing inside as well as outside'

Woman loses weight, strives to help others

By **AMY GUCKEEN**
Staff writer
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Kathy Stephens' head was spinning. It was the summer of 2001, and standing in the aisles of Walmart, the 305 pounds she carried on her 5-foot-2 frame had finally become too much.

"I was too heavy," Stephens said. "I just asked God to help get this weight off of me. That was my red light moment."

For years, food had been the comfort in Stephens' life. Tipping the scales at a size 26, the Defense Military Pay Office worker was tired of people's stares, tired of feeling constantly out of breath, and tired of feeling not good enough.

"When you're that size, you don't enjoy your presence," Stephens said. "It's just too much trying to breathe and sit down."

In addition to the physical pains of obesity, emotionally, Stephens was at a crossroads. Either she could overcome the



Courtesy photo
BEFORE— Kathy Stephens previously carried 305 pounds on her 5-foot-2 frame.

fear of becoming a healthier person or allow the health complications from being so overweight take over her life.

"I was afraid of being at a healthy weight," Stephens said. "For a long time, I thought that it couldn't happen to me. But I tackled it, because it's 200 percent mental. What else could I lose? I took it step by step, day by day and saw myself achieving the goal that I set for myself, removing that negativity from my head."

Looking deep inside herself, Stephens found the courage to begin a new chapter in her life. In January 2002, she started the Atkins diet, filling her diet with low carbohydrate foods and incorporating exercise into her daily life. The initial attention she received was almost enough to hold her back, but Stephens persevered.

"When you're a size 26 and you're exercising, walking for 30 minutes is difficult because you've got to deal with the



Photo by Amy Guckeen
NEW BEGINNING— Some days Kathy Stephens feels like doing cartwheels to celebrate her tremendous weight loss. Stephens went from a size 26 to a size 4 through healthy eating, exercise and plenty of perseverance.

stares, you've got to deal with the public," Stephens said. "And it's unfortunate that people look at your size when you're trying to do something healthy for yourself. But I made up my mind. It's not about them. I wanted to get fit and healthy so I could enjoy my presence, whether it's alone or amongst people."

Stephens powered through the emotional and physical pain to lose 80 pounds, an accomplishment she sustained through 2008. Wanting to lose another 70 pounds, but knowing that she had gone as far as she could with the Atkins program, Stephens began to research other weight loss methods - Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, even gastric bypass surgery. Instead, she forged her own path, choosing not to diet, but to change her whole lifestyle, by eating lots of fish, skinless chicken, vegetables, egg whites and drink-

ing at least eight glasses of water a day. Upping her workout to five to six times a week, Stephens chose to incorporate both strength training and cardio. Within nine months of developing her plan, Stephens had lost 82 pounds.

"Fitness brings confidence," Stephens said. "It brings self-awareness. It brings success. You appreciate yourself more even though there's a lot of everyday distractions in our lives, whether it's from the haters or the negativity. You can't avoid that. You have to value yourself as a human being to know that you are worthy of any accomplishments you put before you."

Today, Stephens maintains her weight by eating healthy six days out of the week, and allowing for a little wiggle room on the seventh day, indulging in the occasional butter pecan waffle cone or a cheeseburger and fries. She continues to run, now five to eight miles, four or five times a week, and weight trains. Her once size 26 figure now boasts somewhere between a size four or six.

"People ask me, 'How does it feel to be the size you are now?'" Stephens said. "A lot of times I feel like doing cartwheels, but most of the time I don't have words for what I feel inside. I can't express it. I feel amazing inside as well as outside."

Stephens new mission in life is to help others achieve that same sense of accomplishment. Starting out small, Stephens has helped friends and family to a better state of wellness. Beginning this spring, Stephens will train individuals in her program, "The Beast," on a case-by-case basis. All candidates will have to submit to an interview with Stephens to determine if they are a right fit for the program.

"It's life changing," said daughter Christina, who has lost 45 pounds on her mom's plan. "She's constantly on it. I see her, and if she can do it, I can do it. All it takes is willpower."

"I know I can't help everybody, but I can help one or two then I have done what I set out to do," Stephens said. "When you're big and you're getting fit, there are a lot of obstacles, there's a lot of 'you can't.' But you have to find the strength within, and say to yourself I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, and take it day by day."

Stephens advises those looking to get healthier to start with something as basic as walking three to four times a week for 30 minutes or picking up cans of soup for strength training. Allow yourself to celebrate special occasions and give yourself a five pound leeway when setting your goals.

"Start with the mind," Stephens said. "Change the way you see yourself. The way you see food. It's important not to feel deprived. It's not a diet. It's a lifestyle change."



Courtesy photo

Director remembered

Redstone Federal Credit Union director emeritus James Blackburn died Jan. 13 in Huntsville. Long involved with Redstone Federal Credit Union, Blackburn played a major role in Credit Union affairs for nearly half a century. During those years, he was active in ensuring that the Credit Union remained a strong and positive financial force in the Tennessee Valley and in the lives of the Credit Union's 320,000 members.

■ Benefits projected from 3-D facility design

Design

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a substantial shift from the traditional computer aided drafting method of drawing with vector file-based lines that combine to represent objects.

BIM applies the four components of engineering – mechanical, electrical, structural and architectural, but it also uses intelligent graphics.

“The intelligent graphics feature of the software is very beneficial,” Wood said. “This new tool allows us to place a pipe in a design and find all the attributes of the pipe. Each graphic is linked to a database that contains various attributes and reports. Before you would just draw a line to represent the pipe, and you couldn’t extract useful information.”

BIM also allows the team to see their mistakes before they finalize the design.

“If a designer is unsure of a particular aspect of the design, he can run an interference check,” Wood said. “This check will quickly identify any conflicts in the design. Once he sees the conflict, he

can easily go back and correct deficiencies.

“Following the modeling development, the team then extracts two-dimensional drawings from the model,” Wood said. “The remaining effort of the design is typically used to refine the model and complete the 2-D drawings. The 2-D drawings are awarded just like any other design contract.”

“With BIM, we can take a project that normally takes four months to design and design it in two months,” said James Dunn, lead architect for the child development center design.

Attributes are assigned to each element within the model, such as size, material of construction, what system it belongs to, etc., and if those attributes include maintenance requirements (e.g., when to change air filters) then the building operator can use the model to generate a comprehensive maintenance schedule and budget and actively manage the maintenance program.

“The potential to use BIM for operations and maintenance of the building through its life cycle, even to the point of telling the demolition con-

tractor what materials are in the building at the end of its life is a plus,” Dohrman said. “The Army hasn’t gone that far yet, and I don’t think very many private owners have gone that far, but I believe in five to 10 years it will be the norm throughout the industry to use BIM for O & M.”

But with every new design approach comes challenges and lessons learned.

“BIM forces engineers and

architects to look at all aspects of a design at a much deeper level since most objects are interrelated with one another,” Wood said. “Unlike typical 2-D designs where a lot of the decisions about details can be left up to the contractor, BIM forces very detailed decisions from the very beginning. These extra decisions typically require additional time and research, but in the end, the designs are worth the effort.”



Courtesy photo

AMCOM outreach

Lt. Col. Greg Bayuga, executive officer in the Readiness Directorate at AMCOM’s Integrated Materiel Management Center, poses with fifth-graders at Rolling Hills Elementary School following an educational outreach presentation on “Leadership Development.” The students enjoyed participating in the various leadership exercises he led.

Unmanned aircraft changing Soldiers' battlefield perspective

Tactical eyes in sky seen saving lives

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers need the tactical advantages their unmanned aircraft systems provide to be integrated into their units, so they aren't forced to endure lengthy approval chains that can cost lives, according to UAS experts.

"Most of the living and dying is going on in squad, platoon and company level in this fight. So you have to give those Soldiers what they need, when they need it. And they need it all the time," said Glenn A. Rizzi, deputy director and senior technical adviser of the United States Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker.

Rizzi spoke during the Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land Warfare Army Aviation Symposium and

Exposition, Jan. 5-7 in Arlington, Va. He said approval chains for unmanned aerial vehicle support can be lengthy, taking time that tactical units on the ground and

in the fight cannot afford.

"They don't have time, when they need UAS support, to ... carry it up to the Joint Force Air Component Commander, ask for

a Predator, and then have it go through that decision loop and then have it repositioned," Rizzi said. "They need it there, and they need it there 24/7."

What Soldiers need, Rizzi said, is UAS support that is built into their combat units — unmanned aerial systems owned by the Army, flown by the Army, to provide support to the Army's ground units — who are actually in the fight — when they need it. "You need organic systems," he said.

Sgt. Michael Arons serves as an instructor with the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training Battalion at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He served with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, with the Shadow platoon in Iraq from 2005-06. He also served in Afghanistan in 2008. His experience there with a then non-weaponized MQ-1C Warrior illustrates the need for the Army to keep control of UAS aviation close to where the Soldiers are.

"We were flying down (main

supply route) 1, Ohio, in Afghanistan, just doing a route scan, and we see three guys emplacing IEDs," Arons said. "Had we not been there, who would have know what could have happened — an MRAP (could have) run by there and get blown up. People's lives are at stake."

Arons' team called in air support — an F-15 Eagle dropped a bomb there — but two of the three enemy escaped and Arons was able to follow them — track them — using the MQ-1C.

"We followed those two guys," he said. "And we have two different lasers on our payload. We have a designator — we illuminated the house these guys ran to."

Ultimately, Soldiers were able to enter that house and find what was there — a large weapons cache.

"Had we not been there, all these weapons would have been used against U.S. forces — against

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Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

COUNTDOWN— Sgt. Donald Melvin, an unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic with 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, Iraq, and Spc. Stephen Cantrell, prep an unmanned aircraft system for launch in this file photo.

Alabama National Guard rolls out new helicopter



Courtesy photo

SPECIAL DELIVERY— The UH-72A Lakota helicopter is presented in a ceremony Jan. 9 at the Alabama's Army National Guard Air Support Facility in Birmingham.

On Jan. 9 at the Alabama's Army National Guard Air Support Facility in Birmingham, the newest aircraft to be fielded to the state were presented to the public.

Representatives of the Alabama National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Program Executive Office for Aviation, the LUH Product Office along with leaders of EADS-North America and American Eurocopter attended the ceremony.

The UH-72A is replacing the venerable UH-1 and OH-58A/C aircraft in service with Army National Guard units across the United States. Prior to Alabama getting their aircraft fresh from the Columbus, Miss., factory in December 2009,

units from nine states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had received the modern helicopter. With the four aircraft being accepted by Alabama the total in service now with the Army National Guard is 46 of the planned 210. The next state to be fielded is South Carolina.

The Lakota will perform missions to protect the homeland, conduct search and rescue and natural disaster response missions with the Army National Guard. In June 2006 the Army awarded a contract to EADS-North America to produce and support the aircraft. A total of 345 will be purchased with 93 delivered as of Dec. 31. *(Program Executive Office for Aviation release)*



Photo by Michael Henson

Submerged vehicle

Jan. 12 was not a good day for Brent Phillips, contracting officer at SMDC/ARSTRAT. He owns the 1994 Toyota Camry station wagon which is submerged in the corner of the flooded parking lot at building 5220. "The contractor working in the front parking lot of 5220, SMDC, accidentally drilled or dug into the water line," Phillips said. The car, which had 10 inches of water inside, was taken to a car wash where the interior was stripped. Phillips planned to take it to a mechanic Jan. 14.

War fighters see advantages of unmanned aircraft Perspective

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allied forces," Arons said.

Col. Christopher Carlile, director, United States Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence, said Army UASs have flown some 1 million combat hours during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Army is now training some 2,000 UAS operators, maintainers and instructor pilots a year. He said similar UAS success stories reported in the news, like that of Arons, are often the result of Army unmanned aviation.

"When you see an article that's written, that says X, Y and Z were executed by drones ... understand that you are more than likely, in upwards of 80 percent of those cases, dealing with Army UAS doing those," Carlile said.

The colonel said Army UAS aviation is changing the way the Army does business.

"The way that infantryman, up until now, found out what was on the back side of that building was when he had fire coming from it," Carlile said. Now, systems like the Raven give Soldiers the ability to see where they couldn't see before.

"They could take that and fly it and put it up above and see if there was an ambush on the other side of the street, in real time," he said. "This has truly revolutionized the way we fight warfare at the tactical level."

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Miller now serves with the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, at Fort Rucker. He's deployed as an infantryman in Afghanistan, to Kosovo, and twice with unmanned aircraft systems in support of special operations forces.

Miller says he sees the need for organic Army UAS because it can save time for Soldiers and because UAS support can work round-the-clock, without tiring. In Afghanistan, for instance, Soldiers are placing ground sensors to cover areas where they can't patrol on foot — because the landscape is larger than the number of boots-on-ground can support. Response time to a sensor hit can be shortened with a UAS.

"If I get a hit on the sensor, it's a lot for me to spin up an aircraft crew and get them to go out there and fly their Black Hawk or Chinook or Apache out there and see what's going on," Miller said. "But I've already got a UAS up — some for 24 hours. A lot of

stuff for us is what we call a swing of the camera. I can see about a 10 kilometer range in all areas. I don't have a perfect view at 10 kilometers, but I have enough that I can see what it is and start working my way over to that area of operations."

Providing quick UAS support to Soldiers, with both weaponized and un-weaponized systems, is critical, Carlile said, because organic UAS is about supporting the Soldier.

"Their whole intent is to support the guys they eat dinner with every night," Carlile said. "The ones they sleep in the same tactical assembly area with."

While UAS support can come from outside — sometimes from the other side of the world — having in-house, organic UAS support, flown by Soldiers actually involved in the fight, is best, said Rizzi.

"Through planning, through after action review, they know the commander's intent, they fly that ground every day," Rizzi said. "They understand the subtle intricacies of daily life, they know how the fight changes over time very subtly, and so they are most effective."

"You cannot have the same situational awareness 8,000 miles away," Carlile said. "It just does not exist."



Photo by Pam Huther

Museum visit

The International Military Student Office took Hungarian student 2nd Lt. Balazs Bukta to visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Jan. 9. From left are international military sponsor Pat Johns, Bukta, Stan Johns and Jennifer Marsh, director of the Dream-Rocket.com project.

Intern has a blast supporting the war fighter

University of Tennessee student experiences Army research center

By MERV BROKKE
AMRDEC public affairs

On his second internship, his first with the Army, Zachary Dixon from the University of Tennessee worked with mentors from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Engineering Directorate, Reliability, Availability, and Maintainability Engineering and System Assessment Division on a variety of projects off and on Redstone and was challenged from day one.

Dixon's internship with the AMRDEC came as a result of his participation in his university's Reliability and Maintainability Center's Internship Program.

According to the university's website, the RMC is an industry-supported center within the College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, drawing support from a diverse range of companies, organizations and industries. The RMC bridges between industry and academia to provide education, research and development, and information exchange in the application of reliability and maintenance engineering tools and concepts.

"Before this summer I had no experi-



Photo by Merv Brokke

LAB WORK— Zachary Dixon worked with mentors from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

ence with missile or rocket systems, so there was a huge learning curve at the beginning of the summer in just understanding the basics of how a guided mis-

sile operated," Dixon said. "Personally, I found this internship to be very rewarding as a result of its focus on mission completion as the primary objective."

Among the many tasks he accomplished during his service in the RAM Division, the most memorable were observing a Javelin missile firing at Redstone Arsenal and participating in a Hydra Rocket Lot Acceptance Test firing at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

"My role in this test was to be an observer with the focus of watching testing procedures to understand how tests are conducted and how the system functioned, since this was my first real experience with this rocket system," he said. "I was able to watch the testing both from the firing station and from the radar station. From inside the firing station, I was able to see the entire launch sequence from loading to arming to actually firing the rockets, which is highly repetitive and surprisingly short in duration."

At the firing station, Dixon felt and heard the rocket – which he called very impressive. Observing the firings from inside the Radar Station gave him a much different perspective — very technical.

"Compared to watching the test from inside the firing station, I was able to gain a much better grasp of what was actually going on during the flight and what type of data was being collected," Dixon said.

From seeker to motor, head to tail, Dixon was exposed to rocket systems. One of his tasks was to work on the Improved Target Acquisition System.

"Another opportunity that I had this summer was to perform an acceptance test on a set of target acquisition systems," he said. "During these tests my job was to run through a set list of operations of the system to ensure that both the hardware and software on the system functioned properly. Unlike with the earlier LAT that I was involved with, I had the opportunity to be very hands-on during these tests and actually use the system in simulation."

His internship experience also included work on improving missile readiness; ensuring Soldiers have the right tool and the right time.

"Another project that I was involved with was the expansion of a program that used handheld computers as collection devices for weapons systems maintenance inspections. This system was aimed at simplifying the inspection process and improving the ability to track failures in the future," he said.

Based on his experience with the RAM Division mentors, Dixon would highly recommend the program to his fellow students.

"Overall, this summer was a blast, no pun intended. I have found actual work experience to be a crucial element of the learning process and one which is difficult if not impossible to obtain through school alone," he said.

For more information about Internships and other Civilian Employment Programs at AMRDEC, visit their website at www.redstone.army.mil/amrdec/CareerOpp/employmentprograms.html.

Information manager makes career move as director

Redstone's Robert Brown joins newly-arriving command

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer

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As the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command settles into the Redstone community, it is filling positions from the community's work force. Robert Brown, longtime member of Team Redstone, is the first director to be hired from the area.

The Gadsden native has spent many years working at the installation. For 17 years, he has been a name behind the scenes of information technology at Redstone, including work on the first Team Redstone website. He is probably best known for the years he spent as deputy director of Information Management and as the Information Assurance Division chief from 2005-09.

After leaving the Directorate of Information Management in 2009, Brown took a position at Space and Missile Defense Command as chief information officer. Six months later, his dream job opened up at USASAC. Although he liked the work he was doing at SMDC, he couldn't pass up the opportunity he had always wanted.

"I had been preparing my whole career to be a director," he said. "This command has such a unique mission. It fits in exactly with the education and training I've received over my career. It's a small com-

mand and you know every day when you come to work that you're having an instant impact on worldwide operations. That is extremely exciting. I couldn't turn it down. I could not say no to this."

Brown took over as director of information management at USASAC on Nov. 6. Since then he has been very busy. In addition to the 11 people he directly supervises at USASAC's Redstone location, he also has a team of 18 working at



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

FIRST IN LINE— Robert Brown, director of information management for the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, is USASAC's first director hired from the local community.

the North Cumberland, Pa., location.

The organization's primary mission revolves around foreign military sales. Because of the distance and time zones at play, information management is crucial.

"I am responsible for all the telephone communication, all the computers and computer communication, video teleconferencing and visual information support. My office enables the mission of USASAC so that the folks can talk and pass information around, and that it is as secure as possible," Brown said. "It has a lot of challenges, but its fun. We're here to make people's jobs easier."

It isn't always a 9-to-5 job, either. Brown said his team must be ready to handle any issues that arise, regardless of whether they occur within regular business hours. The commitment goes deeper than that of an employer-employee relationship.

"We have to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is that commitment in this team that if a call comes at 2 a.m. they know how to fix the problem," Brown said. "I don't see anyone in this command that has taken a position here just as a job. They have an intangible value that they're doing this to be patriotic, support Soldiers, take care of our citizens and be fiscally responsible to the taxpayer."

Having his team comprised of the best and brightest people available makes his job a lot easier, he said. With the right people in the right positions, he is able to focus much of his time on ensuring they have the

support and tools to get the job done.

"You have to have great people," Brown said. "I'm here to help them, to make sure they have the proper training and the tools they need, then get out of their way and let them do their jobs. The least of my worries is my personnel."

Brown has a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University; and he received certification as a Department of Defense chief information officer from the Army Management Staff College and the National Defense University, Information Resources Management College. His experiences there taught him to see IT from a different perspective.

"That training teaches you the business of technology," Brown explained. "There are two worlds: one is the mystical world of technology; the other side is determining a return on investment of what the Army buys for technology."

Brown and his wife of 36 years, Rhenee, have two grown children who also live in the Huntsville community. When he's not with them, he gives his time to his extended family – the Masonic Apollo lodge and its service projects.

"We go to local schools each year and give students copies of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution," Brown said.

He's also a big fan of Alabama football.

"It's a good time for Alabama right now," he said. "Roll Tide!"

Hand-washing: key to stopping the spread of germs

By WENDY LaROCHE

Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Hand-washing is a simple act that can prevent the spread of infections and illnesses. Just 15 to 20 seconds of regular hand-washing can reduce the spread of germs that lead to the common cold, flu, diarrhea and hepatitis A. Along with being vaccinated for the flu, hand-washing can help protect you from catching the flu.

The most common way that infections are spread is through the hands. When people sneeze or cough, they usually cover their nose or mouth with their hand. If they don't wash their hands and then shake hands with another or touch a door-knob, the germs will be spread. Germs from viruses can remain on objects from 20 minutes up to two hours.

How often should you wash your hands? Where there is no set requirement, medical guidelines suggest that you should wash your hands frequently throughout the day. The basic rule is to wash hands before and after preparing food (especially after handling uncooked meat and poultry); before eating; after coughing, sneezing or blowing one's nose; after using the bathroom; and after changing diapers. Hand-washing is recommended whenever hands come in contact with body fluids, including vomit, saliva and runny noses.

Washing your hands with soap and water is the most common and recommended way to remove germs. Both plain hand soaps and antimicrobial hand soaps are effective in removing germs. To ensure that

you are properly washing your hands, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following hand-washing tips:

- Wet hands with clean running warm water and apply soap.
- Rub hands together to make lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for 15 to 20 seconds. Need a timer? Imagine singing "Happy Birthday" twice through or singing the Alphabet Song.
- Rinse hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. If possible, use the paper towel to turn off the faucet.

If you don't have access to running water, having alcohol-based hand wipes and/or gel sanitizers can also be effective at removing germs that may be on the hands. Both wipes and gel sanitizers are easy to carry around. A study conducted at the Army Field Artillery Training Center, Fort Sill, Okla., showed that the training battalions that used instant hand sanitizer as part of their daily routine experienced less respiratory illnesses, less gastrointestinal illnesses and fewer healthcare encounters than the control group that did not use the IHS.

When using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Apply product to the palm of the hand.
- Rub hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of the hands and fingers until hands are dry.

Protect yourself and others by simply washing your hands as part of your normal routine; it doesn't take long and it is extremely beneficial.

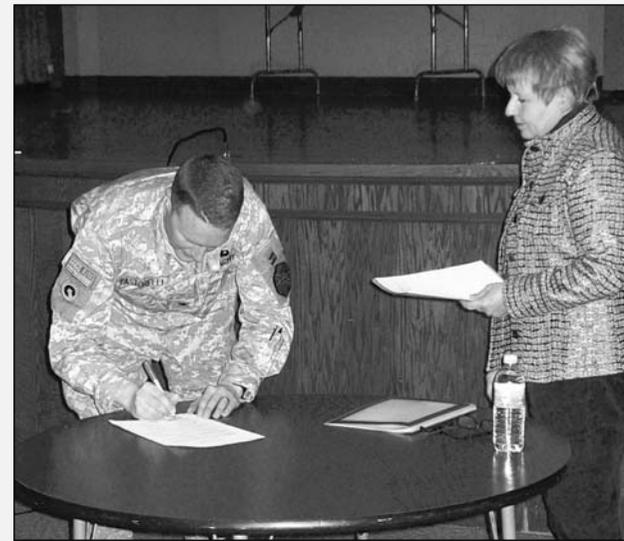


Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Awareness day

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli signs a Human Trafficking Awareness Day Proclamation on Jan. 11 at Trinity United Methodist Church while Pat McCay looks on. Other signers included Madison County Commission chairman Mike Gillespie, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison Mayor Paul Finley. "The City of Huntsville, City of Madison, Redstone Arsenal and Madison County, Ala., are united in our commitment to ensuring that our community remains on the front lines in combating this deplorable crime," Pastorelli said.

Fort Sill opens Air Defense Artillery School with first class

By MARIE BERBEREA

Fort Sill Cannoneer

FORT SILL, Okla. – "The realistic training that's going to be given to the students in here is overwhelming," said Scott Hussey, an ADA instructor, as the Air Defense Artillery School officially opened its doors to students at Fort Sill after a chilly opening ceremony Jan. 11.

The newly-built school held computers and what looked like military arcade games lining the walls ready to be used.

"We know the Soldiers of today are simply different from legacy Soldiers," said Lt. Col. James Payne, commander of 3rd Battalion, 6th ADA, host unit of the AIT classes. "They grew up with automation, they grew up with computers and small hand-held devices and that's really what we're going to. We are in essence catering to how our new warriors best learn."

The new batch of air and missile defense crew members will be the first to break in the equipment, and they understand their significant roles as being the first.

"I believe that we are the future, and we want to set the standard for all the future classes to come," student Pvt. Brent Boroff said.

The 10-week course will teach them their respective skill sets in a way unlike any other.

Individual computers are set up inside one of the classrooms to simulate what it is like inside an Avenger system, or the lightweight, highly mobile and transportable surface-to-air missile/gun weapon system. The building also houses a Joint Fires Multi-Purpose Dome complete with 84 projectors that will simulate aircraft flying overhead. The dome gives students the opportunity to practice the simulation of shooting Stinger missiles. It even replicates the trail of smoke the missile gives off as it streaks toward the target.

"This gives them a chance to not be in a combat zone, but do the same things they would do there, and do it safely," said Staff Sgt. Charles Parent, instructor.

"Using the high-tech equipment puts the training into real-life perspective," Boroff said.

About 600 AIT Soldiers are scheduled to train at the new facility by this summer.

"It's really exciting if you think about it," Payne said. "It's one of those points of history where the old is finished and it ushers on a new era in our collective branches, so it's neat to be here at the ground floor."

Bravo-2 team hopes to roar into season

Bulldogs finished second in preseason tournament

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

Look for the Bravo-2 basketball team to push the pace during the 2010 season, which opens tonight at Pagano Gym.

“Our goal will be pretty much to score between 75 and 85 points a game,” Bravo-2 coach Roosevelt Jackson said. “We’re going to actually up our tempo a lot.”

That could be bad news for opponents of Bravo Company’s top squad, which placed second to HHC 59th in the holiday tournament.

“I like the effort our kids are putting in. Everybody is competing for positions and that’s what I’m looking for,” Jackson said. By early last week, the Bulldogs had already held five practices since returning from the Christmas exodus.

“It should be real exciting,” Jackson said. “I’m expecting a lot of leadership from (shooting guard) Ellington Releford, (small forward) Lenore Gouldin and (point guard) Jason Holmes. We’re going to go as far as Holmes will let us go.”

Bravo-2 went 5-2 in the holiday tournament held Dec. 7-15. The Bulldogs lost to HHC 59th 57-34 on Dec. 8 in the second round. But they responded with three wins to advance to the final from the losers bracket. In the final Dec. 15 at Redstone Fitness Center, the Bulldogs beat the 59th 50-34 to force a second game before falling 48-38.

Beginning tonight, 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 tonight at 5:30.

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

The postseason tournament is tenta-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON ATTACK— Bravo-2 point guard Jason Holmes brings the ball up court against HHC 59th during the holiday tournament final Dec. 15, which the 59th won.

tively scheduled March 8-17. Here’s the season schedule:

- **Tonight** – Headquarters & Alpha vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; Marines vs. Bravo-1 at 7 p.m.

- **Thursday** – Bravo-2 vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 6 p.m.; Charlie vs. 326th Chemical at 7 p.m.

- **Jan. 25** – HHC 59th vs. Bravo-1 at 6 p.m.; Headquarters & Alpha vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 7 p.m.

- **Jan. 27** – Marines vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; Bravo-2 vs. Charlie at 7 p.m.

- **Jan. 28** – National Guard vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 6 p.m.; HHC 59th vs. 326th Chemical at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 1** – Marines vs. Bravo-2 at 6 p.m.; Headquarters & Alpha vs. Charlie at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 3** – Bravo-1 vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; National Guard vs. Charlie at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 4** – HHC 59th vs. Bravo-2 at 6 p.m.; Headquarters & Alpha vs. Marines at 7 p.m.

at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 10** – National Guard vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; HHC 59th vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 11** – 326th Chemical vs. Bravo-2 at 6 p.m.; Civilian Welfare Fund vs. Marines at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 17** – Bravo-1 vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; National Guard vs. HHC 59th at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 18** – Civilian Welfare Fund vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; Bravo-1 vs. National Guard at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 22** – Bravo-2 vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; Charlie vs. HHC 59th at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 24** – 326th Chemical vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; Civilian Welfare Fund vs. Bravo-1 at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 25** – Marines vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; Bravo-2 vs. National Guard at 7 p.m.

- **March 1** – Charlie vs. Bravo-1 at 6 p.m.; 326th Chemical vs. Civilian Welfare Fund at 7 p.m.

- **March 3** – Charlie vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; Headquarters & Alpha vs. 326th Chemical at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 8** – Civilian Welfare Fund vs. Charlie at 6 p.m.; Bravo-1 vs. Bravo-2

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Sports & Recreation

Fitness fair

Heart of the Valley YMCA will have its sixth annual Health and Fitness Fair on Saturday 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.

Boating safety

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Redstone is offering five sessions of a comprehensive boating safety class called "Boating Skills and Seamanship" for 2010. The classes are taught at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687. Classes start at 6:30 p.m. and normally run to 9 every Thursday night of the scheduled session. The sessions include Feb. 11 through March 25, April 8 through May 20, June 10 through July 22, Aug. 12 through Sept. 23, and Oct. 14 through Nov. 24. The only cost to the student is for the textbook which is \$25 per student. To register call Thomas Kunhart 527-4475 (cell), 830-6621 (home) or e-mail tkunhart@knology.net.



Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel has Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. PWOC Bible studies this fall are: 9:30 a.m., "Esther" by Beth Moore and "Putting on the Armor" by Chuck Lawless; and 6:30 p.m., "How Now Shall We Live?" by Charles Colson. The lunchtime Bible Study begins a study of Psalms at 11:30 a.m. And the Korean sisters begin their study at 10:30. For more information call Judy Strange 430-3110, Karyn Wilson 837-7421, Mattie Jones (lunchtime group) 828-9890 and Soran Thrasher (Korean group) 539-4862.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services —

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-7910.

Men's ministries

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

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.

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.

Kansas club

"Iron Rails to the Pacific: How Kansas Finally Connected to the Coast" will be presented by David Lady at the Kansas Day Celebration dinner meeting of the Kansas Club, where everyone is welcome. He is a student of Civil War era history

1 p.m. at the 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 Thursday. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

Professional development

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

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.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter, Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Chuck Bailey, former systems engineer and program manager on several high profile projects for Rockwell International and the Boeing Company. The chapter's monthly breakfast is Jan. 30 at 8 a.m. at Ryan's Steak House, South Memorial Parkway. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited.

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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.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. The program will be a Health Fair event conducted by Huntsville Hospital. For ticket information, call Kim Ouattara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

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



Courtesy photo

Book signing

Janice E. Sullivan, right, poses with a copy of her book "Cucumbers Have Thorns and Snakes Love Strawberries" during a book signing last week at the Post Exchange. The customer is Maj. Sonya Roberts.

Catholic women

The Military Council of Catholic Women at Redstone Arsenal invites all women with a civilian, retiree or military ID to its first Friday program, Feb. 5 at Bicentennial Chapel. Social starts at 9 a.m. in the conference room followed by a short business agenda at 9:30 and "Ask a Priest," a question-and-answer period with Father Ray Kopec. There will be an optional Holy Hour at 11 and Mass at noon. For information call Phyllis 842-2175 or Diana 852-5519.

Engineer post

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers meets Thursday 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.

Motorcycle safety

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

Reserve unit

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

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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.

Community grants

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club, which distributes money to nonprofit groups each year, is now accepting applications for grants. To receive a copy of the application form, go to the OCWC website www.redstoneocwc.org (click on community assistance). The deadline for submission is Feb. 27. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form and must be post-marked or received by the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information

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call Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, 882-6064 or e-mail her at communityassistance@redstoneocwc.org. OCWC is a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

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 9 a.m. Thursday 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.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, 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.

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.

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.

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.

Thrift shop

Going overseas? The Thrift Shop says it has just put out a "plethora" of appliances with foreign plugs. Included are a fan, heater, curling iron, coffee pot and lots of individual adapters. "Of course we have lots of 'U.S.' items, too," a prepared release says. Stop in building 3209 on Hercules Road on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9-5 and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2.

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

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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.

Charitable applications

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2010. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is Feb. 15 through March 26. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. The Tennessee Valley CFC serves charitable agencies in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. A copy of the 2010 CFC package may be acquired by calling the CFC office at 876-9143, the PCFO office at 536-0745 ext. 118 or by website <https://ams8.redstone.army.mil/cfcfp>.

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 Saturday 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 today by calling 824-6321 or e-mailing Cindi Brasher at brasher@uah.edu.

New employee orientation

The next New Employee Orientation for civilian employees will be held Feb. 23 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. NEO participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Civilian Personnel Advisory

Center director remarks, Staffing/Classification Procedures, Employee Benefits, Human Resources Development, Management and Employee Relations and Labor, American Federation of Government Employees, Employee Payroll, Equal Employment Opportunity, Legal, Communication Security, Defense Acquisition University, Employee Assistance Program, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Safety. For more information on how to participate in NEO, call LaToya Davis Ragan 313-0286 or Jessie McCray 876-4803. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by Feb. 23 in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.

Scholarship fund-raiser

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, Council and Court 286, St. Joseph Catholic Community, Huntsville, will hold its seventh annual Scholarship Valentine-Champagne Luncheon fund-raiser Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall. For ticket information, Booker Terry 617-0137.

Flu shots

H1N1/seasonal flu immunizations will be given to all military beneficiaries — active duty, active duty family members, military retirees and family members — on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Fox Army Health Center. Adequate supplies of H1N1 vaccine (approximately 1,500 doses) are available and will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Approximately 200 doses of seasonal flu mist for ages 2-49 will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Patients are asked to complete the H1N1 immunization questionnaire which may be downloaded from the H1N1 information link on the FAHC website at www.redstone.amedd.army.mil. Pediatrics forms will be completed for all children age 17 and under. Seasonal forms and additional H1N1 forms will be available on site. H1N1 vaccine information is available



under the Frequently Asked Questions link. For more information, call Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1441 or 1026.

A&M alumni association

January kicks off the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association Inc. annual membership drive. "The alumni association and its committees advance the welfare of Alabama A&M University by establishing, encouraging and maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship between the university, alumni, students and friends," a prepared release said. For membership information call Pam Thompson 683-4014, Regina Sullivan 651-7127 or C. Lamar Sterns 679-8961.