

Redstone Rocket

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Working for education's future

*Garrison connects with school leaders
to ensure students get best instruction*

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Forging a strong working relationship between the Garrison, local schools and the parents of school-age children was the goal of an Education Town Hall meeting Jan. 25 at Heiser Hall.

That working relationship is essential to ensure a high quality education for military-connected school-age children, said Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli.

But it will become even more essential as more Department of the Army civilian and contractor families move to North Alabama due to employee transfers to Redstone Arsenal as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, he said.

"This was our first-ever Education Town Hall," Pastorelli said. "Our intent was to bring the local educational leadership as well as Garrison leaders and parents together to share information and to give military families the opportunity to ask questions on any topic related to education."

Sharing the podium with Pastorelli was Barbara Williams, the Garrison's Youth Education Support Services director (school liaison officer); Natalie Taylor of the Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program; Dr. Ann Roy Moore, superintendent of Huntsville City Schools; Dr. Avis Williams, principal at Williams Middle School; and Dr. Jennifer Garrett, principal of Columbia High School.

"It's good to come together and discuss the area's continued growth and the challenges that exist because of things like proration," Pastorelli told the estimated 40 to 50 parents in attendance. "We need to talk about how we can team together to give a high quality product in education."

Recent figures show a 12 percent growth in student population in the three local school systems since BRAC was announced in 2005. There are now 5,000 more students in those systems. Those numbers are expected to rise.

The Garrison is mandated to forge working relationships with education leaders as well as other community leaders through the Army Community Covenant, which requires the Garrison to work with local communities to improve the quality of life. The Garrison is also committed to implementing Army

Family Covenant initiatives to provide services that benefit Soldier families.

"We need to be engaging with the school systems so that we can respond when assistance is needed," Pastorelli said. "Education and child welfare is paramount to taking care of Soldiers and their families."

During the meeting, Pastorelli reviewed math and reading test scores, and enrollment increases in local schools. Moore discussed Huntsville City Schools' relationship with the Army, and Avis Williams and Garrett highlighted the unique offerings of their schools.

"Dr. Garrett talked about Columbia's International Baccalaureate Program and the extracurricular courses the high school offers," Williams said. "They also have classes for new students coming in that can help them with the transition."

Avis Williams discussed the implementation of uniforms at Williams Middle School, which are optional this semester and required next year. Parents can obtain a \$50 uniform voucher provided by Breland Homes that will help offset the cost of new uniforms.

"Breland Homes is a very large builder of homes in the Williams area. So it is natural for them to partner with the school," Williams said. "It is important for schools to partner with businesses and industries that have some type of natural connection to them."

Avis Williams also told parents about the school's new facility, which opened in early January, its innovative-type classes and the steps school officials are taking to address bullying.

Williams told parents that she is "available to assist them with transition concerns or the needs of their children. I spend a lot of time at Williams Middle School and Columbia High School, and with schools throughout our three local school districts because our Soldiers live everywhere off post."

Williams said the Education Town Hall meetings will probably be held twice a year for parents and students.

"It is so important for families to know that the school district and Garrison leaders really care," she said. "We are in a partnership with one another and the quality of education depends on us working together."

"The bottom line is we want the best edu-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MUTUAL BENEFIT— School liaison officer Barbara Williams is working to establish relationships between the Garrison and local school officials that will be of benefit to military-connected students and their parents, including Soldiers, DoD civilians and contractors. She coordinated the Garrison's first Education Town Hall with Huntsville school officials Jan. 25.

cation possible for our children. We can't do that if we don't work with one another through collaboration."

Williams said the Garrison's efforts to be connected with the school systems and with Arsenal parents – both military and civilian – will give the Arsenal community a more significant voice on education matters.

"I think it's great to have a commander who recognizes the need for a partnership with school systems. Ultimately, that partnership will have a positive effect on our children and families," she said.

Parents did express some concerns during the meeting, including better communication of dismissal policies during bad weather and transportation for special needs students.

"I was very pleased with the outcome," Pastorelli said. "We received very positive feedback. The meeting was well received. I've received a couple of e-mails from parents thanking us for doing the town hall. That made it all worth it."

An open lane random survey

Should the government respond to this extent to the Haiti earthquake?

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



James Adams
 AMCOM Contracting Center
 "Yes. Because those people are in need and we have the resources to help them in their time of need."

Phylissa Shannon
 FMWR Sports and Fitness

"I do think we should help them out. They are our fellow humans. And I would like to think that if my country was in the same situation that others would help us out."



Doug Williams

Boeing in support of Hardware-in-the-Loop

"Yeah, I think so. I think we owe it to the world to be sensitive to other countries' disasters. We



could be in the same shape. I think one thing we need to do further is push for a change of government (in Haiti) because that's part of the reason why they're in such bad shape is because of their government. The lack of good infrastructure that was in

place before the disaster was one reason they're in such bad shape now."

Nita Boyd

Computer Sciences Corp. at AMRDEC

"Yes. Because it's humanitarian and it demonstrates our feelings about human rights across the world. And it's a much more honorable contribution than war. And the troops are necessary because in any kind of aid situation you have looters. That's why we need the troops over there. They're just serving as police officers. They're not occupying the country."



Food vendor machine refund due

After purchasing a cinnamon bun from the food machine in building 5494, I found after opening it was covered with green mold.

I contacted the Post Cafeteria person who told me to stop by the Sparkman Cafeteria and get a refund. I will eventually get up there to get the refund as they tell me the route man cannot give them.

Now, let's talk about that route man. My question to their office as to why the product was not changed out was responded to as follows: They were short-handed at the time of the expiration date of Dec. 1, 2009 and it was probably overlooked. Today is Jan. 20, 2010 and the route man has been in our building recently. Why has the food not been checked? Apparently, still overlooked. My suggestion is that the route man start doing his job correctly and personnel in this and probably other buildings will no longer purchase food that is no longer edible or out of date.

I realize that the machines in our buildings are a service, but one that we pay for, so we should expect food that is not contaminated with mold.

Robert Davenport

Retired military/contractor

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "We apologize for your bad experience and thank you for bringing this to our attention as it is obviously unacceptable. Vending is a Post Restaurant function that is run by a contractor. Be assured we have spoken with our contractor about this issue and it will be fixed. All buildings serviced by our contractor will be double checked to ensure we are offering quality fresh products."

Quote of the week

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

- President Barack Obama

Letters to the Editor

Black History Month honors empowerment

By Sgt. 1st Class NELSON E. BALLEW Jr.
 2nd. Recruiting Brigade equal opportunity adviser

In February we recognize the contributions of African-Americans past and present. The theme selected this year is "The History of Black Economic Empowerment."

It is a theme that should be viewed from two distinct perspectives. The first is an individual's attainment of economic empowerment. The other is the pursuit of opportunities leading an entire group of disenfranchised people toward their true potential.

For the first, it is easy to identify several affluent African-Americans and highlight his or her achievements. Prominent names come to mind of individuals who made personal fortunes by providing a service or product: Oprah Winfrey, Robert L. Johnson and Madame C.J. Walker. Each in his or her own way started with virtually nothing and became incredibly wealthy.

There have been many achievements along the way which allowed Robert Johnson, Oprah Winfrey, Madame C.J. Walker and others to achieve personal economic wealth: the right to vote without literacy test in 1965, integrated education and equal access to various forms of sport or art. The forefathers of this country had it right in the beginning when they penned the words "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That's a right that is given to all Americans, regardless of skin color.

Command retiree dies in hospital

Dwayne Seale of Toney died Jan. 25 at Huntsville Hospital from cancer. He was 60.

He was chief of AMCOM's Plans and Operations Office/Emergency Operations Center before retiring with 33 years of service. The Montgomery native retired from the Army National Guard in 1993 as a chief warrant officer 4 with 23 years service.

Seale was an avid hunter, history buff, Civil War re-enactor and dedicated Crimson Tide fan.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy Seale; daughter Tracy Mason and husband Jon; stepson Michael O'Brien and wife Cheryl; sister Doretta Strength and husband Harry; grand-daughter Jordyn "Beetle" Mason; grandson Anthony "Chumlee" O'Brien; uncle Herbert Stone; cousin Dwight Stone and wife Kaye; friends June Hardin (caregiver) and husband Tim; and many friends and acquaintances.

Preparations are being made for a memorial service in February. Expressions of condolence may be sent to Kathy at 117 Phantom Drive, Toney, AL 35773-6967.



Dwayne Seale

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Rob Cox

Job: Program integrator for Product Director TMDE (Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment)

Where do you call home?
Birmingham, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy the challenge of bringing all of our programs together, and helping the leadership lead the organization. I'm the operations guy, and I make sure all the bases are covered. And also I have an information technology cell. I'm sort of like the nerve center of the organization. And it's very challeng-

ing, it's always fresh, certainly never boring, and every day is an adventure.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy golf, martial arts – I have a third degree black belt in Hapkido – and weight lifting. And I'm currently working on my master's degree in business administration (at Columbia College).



What are your goals?

I want to eventually be an SES (senior executive). And I want to own my own business in industry eventually.

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

I want to own, operate and eventually sell off a multimillion-dollar corporation.

Military blood program counts on contributions

By MELISSA HOUSE

FORT BENNING, Ga. – January was National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. The Soldiers and civilians of the Fort Benning Blood Donor Center capped off a banner year collecting blood for the Armed Services Blood Program.

In all, Fort Benning contributed more than 18,000 units of the 100,000 collected in 21 centers around the world. And the Soldiers of 3rd Brigade, who donated 482 units before they deployed, are in sole possession of the ASBP record for the most collected at a center in a single day.

Blood collected on military installations by the ASBP is our blood. It's taken from our Soldiers, civilians and family members and given right back — to the Soldiers on the operating tables in Iraq and Afghanistan, to a retiree having bypass surgery in a stateside military treatment facility, to a newborn baby with an abnormally low blood volume.



Photo by Melissa House

VOLUNTEER AWARD— Dan Morgan, chief of plans, training, mobilization and security division at Fox Army Health Center, receives a volunteer award from Col. William Winecoff, medical director of Fort Benning (Ga.) Blood Donor Center, at a ceremony Jan. 22 at the Columbus Ironworks. Morgan successfully recruited donors at Redstone Arsenal during the holidays, when Fort Benning's training population was on Exodus, and ensured the FBBDC collected the blood it needed.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 21-27:

Jan. 22: A Soldier was reported AWOL from his unit.

Jan. 23: A Soldier reported his vehicle was damaged while parked next to his barracks.

Jan. 25: During a random vehicle inspection at Gate 9, a weapon was discovered in a Team Redstone member's vehicle. The weapon was confiscated and the driver received a federal citation for violation of a security regulation under the U.S. Code.



Jan. 26: A Soldier was arrested for stealing several items from another Soldier.

Jan. 26: Redstone Police assisted Huntsville Police with serving a Team Redstone member a court order.

Jan. 27: A Soldier reported a laptop computer and a camera were stolen from his wall locker.

Traffic accidents reported: five without injury, none with injury.

Violation notices issued: 12 speeding, 1 expired driver's license, 2 following too closely, 1 failure to judge proper distance, 1 improper backing.

Pet owners advised to prepare for unexpected

Pets are valued members of many households. Advance planning can help ensure the safety of these animal family members.

February is Pet Preparedness Month; and the Garrison provided the following release:

"Like animal owners all over the country, our pets are important members of our households. The planning and preparations we make today can play a tremendous role in improving our chances of survival during manmade and natural disasters such as fire, flood, tornado, earthquake or terrorist attacks. Two things we can do to better prepare ourselves for the unexpected are to assemble an animal emergency supply kit and to develop a pet care buddy system. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals. Following are a few more things we can do now to prepare for the care of our pets in the event of an emergency or disaster."

- Keep your pets' vaccinations up-to-date.
- Talk with your vet about any special considerations.

• Know where your pets can go whether it's a friend or family member, pet-friendly hotel, animal shelter, or boarding facility.

• Place your contact information, including the name of an out-of-state contact on your pets' ID tags, microchip registrations and licenses.

• Prepare an emergency kit of leashes, collars, extra ID tags, water, food, medications, health records and photos to prove ownership.

• Have on-hand portable carriers large enough for your pets to stand and turn around in.

• Prepare a first-aid kit, including your vet contact information and an authorization to treat your pets.

• Gather any relief plans developed by your local Red Cross chapter; emergency management office; or police, fire, health, wildlife and agriculture departments so you know where to turn for specific resources.

For more information, visit Ready Army at www.ready.army.mil or the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm.

You're invited to an Evening on the Bayou



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

PARTY TIME— Evening on the Bayou committee members line up in front of a Mardi Gras tree in the Officers and Civilians Club. From left are Brenda Beale, Tracy McConachie, Tonya Daniels, Heather Scott and Lana Barshinger.

Mardi Gras-style event to benefit community

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**

For the Rocket

A night of fun, live music and dancing. Check. Lots of games and great prizes. Check. Live and silent auctions. Check. An event that will benefit military families. Check. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is putting together its main fund-raising event of the year – Mardi Gras style.

The Evening on the Bayou will be held Feb. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"Proceeds will be used to further community assistance and merit award programs such as scholarships, Army Family Programs, donations to other supporting military events, and assistance to military families," event chairperson Tonya Daniels said.

The fund-raiser was originally slated last year but was postponed because of a community scheduling conflict. "I needed something that would grab everyone's attention again. Mardi Gras and the extravagance was the way to go," Daniels said.

"From the beer and wine tasting to the silent auction, we are sure to have something for everyone. We will have a live band to enhance our Mardi Gras moods and tasty appetizers to take us into the night," she said.

Masks and beads and of course a New Orleans ambiance will be the night's theme, so folks don't have to be shy about dressing up. There will also be a mask contest.

"This is the first time we've put on this type of event," Daniels said. "I measure success by everyone who attends and has a great time."

Having put hundreds of volunteer hours with the entire committee combined over the past three months, Daniels expects a big success.

"We have been very fortunate in the past years to have successful fund-raising events such as our Pineapple Open which is what we normally hold," she said. The golf tournament had to be canceled as well, so Daniels thought it would be a great idea to make this year's fund-raiser completely different. "Everything else is a bonus," she said.

A variety of door prizes and gifts have been collected by the committee and will all be given away that night. Prizes include gift certificates to fine restaurants, various theme baskets, several free hotel accommodations with meals included, family movie night passes, gift certificates for a shopping spree at Bridge Street, art, movie tickets and more.

Daniels encourages the community to support this event because of the benefits it will bring to military families.

"First and foremost, this is a fund-raiser to be able to continue our Merit Awards and Community Assistance grants," she said. "Just buying tickets to this event adds to the bottom line and brings in funds. By attending this event, participating in the silent auction, you will further advance our ability to service the community. And the Arsenal and surrounding communities' camaraderie cannot be denied.

"I think, sleep and breathe this event," she said, laughing. "But it's what I love to do – helping others and I'm having fun at the same time."

Daniels is joined by committee members in this effort. Key members include Tracy McConachie, silent auction chair; Heather Scott, graphic artist; Vickie Cerniglia, decorations; and Lana Barshinger, volunteer coordinator. "But the entire board has stepped up and made this happen," Daniels said.

Tickets are \$20 for individuals or \$35 per couple. The event is open to everyone with gate access. Call 489-3009 or go to www.redstoneocwc.org to purchase tickets and for more information. This event is also sponsored by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation activities.

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:

Wild game cookout

The fourth annual Wild Game Cookout is Friday at 5 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The club and FMWR Outdoor Recreation invite you to this event brought to you by Cycle Nation. You can sample favorites like venison and duck as well as exotic meats. There will be complimentary beer. Special guest is reptile expert William Cruger. For more information or tickets, call the club at 830-2582 or Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

Dancing lessons

"Dancing Like The Stars — Basic Single-Step and Triple-Step Swing" classes will be held Feb. 4 through March 11 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the School Age Services building 3155. No experience necessary. Register through today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Recreation Center's temporary office at building 3400 at Gray and Ajax roads and specify whether you are a "beginner" or a "reviewer." For registration information, call 876-4531 or for course content information, call Vince at 880-6928.

Arts/crafts center

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Vincent Drive, offers a variety of creative programming. For information call 876-7951. Upcoming classes include the following: Beginner Google Sketch Up Class, Feb. 4 to March 4; Introduction to Woodworking Class, Feb. 8; Framing and Matting Class, Feb. 9; Dovetail Box, Feb. 9-18; Framing and Matting Class, Feb. 18; Introduction to Wood Turning, Feb. 22-23; Framing and Matting Class, Feb. 23.

Fitness training

The "Braveheart Challenge" is Feb. 13 from 9-11 a.m. at Pagano Gym. Two hours of total body training. This is for the brave looking for a new workout. An alternative routine to your traditional workout, you will exercise both inside and outside the gym. This will kickoff a new program starting in March. For more information, call Angie at 313-1201 or 313-1200.

Comic book arrives at Post Exchange

Captain America is coming to Redstone Arsenal to deliver on a promise made to a World War II Soldier in a new Marvel comic book that takes readers from occupied France to the front lines of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Other superheroes joining "Cap" in *The Promise* by Paul Tobin include sidekick Bucky, the Human Torch, Sub Mariner and Miss America.

"*The Promise* is now available, for free, at the Redstone Arsenal PX located at building 3220, Acton Road," PX general manager Loraine Arbo said.

The Promise is the eighth free Marvel comic offered exclusively through AAFES locations since the partnership between the Department of Defense's oldest and largest exchange service began in April 2005.

"Frankly, the project started as a way to provide a taste of home and a bit of escapism to troops serving overseas," Arbo said. "We were a little surprised at how quickly the popularity of the comic books went beyond the front lines as collectors and troops' family members expressed great interest."

For more information on how to pick up a free copy of *The Promise*, authorized exchange shoppers can call the PX at 883-6100. (PX release)

One-stop shopping list for PX

Changes in store make room for more items, convenience

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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Photo by Kari Hawkins

CUSTOMERS FIRST— Every time he shops at the Post Exchange, retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Sam Gonzales, center, is greeted warmly by PX employees. Those employees include, from left, PX general manager Loraine Arbo, sales and marketing manager Kim Sumpter, central checkout leader Kimberly Scott, Human Resources technician Dewayne Lyles, customer service supervisor Leona Johnson, operations manager Montana Hoefle and senior sales associate-jewelry counter Patricia James. Gonzales works in the Apache Project Office.

Customer service is driving changes at the Post Exchange that will add new products and more convenience to Redstone Arsenal's shopping experience.

Those changes are being coordinated by a management team that is frequently studying the buying habits of PX customers and the offerings of local competitors, ensuring that the PX and its associated vendors remain a leading shopping choice for Soldiers, military retirees and veterans, and their families.

Loraine Arbo, the exchange's new general manager, along with Kim Sumpter, sales and merchandise manager; and Montana Hoefle, operations manager, are leading the efforts to modernize the PX's retail image and customer offerings.

See **Shopping** on page 15

Flock of exotic meat eaters expected at O' Club

Wild Game Cookout on menu for Friday

While they can't help anyone quit smoking or work out more, the Officers and Civilians Club and Outdoor Recreation can give those resolving to try new things a leg up for the new year. The fourth annual Wild Game Cookout promises to offer exotic tastes to the community Friday at 5 p.m. at the club.

This family event is brought to you by Cycle Nation and presented by Woody Anderson Ford.

Sample favorites like venison as well as exotic meats. Here is the menu: hickory smoked whole wild boar, hickory smoked venison hind quarters, grilled yak rib-eye steaks, venison mini burgers, Amazonian crocodile tenderloin, barbecue antelope spareribs, rabbit stew with cornbread, and country fixins' including corn on the cob, mashed potatoes and gravy, country style green beans, turnip greens, fried rattlesnake



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

HOT TIME— Sous chef Andy Kolankiewicz and chef Ben Howard are fired up before last year's Wild Game Cookout at the Officers and Civilians Club.

and python.

The speaker is John Wayne Fears, who has had more than 4,800 magazine articles published and 24 books. He is often a guest on popular outdoor television programs and a frequent speaker at events. He is working

on three books.

Reptile expert William Cruger will present area regional snakes.

For more information or tickets, call the club at 830-2582 or Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

College student experiences life in Haiti



Courtesy photo

HEART OF GOLD— Megan Scott, daughter of Maj. Bruce Scott of the Program Executive Office for Aviation, holds a small child from the Canaan Orphanage in Montrouis, Haiti, about 45 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince. Scott and two of her schoolmates from Samford University were doing mission work at the orphanage when the 7.0 earthquake hit.

Missionary work led to orphanage

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
For the Rocket

Ever since Megan Scott was a little girl, she always had a heart for helping others. The middle child in the Scott family, she never imagined that her heart for adventure would give her an experience she would never forget and take her to Haiti and one of the deadliest earthquakes in history.

Moving from place to place and being somewhat of a nomad was neither new nor frightening for Scott. After all, she is an Army brat and daughter of Maj. Bruce Scott, assistant product manager for the Light Utility Helicopters in the Program Executive Office for Aviation and an Army National Guard liaison officer.

"I've always wanted to travel and interact with people outside of the U.S.," Scott said. "Moving around so much with my dad being in the military, I really enjoyed having new experiences."

That love for travel led her to pursue national and international missionary work. One of her first mission trips while in high school was to Arlington, Texas. Last summer, Scott applied for a program called Youth Works and worked at the Lakota Indian reservation in South Dakota and was in charge of a children's ministry. Youth Works organizes and facilitates youth mission trips for the purpose of raising global awareness.

Scott, a junior at Samford University in Birmingham, is majoring in nutrition and dietetics. She is also a pre-med student interested in pursuing her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, the University of South Alabama, or the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

During her freshman year at Samford, Scott decided to do international work for the first time and went to Mozambique, Africa. She paid for her entire trip with the help of family and friends who helped raise money for the effort.

"It's good to be able to apply what I've learned in school and be able to help out others who are not so fortunate," Scott said. "You see yourself as a global citizen and that everyone is equal and that they're worth being helped. For my future and my career, I just want to help people as much as I can. Mission work is a great way to do that. It's not like you're just going on vacation. You're actually helping out."

"There is a great need for doctors and people with medical skills. That's why I wanted to go to medical school in order to help a lot of people. It is also a great way to connect with people."

Haiti was Scott's second international mission trip, which she paid for all on her own. Together with two college classmates, Katie Snider and Anna McKoy, the three girls left for Haiti on Dec. 27.

The girls performed mission work at the Canaan Orphanage in Montrouis, Haiti, approximately 45 miles north/north-

west of Port-au-Prince. They were due to return to the U.S. on Jan. 22. They soon would realize coming home would happen much sooner than planned.

Whether it was fate, chance or pure luck, one of Scott's Christmas presents from her parents was a new iTouch (iPhone). This new device would be the only means of communication for the family after the earthquake.

"I had never really thought of Haiti," Scott said. "I was really focused on far-away places like Africa and Asia."

She quickly realized that Haiti is just as foreign and faraway. After hearing stories from her friend Snider who had visited Haiti just last summer, Scott decided she wanted to go and make it happen. "I knew I could get some experience on malnutrition. I had done a couple of projects in school, plus I would be able to apply what I've learned and learn new things in the process."

The 7.0 quake, the most powerful to hit Haiti in a century, struck Jan. 12. The tremors were felt more than 200 miles away, as far as eastern Cuba.

Scott said she remembers feeling the earthquake and never imagined the severity of the damage it caused. "She had no idea of the scope of the earthquake," noted her father, Maj. Scott. "She was more amazed than troubled by it."

When Maj. Scott and his wife Jane first heard the news, they immediately turned on their computer knowing that if their daughter was alive and OK, she would post a message on Facebook. There was no phone reception, and texting did not work. It only took about an hour after the quake when they saw Scott's first posting telling them of the quake they just felt. "We all but cried," Maj. Scott said. "It was the best news we could hope for."

Scott and her friends learned from her father just how serious the earthquake was and quickly assessed their situation. There were more than 100 people in the orphanage, and they were already starting to ration power, which was fueled by diesel, to two hours a day. This included rationing their usage of the water purification system and food. They quickly realized that their situation was more than status quo.

As any parent would have done, Maj. Scott began to make phone calls and worked with the Puerto Rico Army National Guard while keeping his chain of command informed of the situation. He was instructed that he needed to submit a mission request to start the process of determining resourcing and mission priority in order to extract the girls from Haiti. After the National Guard verified that all the information Scott provided was correct, they assessed the immediacy of extracting the students. Using Google maps and Facebook, Scott was able to show his daughter how and where to set up a landing zone providing her with the latitude and longitude in a flat area where the Black Hawk could land.

See **Haiti** on page 7

Redstone exploring ways to cut energy costs

Workers can help by changing habits

By JENNI WILLIAMS

For the Rocket

With budgets tightening, Redstone Arsenal is looking for ways to cut energy costs across the post. In fiscal 2009, utility costs for the entire post neared \$62 million. In a November FORSCOM meeting, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of Installation Management Command, offered suggestions for reducing utility costs. Several of those are listed as follows:

- Computers and monitors. Idle appliances are a significant energy waste source. When leaving work for the day, remember to turn off all computers and monitors (Army Regulation 420-1, chapter 22).

- Government vehicles. When the vehicle is unoccupied or idle for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine.

- Interior lights. All interior lights should be off in unoccupied areas. When possible, use natural light as an office or home light source.

- Office equipment. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and AR 420-1 require that all office equipment be Energy Star rated and have sleep mode activated. Sleep mode should activate automatically when not in use.

- Heating and air conditioning equip-

ment. Money is wasted when heat and air systems are running in rooms that are unoccupied for extended periods of time. AR 420-1, chapter 22 sets the temperature regulations in office buildings as follows: Heating season — occupied, 72 degrees Fahrenheit plus or minus two degrees Fahrenheit; unoccupied, 55 degrees Fahrenheit plus or minus five degrees Fahrenheit. Cooling season — occupied, 74 degrees Fahrenheit plus or minus two degrees Fahrenheit; unoccupied — 85 degrees Fahrenheit plus or minus five degrees Fahrenheit.

- Outdoor lighting. All outside lights should be off during the day, as these lights are unnecessary. Check outside lights each morning to be sure they are turned off.

- Doors and windows. Remember to close all doors and windows at the end of the day. During the summer, they allow cool air to escape, and during the winter heat escapes.

- Personal equipment. All personal equipment, such as refrigerators, microwaves and coffee pots, that serve only one or two people should be removed from the facility. AR 420-1, chapter 22 lists those appliances that are permitted. All appliances should be Energy Star rated appliances. Personally owned appliances should not be allowed.

By changing habits in simple ways, money can be saved on energy costs. Good habits take time to establish, but with continual effort, these actions will become second nature. *(Garrison release)*

■ Soldier's daughter returns from Haiti after earthquake

Haiti

continued from page 6

“The LZ was marked well enough,” Maj. Scott said. They did a thorough job of providing the details of their location to him which he relayed to the National Guard. The girls were extracted via Black Hawk from Montrouis and flown to Port-au-Prince, one of several missions being flown that day.

“Their flight was in conjunction with other missions they were already flying,” Maj. Scott said. They were then flown via Black Hawk to the Dominican Republic where they were processed through the evacuation center and spent the night. Scott and her friends flew via commercial flight the next day and landed in Atlanta on Jan. 17 where they were met by grateful parents.

The experience in Haiti did not dampen any of the girls’ spirits of continuing to do mission work. “I want to continue these mission trips for the rest of my life,” Scott said. She hopes to someday be able to live internationally.

“I don’t regret going to Haiti. It was definitely an adventure. Looking back at

it, I’m glad I was there and able to come back to tell my story and tell everyone about the people there. I want to raise awareness of the Canaan Orphanage where I was at,” she said.

Scott said she hopes more young people will take an interest in missionary work and find it fulfilling and rewarding as she has.

“They might have a lot less and have more problems, but they’re still the same. They feel the way we feel and have hopes and dreams. It took an earthquake for people to know Haiti,” she said.

“I’m still a parent,” said Maj. Scott. “We don’t discourage her, but we make sure she is aware of the risks. But I am very proud of my daughter.”

Four-member teams weigh in on program

Participants want to shed pounds while hopefully gaining prizes

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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The Scale Back Alabama program hopes to help state residents feel a little lighter on their feet and a little heavier in their pockets. Weigh-ins for the program were held last week.

Teams of four went to Fox Army Health Center and Redstone's fitness centers to log their beginning weight from Monday to Thursday last week at the location where they had signed up. It's shaping up to be a popular program, according to Gaylene Wilson, sports and fitness director.

"We have registered 57 teams here at the fitness centers and there are 45 teams registered through (Fox)," she said. "That's over 100 teams of four here on Redstone Arsenal. That's huge."

Each team member is required to lose 10 pounds over the course of the 10-week program in order for the team to qualify for the prize drawings on April 28. Eligible teams will be selected at random for cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$250 per team member. Fifty individuals will also be awarded \$100 each.

All teams weighing in were given information about upcoming fitness events on post, and five free lunch-and-learn classes scheduled at Fox during the program.

"People start off strong and end strong, but some get lost in the middle," Wilson said. "We're hoping to do things along the way to keep them on track, like information on how to begin a workout program and nutrition."

In addition to the program prizes up for grabs, office bragging rights are a big motivating factor for some participants, as well as the health benefits.

"We've got a little competition among ourselves in our office," Frank Rodarte, a contractor for SAIC in the Aviation Engineering Directorate, said.

Team spirits are apparently high. Some have channeled their enthusiasm into creating funny names for their team.

"Some of the names are hilarious," Wilson said. "We've got names like 'Three Ding-Dongs and a Ho-Ho' and 'The Hungry, Hungry Hippos.' They're having a good time with it."

Over the 10 weeks, Wilson said team captains will be sent motivational and weight-loss information to pass onto their team.

Participants will be able to track their weight-loss themselves until the final weigh-in. They can do so at home or by using any of the Redstone gyms. However, their weight will not be recorded again for the program until the final week of April 10.

"Ten pounds in 10 weeks is attainable. It's a realistic goal. You don't have to go on a crazy diet," Wilson said. "We're excited to be a part of the team and be able to offer this to Redstone. I'm looking forward to seeing the results."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

ON SCALE— Frank Rodarte, a contractor for SAIC in the Aviation Engineering Directorate, gets weighed for the start of the Scale Back Alabama program with the help of Gaylene Wilson, sports and fitness director.

Stay in the game with a safe Super Bowl party plan

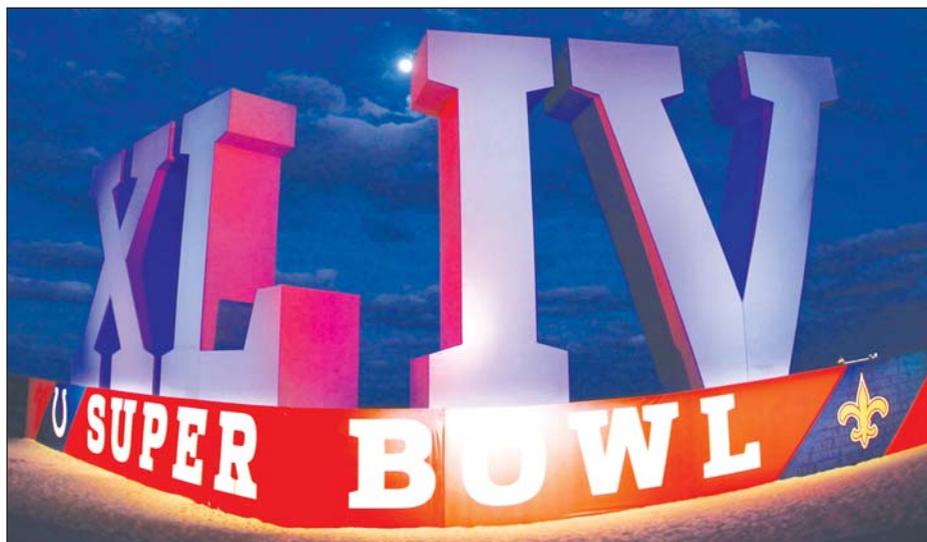
FORT RUCKER — In just a few short days, millions of people will gather for Super Bowl XLIV parties in homes, bars and restaurants across the country to watch what analysts have billed as a meeting of "super-sized offenses."

As these great gatherings start to take shape, officials at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center are reminding all party hosts and attendees to keep the "offenses" on the field.

"Super Bowl parties are no time to super-size food, drinks or risk," Col. Scott Thompson, deputy commander for the USACR/Safety Center, said. "Whether planning a party menu or attending an event with friends, keep this Super Bowl Sunday a safe and healthy one by employing proper risk management during all parts of the day."

Mitigating risk when it comes to hosting a Super Bowl party means having a good plan and being a good host, according to officials at the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) organization. A responsible party host not only ensures all guests have a good time but also works diligently to keep friends and family safe.

A key party element that often puts a guest's safety in jeopardy is alcohol.



MADD officials offer several tips to help hosts plan a safe Super Bowl party. Have low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks available and serve plenty of food like vegetables, cheese and dips so people are not drinking on an empty stomach. Plan activities like party games or door prize drawings to engage people and make for less active consumption of alcohol. Identify the non-drinking designated drivers in the

group and offer them fun "mocktails." Before the first guest arrives, develop a plan to deal with guests who drink too much and be prepared to take away keys, call and pay for taxis or welcome overnight guests.

Mitigating risk when it comes to attending a Super Bowl party also means having a plan and watching out for friends and family members. Remember, if you

plan to drink, have a designated driver and ensure that those who have been drinking also have a safe way to get home.

"A great Super Bowl party can quickly turn tragic if something bad happens," said Dr. Patricia LeDuc, USACR/Safety Center Human Factors Task Force director. "Fights, people being too drunk, injuries or a visit from the police can shut a party down in the blink of an eye and turn what could have been a great memory into a very regrettable occasion."

The team at the USACR/Safety Center stands ready to assist with safe party planning and risk management. Additional information about planning a safe party or staying safe on the roads, at the bars or at parties this weekend can be found by visiting <https://safety.army.mil>.

"Like any successful Army operation, a successful party must be a place where every attendee not only has fun but also stays safe," Thompson said. "Whether you are cheering for the Saints or the Colts, know that we here at the Safety Center are cheering you on as you make the decisions you need to make this a safe Super Bowl weekend." (U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Public Affairs release)

Friday goes red for awareness

By AMY GUCKEEN

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Nearly every minute a woman dies from heart disease.

The American Heart Association's statistic is alarming, but Redstone Arsenal has made a commitment to change it.

Col. Mark Smith, commander of Fox Army Health Center, and Col. Bob Pastorelli, Garrison commander, joined forces to raise awareness for women's heart disease, with the help of The Heart Truth, a national awareness campaign by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. The duo signed a National Wear Red Day proclamation Jan. 26, cementing the installation's commitment to women's health.

"If we are going to be a well society, we need to make sure that the ladies in our life, who are so important to us, are aware of the dangers out there, and one of those dangers is heart disease," Pastorelli said. "We need to be guardians to make sure we get the word out to bring a better awareness."

Pastorelli, Smith and the rest of the installation will take one day out to raise awareness for women's heart disease on Friday, Feb. 5, National Wear Red Day. Across the country, men and women will don the color red to raise awareness of the number one killer in women.

"We set out three years ago to inspire others to live a lifetime of wellness," Smith said. "We need to be well ourselves."

That wellness starts with awareness. While awareness has increased since the creation of The Heart Truth in 2002, still only one in five women believe that heart disease is the greatest health threat for women, according to the American Heart Association.

"Many Americans believe that cancer, especially breast cancer, is the leading cause of death for women in the United States," said Valerie Francis, nurse educator in the preventive medicine department at Fox. "However, nearly twice as many women die from heart disease than all forms of cancer."

Risk factors for women for heart disease include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, being physically inactive, having a family history of heart disease, as well as age – 55 or older for women – according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. While some factors are out of a woman's control such as age and family history, factors such as weight and physical activity a woman is able to change and improve. The more risk factors a woman has, the more likely she is to develop heart disease.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

PROCLAMATION— Col. Mark Smith, commander of Fox Army Health Center, and Col. Bob Pastorelli, Garrison commander, discuss the importance of raising awareness for women's heart disease prior to signing the National Wear Red Day Proclamation for Redstone Arsenal.

"Healthcare providers can empower their patients by encouraging them to make healthy lifestyle changes, which includes: tobacco cessation, regular exercise, healthy eating, weight management and managing blood pressure and cholesterol levels, as directed by one's healthcare provider," Francis said.

Fox Army Health Center will celebrate Friday's National Wear Red Day by hosting a National Heart Truth Day Program in the Fox Den. The program will pair opportunities for exercise with health center employee Kathy Smith's own experience with heart disease. Smith will speak from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.; rope jumping will follow from noon to 12:20 p.m., followed by stairwell exercises from 12:20 to 12:45. Everyone can participate in the day of awareness by wearing red.

Warning signs for heart attack

Be aware of the following heart attack signs, from the American Heart Association:

- Mild chest pain or discomfort, such as pressure, squeezing or fullness.
- Upper body discomfort in the back, arms, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath.
- Cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Women should be particularly aware of their most common symptoms, which include chest pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

Retired officer gives voice to taxpayers

Volunteer advocate joins national panel

By **AMY GUCKEEN**

Staff writer

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Herb Hayes has made it his personal mission to ease the grunts and groans of the taxpayers of Alabama.

In December, Hayes joined the ranks of 101 volunteers from across the country that work diligently to improve the IRS experience for taxpayers as members of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, a Federal Advisory committee under the Department of the Treasury.

"TAP is an opportunity to represent all of the citizens of Alabama, the federal work force (especially the military community that the Patriot system is helping protect), and retirees with their suggestions for improving the human interface between the IRS and themselves," said Hayes, a retired Army officer, who now works in the Lower Tier Project Office, on the Patriot and MEADS missile programs. "TAP is here to help improve the 'Service' in IRS."

TAP members spend 300 to 500 hours a year volunteering on the panel, collecting feedback and concerns from the taxpayers, identifying issues, and making suggestions to improve the IRS experience.

"The IRS is not just a collection agency," Hayes said. "The IRS is the only

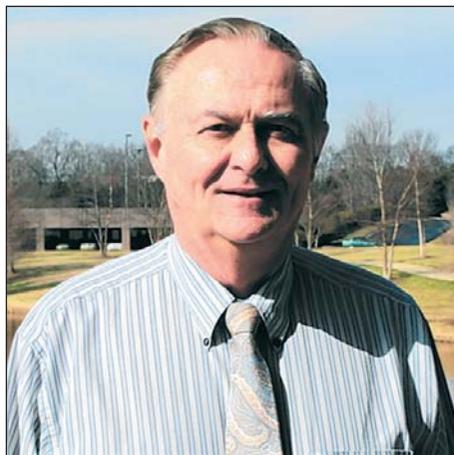


Photo by Amy Guckeen

REPRESENTING— Herb Hayes, a retired Army officer, began his three-year term as a member of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel in December. He is the only advocate for the state of Alabama. The position is completely voluntary.

government agency that interacts with every citizen in the United States in one way or another. It has such a broad involvement in our community with the homeowners tax credit, the earned income tax credit, the childcare tax credit. All this is to help the community, to benefit the public."

While TAP doesn't answer the question, "Where is my tax return?" topics such as how the IRS can improve things like "I don't understand this form" or "I

had to wait on the phone for so long" can be addressed.

"We can think up things, but that's not the point," Hayes said. "TAP is akin to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, in that it's another program the IRS has to help the public with their taxes. It's all about the interaction between the IRS and the taxpayer. It's to give the public feedback to the IRS. The object is outreach – to get people to understand, and to have a voice in the IRS."

"As the IRS remains committed to improving services and assistance to taxpayers, the input from the citizen volunteers at TAP has never been more important," Nina Olson, IRS national taxpayer advocate and head of the Taxpayer Advocate Service, said in a prepared release. "The Taxpayer Advocate Service is committed to making sure the IRS seeks out and considers the panel member's views on key initiatives impacting taxpayers before decisions are made."

As the only taxpayer advocate for the state of Alabama, Hayes also looks forward to addressing particular tax concerns that may affect those in the military or civil service.

"Military and civil service is a big community in the entire state of Alabama," Hayes said. "I like to watch for some of those issues to improve on for our area."

Each TAP member also serves on a subcommittee. As a member of the Earned Income Tax Credit subcommittee, one of Hayes' goals is to increase aware-

ness of the credit, which many people are not aware they are eligible for. The credit, a refundable tax credit for those who do not make a high income, is one of the largest antipoverty programs.

"They need the money," Hayes said. "This is people that can use the money and they're not getting it. If they're eligible for food stamps, they're eligible for this."

To contact Hayes and the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, call 1-888-912-1227, visit www.improveirs.org, or write to: Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, 1000 S. Pine Island Road, Suite 340, Plantation, FL 33324.

Earned income tax credit criteria

Think you're eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit? Here are the 2009 income limits. Earned income and adjusted gross income must be less than:

- \$43,279 (\$48,279 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children.
- \$40,295 (\$45,295 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children.
- \$35,463 (\$40,463 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child.
- \$13,440 (\$18,440 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children.

To learn more about the credit, visit www.irs.gov/eitc.

Logistics activity hails two retiring chiefs



Photo by Melody Sandlin

OUTSTANDING SERVICE— Logistics Support Activity chief of staff Richard Manley pins the Legion of Merit medal on Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Bonkoski during Bonkoski's retirement ceremony as his wife Deborah and son Jacob watch.

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 LEROY BROWN

Logistics Support Activity

Two of the Logistics Support Activity's finest were honored in mid-January in separate retirement ceremonies.

Family, friends and coworkers gathered Jan. 13 and 15 to honor the careers of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lawrence Bonkoski and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard French.

Both served in the Corps/Theater ADP Service Center as functional systems analysts, providing support to materiel and financial managers Armywide.

In recognition of his service, Bonkoski was awarded the Legion of Merit medal. His retirement ceremony was attended by his wife, Deborah, and son, Jacob. His father, Larry Bonkoski, drove from Michigan for the occasion.

Bonkoski is a third generation Soldier, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

"It's been a great 22 years," an emotional Bonkoski said. He thanked God, his family, and the NCOs he worked with during his career. He joked that he especially appreciated his father not fulfilling a

promise to "break both my legs, if I ever joined the Army."

"Chief Bonkoski is a fine officer who has typified the kind of excellence we looked for in building our CTASC team," LOGSA chief of staff Richard Manley said. "He has always provided great customer service and outstanding advice to his leadership."

Bonkoski's retirement plans include living in Madison and working in project management.

French's retirement ceremony celebrated his 24-year career. His wife Fonda, son Brandon and granddaughter Madison attended.

"Rick French is another of the outstanding warrant officers we have working CTASC," Manley said while presenting him the Legion of Merit. "He has been a mentor to the employees, both DA civilians and contractors, on the shift he leads. When I asked Rick a question, I could always count on a good, common sense answer."

French's immediate retirement plans include spending time with his family. "Well heck, I don't even know them," French quipped, referring to the long hours and time away from home.

Garrison looking for ways to sustain resources

By DENEAN SUMMERS
For the Rocket

What is sustainability? A great deal of talk has been given to sustainability and sustainable actions. What does it really mean? Sustainability, in its most basic terms, is “no net loss of resources.”

It’s the concept that requires us to review our actions and determine if we are operating without unnecessary waste, in the most efficient manner possible, with a goal of having what we need for the future. The Army defines sustainability as ensuring that we meet current as well as future mission requirements worldwide, while safeguarding human health, improving quality of life, and enhancing our natural environment. It is a planning principle that ensures access to training, materiel and services necessary to provide a trained and ready force, now and in the future.

To demonstrate the concept of sustainability, consider Redstone Arsenal’s energy consumption. At the Dec. 8 Town Hall, Mark Smith said the Garrison spends \$62 million on energy. Can we really continue to spend that amount of money for energy? Should we? What if prices increase? How can we continue to operate efficiently and comfortably? The Garrison is considering multiple

options that will contribute to the reduction required.

Smith spoke about some of the possible solutions in the areas of improved infrastructure, new technologies and more efficient use of current resources. Improving infrastructure to reduce steam leaks and pruning inefficient lines is one strategy. By utilizing excess boiler capacity, perhaps steam can be generated more efficiently without loss through transportation. Currently, a geothermal project is being conducted; perhaps that technology will yield promising results that can be utilized across the post.

Implementing energy management controls and load shedding technology represent a possible future opportunity, and continuing research is determining the viability of solar water heating. By taking these actions, sustainability is in full swing. These possible strategies work to ensure that we can still operate at the levels we currently do, without resource depletion or destruction, in the most efficient manner.

However, sustainability isn’t just about energy; it extends to all of our operations. It focuses on the triple-bottom line of mission, community and the environment. We can make our operational processes more sustainable by reducing inefficiencies. We can conserve our environmental resources by

protecting them and employing green technology/innovations. Sustainability also focuses on establishing partnerships with people – the Soldier, civilians, families and neighbors — to improve well-being. By preserving our resources, we as a whole benefit. By establishing workgroups and partnerships, we focus attention on the Tennessee Valley region and our quality of life. Everything we do can be analyzed to see if it is sustainable.

The Army has recognized sustainability as essential by writing guidance and memoranda that require implementing the concepts. Through this effort, we will strengthen Army operation capability. We will reduce our environmental footprint and foster a sustainability ethic that takes us beyond compliance — just meeting the requirements, to sustainability — ensuring continuation into the future. We will meet our current and future training, testing and other mission requirements by efficiently using and preserving resources. We will minimize impacts and total ownership costs of Army systems, materiel, facilities and operations. The well-being of our Soldiers, civilians, families, neighbors and communities will be enhanced through leadership. We will drive innovation and technology to meet user needs and anticipate future Army challenges. (*Garrison release*)

Tactical airspace team receives award

The Tactical Airspace Integration System received the NetCentric Warfare Outstanding U.S. Government Program award from the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement during a ceremony Jan. 26 in Crystal City, Va.

Selection criteria for this award included the degree to which the program incorporates the principles of network-centric warfare, the program’s contribution to the overall operational effectiveness of the end user, the development environment, and how interoperability and joint force integration were included in the development process. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with IGDA’s NetCentric Warfare 2010 Symposium.

James Kelton, assistant product manager for TAIS, and Tom Dye, TAIS project manager from General Dynamics, accepted the award on behalf of the government-industry TAIS team.

Three vaccines now available through Tricare

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Tricare beneficiaries can now receive select vaccines with no out-of-pocket expense at retail pharmacies.

For the first time ever, beneficiaries can visit participating Tricare retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all Tricare beneficiaries eligible to use the Tricare retail pharmacy benefit.

Other vaccines must still be administered in a doctor’s office or authorized convenience clinic to be fully covered by Tricare’s preventive health services cost-share waiver.

“Vaccines are the most effective defense against the seasonal and H1N1 flu and pneumonia,” Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, Tricare’s chief pharmacy officer, said. “We hope this new, convenient and affordable option encourages Tricare beneficiaries to get their vaccinations.”

To receive the vaccines, beneficiaries can call their local Tricare retail network pharmacy to make sure it participates in the vaccine program and has the vaccine in stock.

To locate a participating retail network pharmacy, call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 or go to www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE. (*Tricare release*)

Print Shop provides documented solutions

Facility celebrates 60th anniversary

The Document Automation & Production Service is celebrating its golden year.

DAPS, aka the Print Shop, will have an open house Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 5688 on Wood Road for its 60th anniversary.

“We are generally known as the print shop, but we are so much more,” a prepared release said. “We operate within a totally digitized and completely networked environment including a web-based online job submission site located at www.daps.dla.mil.”

To sign up for DAPS online training, call Lauren Carson at 876-2759. Others who are there to assist you include Ralph McGuff, James Saylor, Tim Allred, Clay Pierce and Kim Box.

Then-Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson signed a charter effective Nov. 1, 1949 to establish the present day DAPS as the Defense Printing Service-Washington. The Department of Defense was also established in 1949, resulting from a modification of the National Security Act of 1947.

DPS-Washington was formed from the consolidation of the Army Adjutant General Reproduction Plant, the Navy Central Processing Plant and the Air Force Headquarters Plant. It was chartered to provide common printing services at the seat of government for the departments and agen-

cies of the new DoD. While the DoD Administrative Management Council directed its policy, the Secretary of the Navy managed and controlled DPS-Washington.

Industrial funding

It was to be managed quite differently. As the DoD’s first industrially-funded activity, DPS-Washington was run like a business and charged for the services and products it rendered.

The success of this new industrial funding brought the transition of the Navy’s Publication Division, formerly funded with appropriated dollars, to the Navy Printing Service in September 1951. Eight years later, DoD would give industrial funding another flagship, the Navy Publication and Printing Service.

In April 1992, Defense Management Resource Decision 998 directed the consolidation of all DoD printing and duplicating operations, with the Navy serving as the designated single manager. In addition to its 150 Navy plants, NPPS assumed control of approximately 200 Army, Air Force, Marine and Defense Logistics Agency facilities.

The DoD commercial printing procurement program was also given to NPPS to manage. This action and demands from the Army and Air Force called for another name for the multiservice activity. In 1994 and still under the Navy, the organization was once again called the Defense Printing Service.

Digital-based management

The continued Navy affiliation finally prompted the Secretary of Defense to redirect DPS’ management to DLA as of Oct. 1, 1996. In anticipation, the DPS Headquarters contingent moved to DLA’s Headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., that summer. At the same time, another name change was induced to more accurately reflect the organization’s role in transitioning the DoD to digital-based document management. The first use of the acronym DAPS signified the organization was then to be known as the Defense Automated Printing Service.

DAPS weathered a Commercial Activities (A-76) study and a DoD Management Initiative Decision in the early years of the new millennium and remains a government organization within DLA. As the result of its successful operation as a Most Efficient Organization, the Defense Department designated DAPS as a High Performing Organization effective Oct. 1, 2009, one month before its 60th anniversary date.

From a single facility in the basement of the Pentagon in 1949 to the worldwide organization it has become, DAPS is now known as the Document Automation & Production Service. The name reflects it is much more than just printing. DAPS has evolved to become the DoD’s document solutions provider. (*Document Automation & Production Service release*)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Product director

George J. Mitchell accepts the charter Jan. 25 as product director for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment. He succeeds Steven Lingar, who left to become chief of the engineering support division at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. Mitchell served as a program manager at the Missile Defense Agency where he was responsible for the design, production and flight performance of air and ground launched, short and medium range target systems.

Shopping

continued from page 5

“I came to a great team,” Arbo said. “We have 257 associates who work for the exchange. And they are all here to serve our customers.”

The PX and its mall facility on Vincent Drive are managed by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and include the following Arsenal businesses: Charley’s Grilled Subs, Church’s Chicken, Anthony’s Pizza and Cinnabon, all located in the PX food court.

Besides the exchange, AAFES also staffs and manages the Burger King, American Eatery in Garrison building 4488, and the shoppette/gas station. Commercial vendors in the PX mall include GNC Live Well, Cellular Express, Stripes Alterations, Regions Bank, Petals and Blooms, and Fashion Square along with a barber shop, cleaners, nail salon, beauty salon and jewelry, cap and gift basket shops, and clothing and accessories stores. Vendors also include the Firestone tire store located nearby.

Changes at the PX will have a positive impact on these businesses and their customers, Arbo said.

“The goal is to merge our facilities so that we have one-stop shopping for our customers,” she said. “It’s all about convenience and service. With our one-stop shopping, Just Compare! low pricing program, price matching program and large number of products, we want to make AAFES the first choice for the Arsenal community.”

The most recent and obvious change has been the opening of the new Burger King, located on the Vincent Drive side of the PX parking lot. The old Burger King facility is under renovation and will reopen as a coffee shop.

“The Burger King had a soft opening on Jan. 19 and the sales were up 10 percent in its first three days of business,” Arbo said. “The grand opening is scheduled for Feb. 5.”

Another recent change is the move of the PX furniture store from its current stand-alone facility on the north side of the PX parking lot to inside the current PX store.

“We are now co-locating the furniture store in our main store,” Arbo said. “We will be moving our products around and using some of our extra space to accommodate the furniture department.”

The furniture department will be located in an area near the men’s and boys’ departments. It will include ready-to-assemble furniture, mattresses, major appliances and recliners.

“We won’t be deleting any of our categories within the store,” Sumpter said. “But management is modifying selections to meet demographics. We are about 3 percent ahead of our sales numbers from last year. We want to continue to grow in that direction.”

The furniture store facility will not remain empty for long. By mid-March, the PX will offer a full range of optometry services, including an eye doctor, and eyewear for its customers in half of the facility while the other half will be used for administrative purposes.

Also moving into the 43,000-square-foot PX facility will be Military Clothing Sales and Service, which will make the move from building 3479 in mid-2010.

“We will be having a reduction in the number of Soldiers we have here because of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations),” Arbo said. “Once OMEMS (Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School) leaves, we will have about 500 permanent Soldiers stationed here. With that reduction, we found that we could better serve that population if we co-located MCSS within our store instead of having it in a separate facility.”

Besides the addition of the furniture department and MCSS, changes within the exchange include the renovation and reorganizing of the store’s electronics products. The PX now features an electronics department, known as The Power Zone, where electronics – including flat-screen displays, computers and telephones – are on display. Those renovations were completed in November.

“It now looks like a Best Buy or any other electronics store in town with flat screen TVs on display and all our electronics in one area,” Sumpter said. “Customers love it.”

Customers are sure to also appreciate the move of the Customer Service department to the front of the store, which will occur in the next couple weeks.

“We are putting Customer Service at the front of the store so that it is easier for customers to do things like layaway, catalog orders and refunds,” Arbo said. “In its place at the back of the store, we will put our Corporate University Training



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SHOPPING FOR JEWELRY— Retired Maj. Mitch Stevison shops for a special piece of jewelry for his wife with the help of senior sales associate Patricia James. Stevison and his wife are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

Room, which is very important to our goal to make sure our employees receive the training they need.”

The PX’s most popular shopping areas are The Power Zone, Health and Beauty Care, and Cosmetics – departments that are constantly under scrutiny by management to ensure they are meeting customer needs and wants.

“Health and Beauty Care is a big driver for us,” Sumpter said. “It brings customers into the store. And we hope that once they are here they will branch out into other departments to make purchases.”

Some upcoming changes within the PX facility will not be as evident to customers as introducing new departments or moving departments to other areas of the store, Sumpter said. One of those changes involves the introduction of the Inventory Control Associate, which is a replenishment management system.

“Starting Feb. 19, as customers make purchases, they will be scanned at the register and our system will know what stock needs to be replenished in the store,” Sumpter said. “This will help us to keep stock in the store that customers are buying.”

The system also gives PX employees the ability to order items in stock at other stores and to have them available to customers within a couple days.

AAFES will also be bringing some changes to its vendor mix in the PX/Commissary mall. The most significant addition, Arbo said, will be a GameStop, which is expected to open in mid-summer. Another addition will be a business selling ceiling tiles, flooring and lighting.

And another recent addition is a Blimpie’s, now located in a trailer outside the Garrison building 4488.

In 2012, AAFES plans to include the Blimpie’s in a new shoppette and shopping center located at the corner of Martin and Mills roads. The project includes stores, a gas station and restaurants.

“We want to capture business from some of the 12,000 employees who work on that side of the Arsenal,” Arbo said. “We don’t want them to have to leave post to do their business or to eat lunch.”

Between Arbo, Sumpter and Hoefle, the management team at the PX has a vast amount of experience working with AAFES. Arbo recently transferred from Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City to replace outgoing PX general manager Carl Carpenter, who transferred to Fort Riley, Kan. Arbo has been an AAFES employee for 28 years. Sumpter has been with AAFES for 32 years, 19 of those at Redstone Arsenal. And, Hoefle has been with AAFES for 21

years, 12 of those at Redstone Arsenal.

“I’m here by choice,” Sumpter said. “It’s a fabulous community and it’s a mission that’s important. The military community here is a good community to work with.”

For Arbo, the mission at the local PX is the same mission she has focused on during her 28-year career – to provide Soldiers and military retirees and their families with the best shopping experience possible at the lowest prices possible.

“The mission is the same, but the challenges are different,” Arbo said. “Here, managing the growth and demand for services and products is a great challenge to have. This is a leading store for AAFES. It is considered a small family retiree store with lots of potential and growing customer loyalty.”

Although technology and marketing have changed the store, Sumpter said customer service is still the number one priority at the PX.

“Automation has made everything state-of-the-art for us,” she said. “But we are still most concerned with taking care of our customer relationships. That’s still the most important thing for us.”

Added Arbo: “We want to maintain high customer loyalty. The customers are why we are here.”

‘This is a center of excellence that you have made’

Retired general officer congratulates Huntsville on partnerships that protect American values

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

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Describing Redstone Arsenal and its surrounding industrial, business and academic community as a national treasure, one of the nation’s former military leaders told a Chamber of Commerce audience Thursday that Huntsville’s center of excellence will help the U.S. win on the battlefield.

Retired Gen. John Abizaid, whose 34-year military career included being the longest serving commander of the U.S. Central Command from 2003 until his retirement in 2007, spoke about Redstone Arsenal and the nation’s involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts as the keynote speaker at the 74th annual membership meeting of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. About 1,000 business, community and industry representatives attended the meeting at the Von Braun Center North.

Abizaid commented on Huntsville’s innovation, inspiration, capability and ingenuity as a center of excellence for science and research technologies.

“This is a center of excellence that you have made,” he told his audience. “This is a national treasure for the

nation. You work together to build something that can be used on the battlefield, that makes our troops the most capable in the world and that allows (servicemembers) to dominate the battlefield in a way never before.”

Abizaid went on to warn the contractors in the audience that, despite accomplishments in providing the military with the best equipment possible, they are entering a period when there will be less money available to fund further research and development.

“You must fight against a sporadic attempt by the government to not let you do your work, and to erect walls between you and the mission,” he said.

“It is important for this center of excellence to remain alive and vibrant in this country. I have great confidence in this place and its innovative people. You know how to get the job done and you have optimism for the future.”

Huntsville’s center of excellence – as well as the nation — will be threatened by the shifting of economic strength, growing competition in the international arena and the growing danger in the Middle East from extremists.

“We might try to walk away from extremists. But they will not walk away from us,” Abizaid said. “That’s why you must remain vibrant and successful in a period when people are worried about more basic things. We must defend our values whether we like it or not. That is essential to being successful.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CAREER SOLDIER— Retired Gen. John Abizaid, a combat veteran who was once the most senior U.S. military officer of direct Arab descent, speaks at the 74th annual membership meeting of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce held Thursday.

See **Excellence** on page 17

Excellence

continued from page 16

The general, who served in the combat zones of Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq, and who is one of four generals featured in the book "The Fourth Star – Four Generals and the Epic Struggle for the Future of the United States Army," spoke highly of today's Soldiers and urged his audience to hire veterans in their workplace. His own son-in-law is now serving his sixth tour of duty – five tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan – and has been wounded on the battlefield.

"When I see these young Soldiers, and I was in Iraq four months ago, I automatically know we are not in trouble," he said. "They are tough, proud, courageous and capable, and they bring a sense of great, great pride to me as a professional Soldier. This group of young Soldiers will lead us out of problems."

And, as they leave the military, Abizaid said companies like those in Huntsville "need to hire them, you need to put your arms around them and say 'Thank you for your service. We need you to lead our company.' They are good for your company. They are good for our country."

During his comments, Abizaid's back-

ground in Arabic culture was evident. Born in California to a Lebanese-American father and a Palestinian-American mother, he is fluent in Arabic and was the most senior U.S. military officer of direct Arab descent. In retirement, Abizaid is employed as a fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and is the distinguished chair of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, his alma mater.

Rather than viewing the war in the Middle East as a tactical war designed to achieve a short-term goal, Abizaid urged his audience to view it strategically or as part of a deliberate plan to protect freedom and American values worldwide.

He said there are four major strategic issues that can define what is happening in the world and what the dynamics are that prevent world peace.

"This is a battle between extremists and the United States of America," Abizaid said, commenting on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as well as terrorist plots worldwide. "They are fighting us and will continue to fight the United States of America. They are a worldwide organization attacking us at home, and in places like Europe, Indonesia, Africa. They are using our technology and

to be creative against us, to become capable, to have a state-like power without state boundaries. It is a movement we have to pay attention to."

While the vast majority of Muslims in the Middle East don't want the extremists to be successful, they "can't win without the help of the United States of America. We must figure out how to help them," he said.

But the U.S. must win against extremists in more than just military ways. The U.S. must also win in others ways, including diplomatically and economically, Abizaid said.

"If we ignore this threat, if we pretend it is not religious versus extremism, we will lose our ability to confront it capably. We should never underestimate how powerful they've become," the general said.

Besides the issue of terrorism, Abizaid said another strategic issue facing the U.S. is the rise of Islamic extremist nations, such as Iran, that are aggressive, dominating and increasingly threatening.

The third strategic issue is the need for the U.S. to understand the "corrosive nature of the Arab/Israeli conflict that drives Muslims into the ranks of extremism."

And the fourth is the need for the U.S. to reduce its dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

Complicating the strategic issues, he said, is the growing proliferation of nuclear weapons in places like Iran, Pakistan and Egypt. Such proliferation heightens the importance of U.S. ballistic missile systems and space-based assets. Other complications include the growth in technology and military strength of non-allied countries and the shift of economic power from the West to the East.

A center of excellence like Huntsville can help protect the nation against its strategic threats, he said, through its academic, military and industrial partnerships that continue to make vibrant and innovative contributions to the nation's defense.

"As you celebrate being in the top 10" in several nationwide economic and community categories, the Huntsville community and Redstone Arsenal must continue to push technology forward "to protect the nation, ensure our values and ensure that in the 21st century American values remain the last best hope," Abizaid said.

"The 21st century will require the geniuses in places like Huntsville to defend the country from challenges that are surely ahead of us ... If Huntsville is emulated then we will be successful. Your challenge is to stay as good as you can be, to keep up the fight and to work to support the troops."

U.S., U.N. team with Haiti to expand assistance effort

By Sgt. RICHARD ANDRADE
Army News Service

The U.S. military continues to work in conjunction with inter-agency organizations and the government of Haiti to meet the critical needs of the Haitian people.

Col. Charles Heatherly, JTF-Haiti civil affairs officer, has the responsibility for humanitarian assistance, inter-agency organization as well as host-nation coordination.

Heatherly, who is also the XVIII Airborne Corps civil affairs officer, and his staff were in Haiti very early after the earthquake to establish the military effort in support of the inter-agency partners as well as the government of Haiti.

“Meeting the needs of the Haitian people is paramount to us,” Heatherly said. “We continue to expand the distribution of water and food to those people at risk.

“We have had several meetings with senior officials in the Haitian government in order to get their guidelines, to see what their goals are, and to ensure that we are partnering with them in every step of the way.”

“We realize that we are guests in this country,” he said. “What we want to leave, when we depart, is a system in place that has been reinforced by our presence — not one that will be degraded as we transition at some point in time in the future.”

Heatherly said, “This has been one of the most tremendous outpouring of international support, as well as camaraderie amongst the inter-agency partners in the U.S. government that I’ve ever had the fortune to participate in.

“Not only do we work with the government of Haiti but we work with the United Nations so there is no duplication of efforts with other donors. The international community has truly come to the aid of this country and supplies are flowing in every day, originally by aircraft and now by ship. We just have to get all those



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Roach

PREPARATIONS— Community volunteers, from a camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, prepare supplies for a massive aid distribution operation that will feed 5,900 families in one camp for up to two weeks. These volunteers along with the 82nd Airborne Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team are working to feed close to 50,000 people in the camp and have been handing out 80-pound bags of food and other supplies for four days.

resources to the Haitian populace.”

Heatherly said the people of the United States can take pride in our tremendous response to the Haitian people.

“If it can be done, it is being done,” he said of the recovery process. “From the search and rescue teams on the ground, to the inter-agency colleagues, to the paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in Port-au-Prince. They are all working hard to make sure that recovery effort takes hold as fast as it can.”

Heatherly said, there are approximately 6,000 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and

Marines on the ground and another 10,000 afloat off the shore helping with the humanitarian effort and providing the enabling force necessary to support USAID, inter-agency partners and the Government of Haiti.

Tim Callaghan, a disaster assistance response team leader with the U.S. Agency of International Development, is proud to have his team be part of 132 rescues in the last few weeks.

“There are a lot of positive signs of the Haitian people moving on,” Callaghan said, “like shops opening up, fresh fruits and vegetables being sold, fresh bread,

gas stations opening up.”

“We will continue to support the many areas to help the people of Haiti move forward as quickly as we can,” he said.

“We must remember why we are here, we are all here to help the people of Haiti,” said Callaghan. “We are here and we are dedicated to saving lives, eliminating suffering and mitigating when we can, the social economic impact of a disaster.

“I am proud to see the cooperation of my colleagues, the U.N. and also the people of Haiti,” Callaghan said.

PBS film chronicles untold story of African-American service

By ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — To commemorate Black History Month and honor African-Americans who served, “For Love of Liberty: The Story of America’s Black Patriots” will air during February on Public Broadcasting System stations across the country.

The two-part documentary, produced with the Army’s cooperation, tells the untold story of African-Americans’ service in the military throughout the nation’s history to win and protect freedoms they themselves often didn’t enjoy.

Hosted by Halle Berry, narrated by Avery Brooks, and introduced by retired Gen. Colin Powell, the four-hour documentary begins at the dawn of U.S. history to tell the story of African-Americans who risked their lives to win and protect American freedom while striving to acquire it themselves.

In addition to film footage and photos, “For Love of Liberty” uses letters, diaries, speeches, journalistic accounts, historical text, and military records to document the accomplishments of African-Americans who served in the military since the republic’s earliest days. Their personal stories give a moving account of service and sacrifice, from the Revolutionary War — whose first casualty was a black man, Crispus Attucks — to today’s war against global terrorism.

“It is a wonderful story... of a group of Americans who never lost their love of this country, never lost their faith in it or what the founding fathers had promised them,” said former Secretary of State Colin Powell. “And that’s why this story is simply called, For Love of Liberty.”

Praised by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, “For Love of Liberty” is much more than a collection of historical facts and figures. It shares the compelling personal stories of men and women who make up the fabric of an inspiring narrative. Their firsthand accounts are told by a Who’s Who of prominent entertainers and public figures.

Those who lent their voices include: Morgan Freeman, Mel Gibson, Susan Sarandon, Louis Gossett Jr., Ossie Davis, Robert Duvall, Danny Glover, Jeffrey Wright, Sam Elliot, and Delroy Lindo. Sound bytes are included from Walter Cronkite, Isaac Hayes, John Goodman, Jesse L. Martin, Peter Coyote, Ice-T, James Garner, Robert Townsend, Alan Rickman and Roscoe Lee Browne.

Other participants include Ruby Dee, John Amos, Eriq La Salle, Angela Bassett, Chris Cooper, Alfre Woodard, Cliff Robertson, and Blair Underwood, plus Charles Dutton, Kris Kristofferson, Michael Clarke Duncan, Donald Suther-



Photo credit Office of War Information

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN— Fliers of a P-51 Mustang Group of the 15th Army Air Force in Italy “shoot the breeze” during August 1944 in the shadow of one of the Mustangs they fly.

land, and Isaiah Washington.

The words they deliver convey an epic saga of perseverance and triumph, which the film brings to life through rare photographs, archival materials, re-enactments, personal memorabilia, historical paintings, and posters. Also included is original footage of hundreds of monuments, battlefields, memorials, and other historic sites in more than 20 states and in Europe.

“Our goal is to raise public consciousness about this extraordinary and little-known aspect of our nation’s history, and I’m deeply indebted to all those who’ve

supported our commitment to get this story told,” said Frank Martin, the film’s director. “Throughout the film we look at why, despite rampant injustice, heroic black men and women fought so valiantly for freedoms they themselves did not enjoy. The theme that echoes across the centuries — the price of liberty — is one that is relevant to all Americans.”

Acclaimed actor Louis Gossett Jr., one of the film’s executive producers, said: “For Love of Liberty has the power to forever change perceptions about the vital role African-Americans have played during the entire course of U.S. military history. I’m honored to be part of this important and ground-breaking film, and thankful to all my fellow actors who have helped to bring this story to life.”

In addition to giving overdue recognition and honor to an unheralded aspect of America’s past, “For Love of Liberty” also includes African-Americans who are shaping the future.

Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, the first and current commander of U.S. Africa Command, will appear in an Army Recruiting Command video that will include a half-hour segment of the “For Love of Liberty” film. Ward’s interview segment was recorded by Soldiers Radio and Television staff in the SRTV studio.

Ward said young men and women will see how becoming a Soldier builds skills that enable success throughout life.

“The life skills, the discipline, character and responsibility you achieve while being a Soldier is transferable and will serve you in good stead in whatever field you choose,” Ward said.

Obama: spending freeze won't affect national security

By DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Though President Barack Obama announced a three-year discretionary federal spending freeze during his State of the Union Message on Jan. 27, it won’t apply to defense spending.

The initiative, to begin next year, won’t affect national security programs, the president told a joint session of Congress gathered at the Capitol for the address.

While not revealing specifics about the fiscal 2011 budget request was to send to Congress on Feb. 1, the president made clear he will ensure war fighters have what they need to succeed. He also emphasized his continuing support for veterans programs.

“Tonight, all of our men and women in uniform — in Iraq, in Afghanistan and around the world — ... have to know that they have our respect, our gratitude



White House photo by Pete Souza

MESSAGE— President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 27.

and our full support,” he said. “And just as they must have the resources they need in war, we all have a responsibility to support them when they come home.”

First Lady Michelle Obama

offered more details about the budget request earlier last week, telling military spouses at Bolling Air Force Base there that it calls for a record \$8.8 billion for military family support programs. This represents

a 3 percent increase over current funding, she told attendees at the Joint Armed Forces Officers’ Wives Club annual luncheon, and provides more money for child care, Department of Defense Education Activity schools and programs for military families and veterans.

It also will include a 1.4 percent basic military pay raise and an average 4.2 percent housing allowance increase.

The president urged Congress Jan. 27 to brush aside bipartisan differences to address the fundamental values all Americans share.

“Throughout our history, no issue has united this country more than our security,” he said.

“I know that all of us love this country. All of us are committed to its defense,” he said. “Let’s reject the false choice between protecting our people and upholding our values. Let’s leave behind the fear and division, and do what it takes to

defend our nation and forge a more hopeful future — for America and the world.”

Obama cited strengthened U.S. partnerships from the Pacific to South Asia to the Arabian Peninsula, and stepped-up efforts he credited with capturing or killing hundreds of extremists, including many of their senior leaders.

The president noted the troop surge under way in Afghanistan to build on this effort, and said he is “absolutely confident we will succeed.”

While taking the fight to al-Qaida, the United States will continue the troop drawdown in Iraq, as the Iraqis take security responsibility for their country, he told Congress.

“We will support the Iraqi government as they hold elections, and continue to partner with the Iraqi people to promote regional peace and security,” he said. “But make no mistake: This war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home.”

Marines close out 326th Chemical Company



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FINISH LINE— Justin Billings prepares to shoot a free throw during the closing minutes of the Marines' 48-36 win over 326th Chemical Company on Jan. 27. He finished with a game-high 20 points.

Billings and Cason scoring combo too much for outmanned Dragons

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Marines point guard Justin Billings started a fast-break and passed the ball to Damian Cason, who passed it back to Billings for the layup.

Billings and Cason proved to be a winning combination in the Marines' 48-36 win over the 326th Chemical Company on Jan. 27 at Pagano Gym.

Billings finished with a game-high 20 for the Marines (2-0). Cason had 16 points, seven rebounds and two assists in his first game since Achilles tendon surgery in December 2008.

"It was a good first game back," Cason said. "I wanted to work on rebounds and defense and let the other just fall into its place."

He said he was pleased with his rebounding but could improve on his free-throw shooting.

The Marines led 19-14 at halftime and built a double-digit lead after intermission. The 326th could not get closer than eight in the final minutes. Billings made a driving layup for a 43-33 lead with 1:55 left.

"We've just got to keep the pedal down," Billings said. "Keep up the intensity and close out the game."

Joshua Flavius had 15 points and seven rebounds for the 326th (1-1).

"We didn't have enough people to play tonight because a lot of our guys were out of town," Flavius said. "It was kind of fatigue coming to the end of the game."

Charlie Company 56, Bravo-2 34: Richard Robinson scored 16 points and Michael Greenhouse 15 for the Wolfpack (1-1).

Robinson had three 3-pointers and Greenhouse four. Charlie led 32-18 at halftime.

"Defense is what got us the win tonight," Wolfpack coach James Akers said.

Andrew Hildreth scored nine points for Bravo-2 (0-2).

HHC 59th 44, Bravo-1 31: Jeff Reuter and Travis Roop scored 12 points apiece for defending champion HHC 59th in its season opener Jan. 25.

Justin Wyatt had 10 for Bravo-1 (0-2). The score was tied 12-all at halftime.

Civilian Welfare Fund 59, Headquarters & Alpha 39: Rodney Steele had

a game-high 27 and Kelvin McComb added 12 for CWF (2-0).

Jared Little scored 17 for the Gators (1-1). CWF led 30-15 at halftime.

On Thursday night, CWF beat the National Guard 76-59; and HHC 59th defeated 326th Chemical 71-47.

The standings entering this week had the Civilian Welfare Fund (3-0), HHC 59th (2-0), Marines (2-0), Charlie (1-1), Headquarters & Alpha (1-1), 326th Chemical (1-2), Bravo-2 (0-2), Bravo-1 (0-2) and National Guard (0-2).

TeeJay wins by technical KO in ring



Courtesy photo

KNOCKOUT TEAM— From left are Sgt. TeeJay DelaCruz, Rocket City Rocks coach Larry Bright and Sergio Rice. DelaCruz and Rice both won their bouts Jan. 23 in Chattanooga.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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A Redstone Soldier had an explosive debut in the boxing ring.

Sgt. TeeJay DelaCruz of HHC 59th won by a first-round technical knockout Jan. 23 in an open competition in Chattanooga. DelaCruz, 26, from San Diego, is assigned to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Department and has been stationed here since March 2009.

He has been training for about three months at the Rocket City Gym with coach Larry Bright and the Rocket City Rocks Boxing Club.

"His punching mechanics are almost perfect," said Bright, a Redstone civilian.

Prior to coming to the gym to train, DelaCruz had no formal training in boxing "other than clowning around with my brothers in the backyard," DelaCruz said.

His first fight went as planned.

"Coach told me that the guy had a lot of energy and would more than likely come out swinging," DelaCruz, 156 pounds, said. "The plan was to wait, maintain my guard and execute when the opportunity presented itself."

When there was a break in the action, DelaCruz fired a one-two combination that rocked his opponent. The referee administered an eight count. When the action resumed, DelaCruz landed a one-two-three combination that caused the fight to be stopped at 1:20 in the first round after two knockdowns.

"It means a feeling of success," the middleweight said. "I like to compete so coming out winning of course it always feels good. I'm just happy about that. And I couldn't do it without my coach's help."

He expects to return to the ring "in the upcoming month."

Leigh Jones to headline Army's I. A.M. Strong Tour

By TIM HIPPS
Family and MWR Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Recording artist Leigh Jones is humbled to headline the I. A.M. STRONG Tour headed to 24 Army installations during the next two months.

The concert and comedy show is designed to raise awareness about the prevention of sexual assault and harassment among Soldiers and military family members.

"I love to meet these men and women face to face and shake their hands and look right into their eyes and just thank them for all they have done for us," said Jones, who will be joined on the tour by hip-hop band Animate Objects, professional comedians and Soldier talent. "We are so, so lucky to have them in our lives, so to be able to do a small thing like this is a big deal."

The tour began Jan. 29 at Fort Knox, Ky., with stops scheduled in Virginia on Feb. 5 at Fort Lee, Feb. 6 at Fort Eustis, Feb. 8 at Fort Belvoir, and Feb. 9 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The show then will head to Army garrisons in the Southeast, Texas, Colorado and New York, followed by eight shows in Germany and Italy.

The Army G-1 presentation, produced by the Army Entertainment Division of the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command, is dedicated to eliminating sexual assault.

The I. A.M. STRONG acronym stands for intervene, act and motivate others to stop sexual harassment, assaults and sexually offensive language, innuendo and gestures that create an environment friendly to abuse. Toleration of these acts among troops has been reduced to zero, Army leaders say. Strong, quite simply, is the Army way.

The entertainment tour was designed to help military communities realize:

- When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to intervene and prevent sexual assault. I will condemn acts of sexual harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I will intervene.
- You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for



Photo by Tim Hipps

SINGER— Recording artist Leigh Jones performs for a Warrior Transition Unit and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers group at Fort Belvoir Community Club on May 6, 2009. Jones will headline the I. A.M. Strong musical/comedy tour headed to 24 installations to help raise awareness about the prevention of sexual assault and harassment.

you, no matter the time or place. I will take action. I will do what's right. I will prevent sexual harassment and assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will act.

• We are American Soldiers, motivated to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent sexual harassment and assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all motivated to take action. We are strongest together.

Jones' album, "Music in my Soul," features "Free Fall," a song that delivers part of the Army's message loudly and clearly during the tale of a defiant girlfriend who stands her ground against being subjected to her boyfriend's convenience.

"We want to encourage people to be strong," Jones said. "We want to encourage the prevention of suicide and sexual harassment. We hear that's a big thing among Soldiers, which is such a shame. We just want people to stay positive."

Jones joined rappers Soulja Boy and Bow Wow at Fort Bragg's 2009 Summer Concert Series. She also performed last spring for a Warrior Transition Unit and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

group at Fort Belvoir.

"People were complaining because they didn't want to go, so we told them that they had to show up," said Sgt. 1st Class Walter Henry III, a WTU platoon sergeant whose troops were treated to a mini-concert and meet and greet at Fort Belvoir. "But when she finished singing, everybody rushed the table to get their photos and autographs and stuff. I was looking at them and saying, 'Oh, you guys didn't want to come, but now I can't make you leave.'

"When they got here, the Soldiers were trying to hide their excitement. I was looking at them and they wanted to wipe it off their face like they weren't really enjoying, and I said: 'I don't even want to hear it.'"

Staff Sgt. Chris Logas of Los Angeles, Calif., told Jones that her "Cold in L.A.," — a song about the phoniness naive newcomers discover when they venture into the big city — classically described their hometown.

"We appreciate her taking the time to come out and entertain the Soldiers," Logas said. "It's good to know that people

who are famous are taking the time out to come spend some time with us. She seems genuinely honored. It's great that she actually involved the crowd and was as personable with everybody as she was."

Now Jones can't wait to do it again.

"We went to Fort Bragg last summer and did a couple of songs and that was awesome," she said. "I sang the national anthem and a couple of songs of my own, along with a tribute to Michael Jackson. I've just been looking forward to getting this thing up and off the ground."

Jones said her grandfather played the trumpet for troops and her parents sang on USO tours for Soldiers stationed overseas.

"Just being able to go on any kind of a tour is absolutely incredible," she said. "It is just more than rewarding for me to be able to give something back to these men and women who are giving so much of their lives for us. It's such a humbling experience. There is no other place that I'd rather be singing. It just touches my heart and is so rewarding."

Jones will perform for Soldiers at community recreation centers or designated facilities, followed by meet-and-greet autograph signing/photo sessions with all attendees. She also will visit dining facilities to have lunch, interact and sign autographs until the last Soldier leaves.

"Beyond the entertainment, I love just hanging," Jones said. "I love to get a feel for their personalities and just hang out, have a good time, and let them know that we're real people and we go through ups and downs just like they do. You've just got to be positive through it all."

"They are away from their families, and when we're on the road, we get lonely. But we really have no idea what they go through. I have this song called 'Cold in L.A.,' and some of the Soldiers were from California. It was really good to just get a feel for the actual human being behind this huge force."

"I'm just grateful, thankful, and I'm humble to be a part of such a huge movement with this I. A.M. STRONG Tour," Jones concluded. "This is going to touch a lot of peoples' lives and I'm so blessed to be a part of it."

Nevada guardsman receives battlefield promotion

By Capt. TONY WICKMAN
Army News Service

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A Nevada National Guardsman received a surprise New Year's Day gift in the form of a battlefield promotion, Jan. 1.

Spc. David Ellis, Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team security force gunner and driver deployed from the Nevada National Guard's 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment, was promoted to the grade of E-5 for demonstrating extraordinary job performance while serving in combat conditions.

"I'm very happy... it's a personal gain," said Ellis, a native of Las Vegas, Nev. "I've had my E-4 rank for close to five years and it was something I had my mind set on to get my E-5. I've been recognized because I've busted my butt to prove myself."

1st Lt. Stewart Brough, SEC-FOR platoon leader, relished the chance to recognize one of his Soldiers with a battlefield promotion.

"It's a really good feeling when you get to stand in front of your troops and recognize one of them for being outstanding," said Brough, a native of Fruit



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert

INTERVIEW— Sgt. David Ellis, a Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team security force gunner and driver deployed from the Nevada National Guard's 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment, conducts an interview about receiving a battlefield promotion, Jan. 1. Ellis was promoted under the battlefield promotion program, which gives commanders a special tool to recognize enlisted soldiers for doing their jobs above and beyond what is expected of them under combat conditions. Final approval for these promotions is the commander of U.S. Army Central Command.

Heights, Utah. "He (Ellis) is deserving of this recognition."

After helping pin Ellis' new rank on him, Sgt. Brandon Copley, Ellis' supervisor, praised the

newest member of the NCO corps.

"Ellis is an exceptional Soldier ... by far one of the best people I've had the pleasure of serv-

ing with," said Copley, a native of Las Vegas, Nev. "He deserves this promotion."

The battlefield promotion program started as a one-year trial program in April 2008 and was made a permanent practice in June 2009. Ellis was one of eight Regional Command-East Soldiers, out of approximately 25,000, to receive a battlefield promotion on New Year's Day.

"Sergeant Ellis is the kind of person you go to get stuff done and he never complains," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Samuel West, PRT executive officer and a resident of Phoenix, Ariz. "He always keeps safe and does a great job."

Ellis said a positive, can-do attitude will help Soldiers achieve their goals.

"If you do as you're told, don't complain and get the job done, rewards will come to those who do what they're supposed to do," Ellis said.

Ellis said receiving the promotion as a National Guard Soldier was satisfying because it showed the value of each Soldier, regardless of duty status.

"Being a Guardsman, it was a real honor getting the promotion," Ellis said. "I'm just like

every other Soldier. I put my uniform and boots on the same way as any other active-duty Soldier."

Ellis was quick to praise his employer back home, American 5 hotels, for their support. "I'm head of security for American 5 hotel chain back in Las Vegas, and my employer has been very supportive of me doing my Army duty," Ellis said.

The battlefield promotion program gives commanders a special tool to recognize enlisted Soldiers for doing their jobs above and beyond what is expected of them under combat conditions. Final approval for these promotions is the commander of U.S. Army Central Command.

Nearly 1,000 active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers have received battlefield promotions to staff sergeant and below since April 2008. To qualify for battlefield promotion, Soldiers must be serving in a position and demonstrate the skills of the rank to which they're being promoted.

A Soldier is eligible for only one battlefield promotion to an NCO rank, and the promotion must not be used as a reward in lieu of personal commendations or awards.

Surgeon general: Improving medevac times requires balancing act

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Speeding up critical medical-evacuation times in Iraq and Afghanistan must be balanced against flight crew safety, said the Army's surgeon general.

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, also commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command, spoke Jan. 28 to an audience of military medical professionals during the 2010 Military Health Systems conference, about the challenge of decreasing medevac response times.

"Where to put our helicopters and all the support crews and the aircraft they fly is really a delicate balancing act, because it balances the risk of putting care providers and medevac crews at risk to the enemy and to the elements and balances that with the risk of loss of life, limb or eyesight, if the evacuation is excessively prolonged," Schoomaker said.

Now, Schoomaker said, the Joint Theater Trauma Registry

and the Joint Theater Trauma System are engaged in an analysis of medevac times.

"This is an effort to minimize the evacuation time for casualties in a highly dispersed force which is subjected in Afghanistan to what has been described as the 'tyranny of terrain and weather,'" he said.

Schoomaker said the only way to fully understand the risks is to know the outcomes of the care provided to those servicemembers assisted by medevac teams, and to know based on injury type.

"We are analyzing this by injury type, across a very wide range of missions," he said.

The general also said that improving combat care for servicemembers in the field involves improvements in equipment, like recent advances in the Improved First Aid Kit fielded to Soldiers — which now includes the combat application tourniquet, for instance.

Also important is the development of new tactics, techniques and procedures for Soldiers —



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Cooley

EVAC ACT— Speeding up critical medical-evacuation times in Iraq and Afghanistan must be balanced against flight crew safety, said the Army's surgeon general. In this file photo, Soldiers carry a simulated casualty to a medical evacuation helicopter.

that means the capture and dissemination of knowledge about practices in the field.

"The key to improving combat casualty care is the use of knowledge, which is derived from

sound science and good data," he said. "Much of what we have done to improve outcomes hasn't been material products. They've been the way we've done things, rather than just the materials

we've applied to them."

Schoomaker said Army medicine is involved in continues process improvement, even as combat wages on in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Sports & Recreation

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.

Indoor flying

Madison United Methodist Church welcomes pilots and spectators of all ages to its Christian Life Center Aerodrome for indoor small radio-controlled and free-flight airplane and helicopter flying Feb. 21 from 1:30-4 p.m. "If you want to fly, but you don't already have an indoor R/C plane or helicopter, you can learn to fly on the FSOne flight simulator and then fly one of our fleet of loaner Vapor airplanes and MCX helicopters with no cost or obligation," a prepared release said. This event is held the third Sunday of each month. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 772-3946.



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 for the Spring Semester include: 9:30 a.m. "Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed" by Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Kay Arthur, "7 Pillars of Health" by Don Colbert and "Prayer: More for the Day" (six weeks) by Christina Wood and "LoggingOnToCourage.Com" (six weeks) by Rebecca Shirer, Christina Wood; and 6:30 p.m. "Esther" by Beth Moore. The lunchtime Bible study meets at 11:30 a.m.; and the Korean sisters begin their study at 10:30 a.m. For more information call Judy Strange 430-3110, Karyn Wilson 837-7421, Mattie Jones (lunchtime group) 828-9890 or 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.

Networking opportunity

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women In Defense will hold a membership appreciation reception Feb. 16 from 5-7:30 p.m. at Marriott Huntsville. The focus of this free event will be "Small Business Support to National Defense." Please register at www.conferencesbysigma.com/all/index.php?groupid=1.

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

emposium. 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.

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. "Misery Unparalleled: The Confederate Retreat From Nashville, Tenn., December 1864" will be presented by David Fraley, historian and interim executive director for the Carter House. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

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 Thursday 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.

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.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter

443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Feb. 9 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10. The speaker, Dr. Michael Pugh, will address dental concerns and procedures unique to elder dental care. He will also provide preventive steps needed to assure good elder dental health. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Submarine veterans

A group called Redstone Base invites submariners to its meetings the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. at VFW Post 2702 on North Memorial Parkway. For more information, contact Ray at (315) 532-1978 or bmrcsr@aol.com; Jim at aholland57@mchsi.com; or Tony at 503-5374 or tonywilliams57@aol.com.

Defense acquisition alumni

The Defense Acquisition University-South Region's Alumni Association will hold its sixth annual conference and expo Feb. 17-18 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. "This year's event will focus on the rapidly changing environment of the defense acquisition community, with speakers on such topics as the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act, earned value management, information technology systems acquisition, and the defense budget process for upcoming fiscal year," a prepared release said. All conference attendees will receive 8 continuous learning points for their participation. For more information and to register, visit www.regonline.com/dauaa-south_conference.

Systems security group

North Alabama Information Systems Security Association will have a luncheon Feb. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dynetics Conference Center, 1002 Explorer Boulevard. The speaker is Allan Watkins of Total Telecom Management. Cost is \$12 (includes lunch). At registration provide your ISSA membership number and get a \$2 discount. Register via <http://northalabama.issa.org/>.

Government professionals

Rocket City Alabama Chapter, Society of Government Meeting Professionals will have a luncheon/program Feb. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holiday Inn Research Park. The speaker is Jeff Irons. Cost is \$10 for planners and \$20 for suppliers. RSVP/questions to Katie Smith 551-2237 or kmsmith@vonbrauncenter.com.

Test/evaluation week

Test Week 2010, "The Impact of Defense Acquisition Reform on T&E: One Year Later — Policies, Programs, People, Resources" will convene June 14-17 at the Von Braun Center. Keynote speakers retired Gen. Paul Kern and Dr. T. Michael Gilmore, director of DOT&E, will attend as well as other senior leadership for the armed services. Registration fee is \$425. Catalog number in TIP is F103TSTW, vendor name Trideum Corporation. For information call Sherry Hilley 842-6715. The website is www.testweek.org.



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 SSSI 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

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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 of

See Announcements on page 26



Courtesy photo

Storm damage

Redstone Arsenal first responders converge Jan. 21 on Magnolia Circle after a home was damaged by a tornado which struck Huntsville minutes later. Minor damage was repaired by the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. No injuries were reported.

Rocket Announcements

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 postmarked or received by the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information call Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, 882-6064 or e-mail her at communityassistance@redstoneocwc.org. OCWC is a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

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.

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.

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.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop says half its store is on sale. The shop will be open this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Christmas items are on sale. There is a large selection of clothing and household items — some at 50-75 percent off. Regular shop hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 9-5 and (normally) the first Saturday of each month. Drop in at building 3209 on Hercules Road.

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/cfc>.

Quarterly retirements

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

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/Classifi-

cation 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.

Health center holiday

Fox Army Health Center will close Monday, Feb. 15 in observance of Presidents Day. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Reading with Taka

The Post Library presents the "Tales with Taka" reading program on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Children age 5 and older are encouraged to read to Taka, a registered therapy and Reading Education Assistance Dog. The program is available to anyone who has access to the Post Library. All children who participate in the program will receive a gift bag from Taka. New for 2010 is "Taka's Frequent Reader Program." Children who read to Taka five times will receive their own "pawtographed" copy of one of Taka's favorite books. Sign up to read to Taka at the library's front desk. For more information call the Post Library 876-4741 or Jamie Ward, Taka's owner and handler, 233-3962.

Tax assistance center

Free tax preparation is now available for all active duty Soldiers, reservists on active duty for more than 29 days, retired military personnel, and their dependents at the Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center. The center is located at building 3489, on Ajax Road southwest of the intersection of Ajax and Aerobee. The center has been recently renovated and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. All tax preparation is performed by IRS certified tax preparers and is by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 842-1040 during hours of operation. For more information on the center as well as necessary documentation for the completion of a return, visit the website at www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html.



Building trust

Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Pullom meets an Iraqi child while visiting a school in the Baghdad area. He and his team visit schools and families quarterly as part of their humanitarian mission. Many of the donations they give during these visits originate from people at Redstone and Huntsville. Pullom's wife, Patricia, coordinates receiving and shipping the items to Iraq. Pullom served as command sergeant major of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion before deploying in July. He will return to Redstone when he completes his tour in Iraq.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U
AS OF 28 Jan 2010																			
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																			
SCBK10961382	Contract Specialist	28-Jan-10	USA Engr & Sup Center	YA-1102	2	2	69,930 - 108,102						X	X	X	X			
SCBK10035973	General Supply Specialist	28-Jan-10	SMD Battielab	GS-2001	9	9	48,221 - 62,683								X				X
SCBK10791203R	Program Analyst	28-Jan-10	Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0343	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X	X										
SCBK10956538	Logistics Management Specialist	29-Jan-10	Lead AMC Integration Spt Ofc	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X							X	X			X
SCBK10795138R	Military Analyst	1-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	81,532 - 105,993								X				X
SCBK10014371	Project Management Specialist	1-Feb-10	USA Engr & Sup Center	YA-0301	2	2	47,214 - 108,102									X			
SCBK10987081	Acquisition and Business Specialist	1-Feb-10	USA Engr & Sup Center	YA-1101	2	2	47,214 - 108,102									X			
SCBK10915354	Deputy Product Director	1-Feb-10	Acq Sup Ctn	YA-0301	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X		X					X				X
SCBK10906923	Engineers	2-Feb-10	USA Engr & Sup Center	YD-0800 Series	2	2	83,156 - 108,102							X		X			X
SCBK10980412E	IT Specialist (SYSADMIN)	2-Feb-10	USA MAT CMD LOG SPT ACTY	GS-2210	12	12	69,930 - 90,907								X				X
SCBK100988668	Human Resources Assistant	2-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0203	6	7	30,577 - 51,253	X											
SCBK09916393E	Facility Operations Specialist	2-Feb-10	Redstone Test Center	GS-1640	13	13	83,156 - 108,102									X			X
SCBK09819351	Human Resources Assistant	2-Feb-10	CPQC ISD	GS-0203	5	7	31,825 - 51,253			X									
SCBK10990652	Contract Specialist	2-Feb-10	Acq Mgt Office	GS-1102	12	12	68,809 - 89,450	X											
SCBK10985006	Army Oil Analysis Program Res Spec	3-Feb-10	USA MAT CMD LOG SPT ACTY	GS-0301	13	13	83,156 - 108,012	X											
SCBK10938230	Program Analyst	3-Feb-10	Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0343	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X	X										
SCBK10964619	Logistics Management Specialist	4-Feb-10	IMMC	GS-0346	11	12	58,343 - 90,907	X											
SCBK10002352	IT Specialist (INFOSEC)	4-Feb-10	93D Signal BDE	GS-2210	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09880481	Administrative Specialist	4-Feb-10	RDECOM	DE-0301	2	2	31,825 - 62,683	X											
SCBK10976895	Management Analyst	5-Feb-10	IMMC	GS-0343	11	12	57,408 - 89,450		X				X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10975429R	Supv, International Program Mgmt Spec	5-Feb-10	Security Asst Mgmt Dir	YC-0301	3	3	96,346 - 157,779						X	X					X
SCBK10930460R	General Engineer	8-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	81,532 - 105,993	X											
SCBK10031190	Historian	9-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0170	13	13	83,156 - 108,102		X		X	X	X	X	X				X
SCBK10036090	Training Instructor	9-Feb-10	USA Med Dprt Activity Cmd Grp	GS-1712	11	11	58,343 - 75,843			X			X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10038213	Secretary (OA)	9-Feb-10	PEO Aviation	NK-0318	3	3	43,659 - 69,038		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10009114	SUPV, Accountant (Internal Review Eval)	10-Feb-10	Internal Review and Audit Office	YC-0510	3	3	96,210 - 157,779	X											
SCBK10948807	Management Analyst	10-Feb-10	G8 (Resource Management)	GS-0343	11	12	58,343 - 90,907	X							X				X
SCBK10952703	Safety Engineer	12-Feb-10	Safety Office	GS-0803	14	14	96,346 - 125,254	X											
SCBK09783548OC	Supv, Contract Spec	18-Feb-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	YA-1102	3	3	96,346 - 147,332		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09783548OC	Supv, Contract Spec	18-Feb-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	YA-1102	3	3	96,346 - 147,332		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10001715	Aerospace Engineer	25-Feb-10	RDECOM	DB-0861	3	3	69,930 - 108,102				X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09908848R	Lead Aerospace Engineer	26-Feb-10	RDECOM	DB-0861	4	4	98,265 - 150,266		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09783545OC	Contract Specialist	22-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	14	14	96,346 - 125,254		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09783534OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	12	12	68,564 - 89,128		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK09783541OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	13	13	81,532 - 105,993		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X

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

- A** - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
- B** - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
- C** - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
- D** - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
- E** - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements) (Copy of Orders from Spouse)
- F** - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)
- H** - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
- I** - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.) (SF-50 documenting service required)
- R** - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.) (SF-50 documenting service required)
- T** - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (Form 75 documenting service)
- V** - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
- U** - All U.S. citizens (Birth Certificate and other Documentation required)

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

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

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

Rocket Announcements

Deployed work force

The fifth in a series of AMCOM Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremonies is set for June 3 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles will recognize employees for their deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan during the time frame of January to May 2010. Additionally, those employees previously deployed who were not able to participate in one of the last four ceremonies are invited to participate in this ceremony. During the ceremony, Myles will present letters of recognition and command coins to AMCOM Soldiers, civilians and contractors who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. To register, honorees should provide their name, contact information, name of organization or office which they deployed in support of, location of deployment, electronic or hard copy photograph and the names of any guests to one of the following: Jeanna Reitmeier, jeanna.k.reitmeier@us.army.mil, 876-5302; or William "Bruce" Cline, william.cline@us.army.mil, or 955-6925. Hard copies of photos should be sent to Jeanna Reitmeier, building 5300, room 5143, or mail to AMSAM-PC, building 5300, room 5143, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000.

International culture

International Society of Huntsville Inc. presents a culture event Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at the Jackson Center, 600 Genome Way (across from the Hudson Alpha Institute) in Cummings Research Park. Cost is \$15 per person (cash or check at door). The honored guest is Dr. Ginette Chenard,

Quebec delegate in Atlanta. There will be gourmet hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer selection, and food sampling from local international restaurants. Entertainment will be provided by Luz Tolentino-Ladrillono. RSVP at rsvp@international-societyofhuntsville.org.

Library's story time

Story Time at the Post Library will resume in February and continue every Wednesday from 10-10:30 a.m. "After story time the children may stay to play in the children's room where Ling Ling the panda sits at the little red table," a prepared release said. "Children of any age may come — the story time is especially geared for preschool-aged children. This is a casual drop-in small group experience, and the books are chosen to match the children present. The aim is to help children fall in love with books and libraries at a very young age." The library is building 3323 on Redeye Road. For more information, call 876-4741.

Open house at library

Celebrate "Library Lovers' Month" at the Post Library, building 3323 on Redeye Road. An open house will be held Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded throughout February with a grand prize at month's end. Check out any item from the library throughout the month to be eligible to register for prizes. A special Valentine's Prize is planned Feb. 12. For more information, call 876-4741.

Acquisition fellowship

Applications are being accepted through March 24 for the 2010 Senior Service Col-



lege Fellowship Program-Huntsville. Start date for the fellowship is July 27. Eligible applicants are Army civilian Acquisition Corps members who occupy permanent positions in grades GS-14 and 15 or broadband equivalent. Persons interested in applying for the 2010 SSCF Program must respond under this announcement. The announcement can be accessed on the USAASC website under "Events" at http://asc.army.mil/docs/announcement/DAU_SSCF_2010.pdf. Application must be made through the Career Acquisition Personnel and Position Management Information System. Once in CAPPMS, you must apply under the Army Acquisition Professional Development System. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all requirements stated in the announcement are complied with. Eligible applicants are encouraged to contact their acquisition career manager to assist with ensuring criteria is met prior to submitting an application. ACM contact information can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/organization/western/default.cfm>.

Blood/marrow drive

A blood and marrow drive will be held today from noon until 7 p.m. in the Williams Middle School gym. Donors will receive a recognition item and complimentary cholesterol screening. Donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110 pounds and show a photo ID. Sixteen-year-olds require parental consent. For more information, call 888-795-2707.

Faculty recruiting

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is seeking evening adjunct instructors for its growing graduate programs. Interested persons with doctoral degrees and professional experience in Management, Project Management, Business Administration, or Systems Engineering are encouraged to call the ERAU Huntsville campus 876-9763 for more information.

Flu vaccine

Fox Army Health Center has H1N1 injectable (shot) vaccine available for all beneficiaries, including current DoD civilian employees. DoD employees who wish

to receive H1N1 vaccination may report to Occupational Health on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Active duty family members, military retirees and their family members may report to Immunization Clinic during regular duty hours. Active duty military requiring H1N1 immunization may report to Preventive Medicine during regular duty hours. As a reminder, H1N1 vaccination is mandatory for all active duty servicemembers. For more information, call Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1441 or 1026.

Prayer luncheon

Team Redstone's National Prayer Luncheon is Feb. 26 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The guest speaker is Mike Durant, retired chief warrant officer 4 and president/chief executive officer of Pinnacle Solutions Inc. For more information, call the Chapel staff 842-2173/2176.

Defense industrial chapter

All government employees are entitled to a free membership in the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association. To join, visit www.ndia.org. Under membership, select "Join NDIA." Select membership under Defense Professionals and complete the required membership information for a free three-year membership.

LOGSA commander

Logistics Support Activity commander Col. James Rentz will relinquish command and retire in a ceremony Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, will preside.

Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: Feb. 5 from 7 a.m. to noon at building 6263 and from 7:30-12:30 at Missile Defense Agency. ... Feb. 12 from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers and at building 5681. ... Feb. 18 from 7-noon at building 5400. ... Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316, from 7-noon at MDA building 5222 and from 7-noon at building 4545. ... Feb. 25 from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center.

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