

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 59 No. 6

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 10, 2010

Community news

Enhancing
use of
Army land
Page 5



To your health



Appointment no-shows
waste medical dollars

Page 9

Money matters

Tax
assistance
makes
difference
Page 13



Just for kids

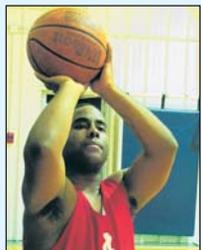


School-age center
provides activities

Page 16

Win or lose

Charlie
Company
gets on
hot streak
Page 21



Valentine's Day wish: Stay together

Support available for Army couples

By AMY GUCKEEN

Staff writer

amy.guckeen@gmail.com

It was a whirlwind military romance, the very type Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher advises young Soldiers against.

There was something about the girl with the big brown eyes and deep-rooted spirituality that worked as Fisher's brother's church secretary in Michigan. Traveling home for Thanksgiving in 2004, Chaplain Fisher and secretary Sara exchanged their first hellos and captured each other's hearts.

That April, Jonathan Fisher became Chaplain Jonathan Fisher. Two days later, Sara became Mrs. Jonathan Fisher. And just 10 days later, Chaplain Fisher began his first deployment. Within months, the once happy couple were considering divorce.

"You just naturally grow apart," Fisher, chaplain for the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said of the deployment. "Finding ways to relate is increasingly difficult."

Having never lived with each other and spent a bulk of their relationship apart, a year into their marriage, the young couple faced a cold, harsh reality.

"We literally didn't know each other in a big way," Fisher said. "We had to start at square one."

Reunited after Fisher's deployment not in some romantic swept up embrace, but rather

with a simple "Hey" in a dirt parking lot at Fort Stewart, Ga., the Fishers made a commitment to make it work.

"We put the past behind us. We started over," Fisher said.

With about 27,312 divorces among 756,000 marriages of active duty Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in fiscal 2009, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center, the need to reach out to married couples has never been more vital to ensure that the stress and challenges of Army life don't take a toll in the home.

"You don't get married and live happily ever after," said Virginia Dempsey, Family Advocacy Program manager for Army Community Service. "It's an adventure. Not a fairy tale."

On Redstone Arsenal, Soldiers and their spouses have a wide array of resources to help them build a better marriage on post, from the Hearts Apart program for individuals geographically separated from their

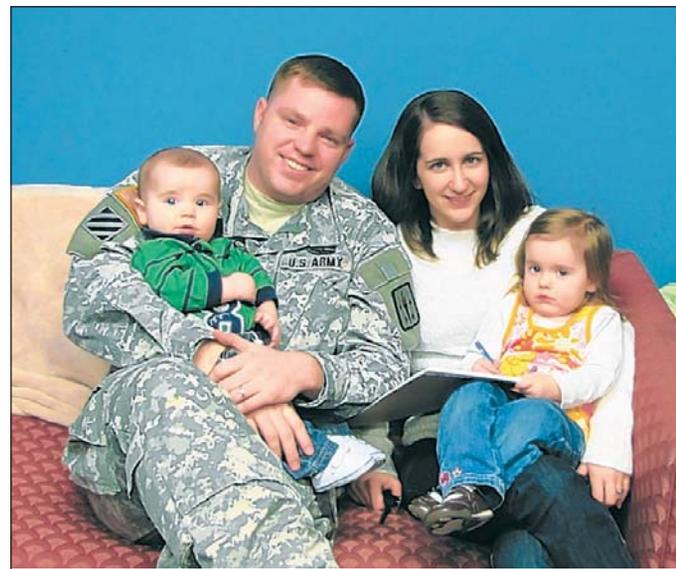


Photo by Amy Guckeen

FAMILY TIME— Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher, wife Sara, and their children, Ransom, 6 months, and Sophia, 2, enjoy some family time in Fisher's office. The couple have been married for almost five years.

spouses to counseling offered at Fox Army Health Center. All are efforts to help strengthen the Army family.

"The Global War on Terrorism has taken a tremendous toll on the military couple, no matter how strong they've been. It has caused a lot of erosion in families," said Col.

See **Couples** on page 18



Photo by Amy Guckeen

WAITING WIFE— Amy Sears spends some time relaxing at Army Community Service, where she serves as volunteer coordinator. Sears describes ACS as "key" for any spouse going through a deployment.

Opportunities listed for Soldiers and their spouses

"You always need to work, to relook at a relationship. You can never do that enough," Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher says of the hard work it takes to have a healthy and loving relationship.

Here are just a few of the many opportunities available to Soldiers and their spouses on Redstone Arsenal to help them work through and strengthen their relationships.

•**"Building Better Relationships" Workshop** — To register for the free workshop Feb. 20, contact Army Community Service, building 3338, 876-5397. Participants will receive a continental breakfast, sandwich lunch and afternoon snack. Childcare will be available at the Child Development Center. Pre-registration is required.

•**Victim Advocate Program** — for spouses experiencing domestic abuse. Contact Colleen Nicholson, ACS, building 3338, 876-5397, or call their 24/7 help hotline 508-6613.

•**Fox Army Health Center** — provides individual, marital, family and group therapy.

To schedule an appointment, call 955-8888.

•**Army Family Team Building** — educational program to help spouses learn more about the Army. Contact ACS, 876-5397.

•**Hearts Apart** — for spouses that are geographically separated from their military spouse. Contact Mary Breeden, ACS, 876-5397, or mary.breedon@conus.army.mil.

•**Deployment Respite Care** — free childcare available, up to 16 hours per child per month, beginning 30 days prior to deployment through 60 days after. Contact Wanda Quigley, Child Youth and School Services, 876-3704.

•**Military OneSource** — provides support 24/7 in matters such as counseling, money, deployment, child care, special needs and employment. Call 1-800-342-9647.

•**Strong Bonds** — Unit-based, chaplain-led program to help Soldiers and their families strengthen the Army family. For more information about the upcoming March 18-20 event at Lake Wilson Doublehead Resort, contact Fisher, 842-0799.

An open lane random survey

What's your favorite Winter Olympic sport?

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



Vanessa Williams
AMCOM Resource Management
"Figure skating. The dancers are so beautiful and it looks so easy when they're out there gliding on the ice. But it's all the preparation that goes into that sport. It takes years and years of practicing. And it's time consuming. You give a lot of your time to get to that point. And it's just amazing to see them out there ice skating. It's just so amazing and beautiful to see them skating."

Richard Trudeau
Program Executive Office for Aviation
"Downhill skiing. It's fast, it's furious and just the action of that. It's just poetry in motion. Just watching them is beautiful."



Byron Smith
AMCOM Resource Management
"I think it's the ski jumping. That's when they go downhill and do all the flips and turns, right? It's kind of like NASCAR, you go to watch all the crashes (laugh)."

Margaret Ames
AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center
"It's probably the skating. The rules are easy to understand."



Quote of the week

If you don't try to win you might as well hold the Olympics in somebody's back yard. The thrill of competing carries with it the thrill of a gold medal. One wants to win to prove himself the best.

— Jesse Owens

Driver misses third lane through gate

The time is long past to reclaim the "third" lane of northbound Rideout Road through Gate 9. Apparently, as an afterthought to the original design, the "third" lane was converted for use by the security guards during their vehicle/individual security/inspection process. The conversion was made permanent by the erection of guard rails at the gate location. I completely understand and agree with all the security/inspection measures that are in place. They are essential to everyone's safety. However, surely someone can redesign the process so as not to permanently block the "third" lane of northbound Rideout Road.

With the ever-increasing number of vehicles exiting Redstone Arsenal on Rideout Road through Gate 9 during the afternoon rush hours, use of all three lanes has become imperative. Many times vehicles are backed up for a good mile or more. I venture to say most of the drivers who exit through Gate 9 would contribute toward a reward fund that could be given to the person who could redesign the security/inspection process so as not to require the permanent blockage of the "third" lane of northbound Rideout Road. I would.

Please tell me what action is going to be taken in the near future to rectify this traffic congestion problem. Any long-term plans would be great, but action is needed now. Give us back our "third" lane!

Robb Lucas

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Traffic patterns to control traffic entering and exiting the installation is continuously reviewed by the Garrison. The northbound traffic lanes on Rideout Road exiting Gate 9 are in the current configuration to provide a turning lane for Overlook Road and a controlled area to support the installation access control processes. The guard rail provides safety to the guards who are writing passes, inspecting vehicles, or turning vehicles around when denied access. The guard rail ensures vehicles being denied access depart the installation. The long-term plan, through the Enhanced-Use Land Lease (EUL), is to increase the number of outbound traffic lanes. These plans should accommodate current traffic, as well as the projected BRAC increase. The Garrison will continue to monitor traffic patterns to provide appropriate access to Redstone Arsenal as resources permit."

Letters to the Editor

Family legacy in Black History Month

Around the late 1890s, Lula Steam Scott and her sister Katie (my great-great-grandmother) would board a train in Fort Worth, Texas, and travel to Huntsville, Ala., to the then State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes located at Normal, to teach. Lula would bring her younger sister because her father felt it was unfashionable for a young lady to travel alone. Lula and a few other teachers would be some of the first teachers to teach at Normal Hill under the leadership of Dr. William Hooper Council, the founder and first president of Alabama A&M University.

It is personal history that gives us a sense of attachment to a place and time. After researching Troupe/Jones family history for almost 20 years, it's amazing to learn that one of my relatives was part of Dr. Council's era and the great legacy he left to the Huntsville-Madison County area. Lula's relatives, the Troupe family, continue to attend Alabama A&M University today. For the past 50 years, approximately 60 have attended or graduated from the university.

Annie Troupe Simmons

Administrative assistant, NETCOM-Redstone

Getting to know you

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

Name: Darlene Haynes-Briggs

Job: Business management officer, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity

Where do you call home?
Duncan, Miss.

What do you like about your job?

I love the people. I love the flexibility that I am allowed. And I love my responsibilities. I like what I do because I have oversight of USATA's resources which include funds as well as people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Bowling. And shopping. Playing with my grandchildren. And organizing charity events through my church and I belong to a group called Members Only Club, and also for the different events we have here – like I assist with AER (Army Emergency Relief) and CFC (Combined Federal Campaign). And I try to be instrumental in breast cancer awareness since I was diagnosed in August. And I try to do all I can to bring forth the awareness for early detection of breast cancer.

What are your goals?

The only goal I have right now is to retire. Retire happily (laugh). And dedicate myself 100 percent to my grandkids (six with one on the way).

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

My desire is to gather up all of my kids and grandkids and go on a family cruise. I'm a family-oriented person. Anything that's family I'll just drop everything – just take care of my family.



Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in The Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is The Huntsville Times, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

email: skip.vaughn@htimes.com
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Kari Hawkins
Amy Guckeen

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane-Sivley

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith
Christie Vail

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by The Huntsville Times a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The Rocket are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

911 misdials causing problem for police

Callers should stay on line and convey their mistake

If you mistakenly dial 911, don't hang up.

Just stay on the line and tell the person who answers that you made a mistake. Otherwise two emergency units will be dispatched.

"911 usually means an emergency of some sort, life or death emergency is how we refer to it," Maj. Roger Triplett, operations officer at the Directorate of Emergency Services, said. "When you hang up the phone, answer it when we call back because we're going to ask you what's the nature of your emergency."

It's best to stay on the line so a call back won't be necessary. If the Redstone 911 Center doesn't hear otherwise, two

units will be rushing to your location.

"If there's not an actual emergency you've just tied up two units for somebody that might need us," Triplett said.

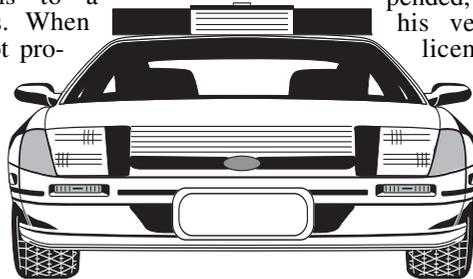
The 911 hang-ups happen "sometimes as many as one to three times a day," according to Triplett.

Vicki Brewer, project manager for the Redstone 911 Center, described the problem in an e-mail to him Jan. 25. "I don't know that we have ever taken the time to educate people here about the fact that if they misdial, and hang up, they will receive an automatic visit from the police," she wrote. "This is embarrassing for them, and time consuming for us since it is a priority 1 call and automatically takes out two units. If they would simply stay on the line and say they misdialled, we would not have to treat it as a priority call. I think this would help with the calls we have been getting."

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 28 through Feb. 3:

Jan. 28: A civilian entered Gate 1 asking for directions to a Huntsville address. When asked, he could not produce a driver's license. An NCIC check revealed his license had been revoked. He was issued a citation and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.



Jan. 28: A Soldier reported his personal vehicle was damaged in the barracks parking lot.

Jan. 31: Another Soldier reported his personal vehicle was damaged in the barracks parking lot.

Feb. 1: A Team Redstone member reported the forklift he was operating was damaged by the barrier arm at building 5220.

Feb. 3: During a random vehicle inspection at Gate 10, a Team Redstone member could not produce his driver's license or vehicle registration. An NCIC check revealed his license had been suspended, he was operating

his vehicle with illegal license plates, and he had an outstanding warrant from Huntsville for failure to appear. He was cited for the driver's license and license plate violations. He was then released to Huntsville Police. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

Feb. 3: An AWOL Soldier surrendered to Redstone Police at Gate 9.

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

Violation notices issued: 16 speeding, 1 following too closely, 2 red light, 3 stop sign, 1 suspended license, 1 improper license plates.

Garrison cites Engineering Division workers

Honorees chosen by their peers

By ASHLEY KALIFEH
For the Rocket

The Directorate of Public Works' Engineering Division had a particularly rewarding staff meeting Thursday at the Rustic Lodge. And this doesn't mean the burgers, barbecue pork, venison, and elk meat they had prepared for the lunch outing.

Nine employees were awarded for being great assets to the DPW work force by Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark and Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper. They included Pete Green, John Hyde, Zinnah Hellmann, Van Holloway, Bill Best, Rick Maranville, Bob McMahhan, Tami Gebbia and Rita Bjorkman.

This recognition was especially rewarding considering they were selected by their co-workers. Employees were asked to submit two names of co-workers and peers who they thought were not only hard working and a team player, but also someone who goes above and beyond the normal and who is well-respected.

Twenty-eight of the 50 members of the Engineering Division were recommended. The final selection was made by taking the top nine vote-getters.

"We owe a lot of gratitude to this department," Clark said. "You all work long hours, do exceptionally great work, turn projects around fast, as scheduled, and on time."

"You do hard work, and you want to do well every day," Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said. "There comes a time when it needs to be recognized."



Photo by Ashley Kalifeh
CONGRATULATIONS— Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli recognizes members of the Engineering Division.

Aviation association presents annual awards

MONROE, Conn. — The Army Aviation Association of America has announced the recipients of its 2009 National Functional awards.

The Army Aviation Trainer of the Year is Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian T. Lackey with Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Palehorse, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan.

The Army Aviation Medicine Award recipient is Capt. Brendan J. McCriskin, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Palehorse, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan.

The Army Aviation DUSTOFF Flight Medic of the Year is Staff Sgt. Emmett W. Spraktes, Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Palehorse, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan.

The Army Aviation Air/Sea Rescue Award winner is 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Palehorse, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan; aircraft commander, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon T. Erdmann, crew — Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott St. Aubin, Staff Sgt. Emmett W. Spraktes and Staff Sgt. Thomas Gifford.

The Army Aviation Fixed Wing Unit of the Year is 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Cascade, Salem, Oregon; commander, Lt. Col. Christian F. Rees, senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Karen Jacobs-Harryman.

The Air Traffic Control Maintenance Technician of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Charles Bodner with the 597th Ordnance Company, Fort Rucker.

The Air Traffic Controller of the Year is Spc. Joseph F. Mann with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

The Air Traffic Control Manager of the Year is Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ian E. Beggs with Company F, 3rd Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

The Air Traffic Control Unit of the Year is 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, Task Force War Eagle, Fort Rucker; commander, Lt. Col. T. Glenn Moore, and senior noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Maj. Kenneth W. Bolden.

The Air Traffic Control Facility of the Year is Al Taji Air Traffic Control Tower, managed by Company F, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment; commander, Capt. Stephen T. Schmidt, and senior noncommissioned officer, 1st Sgt. Marvin A. Pinckney.

The awards were presented Jan. 28 during a banquet hosted by the AAAA at The Landing, Fort Rucker. (Army Aviation Association of America release)

YEP! They're FREE.

The Huntsville Times & al.com

FreeBee

CLASSIFIEDS

Call for details • 256.532.4222



Florida Tech extension looks to expand programs locally

Classes move off-post from Sparkman Center

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

Florida Tech has been a fixture at Redstone for more than three decades, providing graduate-level programs to servicemembers and civilians. Its classes have moved off-post but the tradition continues.

“We’re very proud of our Huntsville site here and we want to see it continue to grow,” Dr. Bob Niebuhr, dean of FIT’s College of Business, said.

The Redstone extension is the largest of the 10 sites in the extended services division under the college of business. The sites are in five states; and this is the only one in Alabama.

Florida Tech’s classes moved Jan. 4 from the Sparkman Center to the Madison Square Mall in Huntsville because its space was needed to accommodate newly-arriving commands. The mall was found to be the most proximate place with minimal impact on the students, according to Dr. Timothy White, director of FIT’s Redstone graduate center.

“We’ve not missed a beat with our student Soldiers,” White said.

For the time being, the school’s administrative office remains in building 5304, room 4326, and can be reached at 881-7878.

Niebuhr visited Redstone Feb. 1-2 from the main campus in Melbourne, Fla. He said he sees the move as a way to increase Florida Tech’s visibility in the local community.

“We’ve been fortunate to have been on the base 34 years,” Niebuhr said. “We’re now in the Madison Square Mall and we’re going to expand our programs. Some people in the community will recognize Florida Tech is here.”

The Florida Tech extension began in 1976. Its two largest master’s-degree programs are logistics and acquisition & contracts management.

Niebuhr, 66, originally from Dayton, Ohio, has been dean of the college of business since 2007. Before that he was dean at Tennessee Tech. Before going to Cookeville, Tenn., he was a faculty member and administrator at Auburn University for about 25 years. He has an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a master’s in engineering and doctorate in business from Ohio State. He and his wife, Katherine, have a son, Jeff, and daughter, Jennifer Cleveland.

“This (Redstone extension) is our largest site and so we’re very proud of it and want it to continue to grow,” Niebuhr said.

White said the mall location enables Florida Tech to increase its hours for classes. “We have already started expand-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LEADERSHIP— Dr. Bob Niebuhr, Florida Tech’s dean of the college of business, talks with Redstone site director Dr. Timothy White.

ing some of our operations into daytime operations,” he said.

Florida Tech has provided a career development seminar for about the past three years for the Army education community. It plans to extend this year’s seminar to the public at large. The event will probably be held within the next month, according to White.

“Of all the purveyors of graduate education here on the Arsenal,” he said, “we’re the largest.”

Redstone plans to lease land for growth

Enhanced Use Leasing project gains momentum

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

Three years ago, Redstone officials were looking at the farmland near Gate 9 as a possible site for the summer concert location. They considered using an unsecure site to better accommodate concertgoers from off post. The idea has evolved into a massive plan for a research park involving Redstone Arsenal, the city of Huntsville and a private developer.

Under an existing Army program called Enhanced Use Leasing, officials hope to break ground this year on a 470-acre site for administrative buildings, educational areas and associated businesses such as restaurants.

"It's a program the Army has to take underutilized property – most of the time on the periphery of the installation – and allow private industry to utilize it and return a lease payment to the government," Joe Davis, the Garrison's director of public works, said.

The lease payments would go into an escrow account to fund projects that improve the infrastructure of Redstone Arsenal. These infrastructure improvements could include such things as replacing water lines or repaving roads. The

underutilized farmland currently generates about \$17,000 annually from agriculture. "We're trying to turn it into something that generates 2 to 4 million dollars (yearly) in lease income," Davis said.

Redstone keeps a priority list of its most critical projects for modernization annually. This backlog list of things to-do usually amounts to about \$40 million.

"We would use that escrow account to accomplish projects on our priority list," Davis said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, recognizes the benefits of enhanced use leasing.

"EUL is a perfect example of what community teamwork can accomplish if they remain focused on our core mission at Redstone Arsenal: supporting the war fighter and defending our nation," Myles said. "I'm excited about it. I congratulate and compliment the local elected officials, especially (Huntsville mayor) Tommy Battle and his team, in the private enterprise that has partnered with the Arsenal."

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli cites the prospects for increased administrative space to support Redstone Arsenal requirements.

"We appreciate the efforts of both our local and state leaders to assist in this process as well as the developer taking charge as well as the Army leadership for approving this going forward," Pastorelli said. "We look forward to ground-break-



Garrison graphic

MASTER PLAN— Some 470 acres of farmland near Gate 9 on Rideout Road will be leased for private development under the Army's enhanced use leasing program. The area for lease is depicted in blue.

ing either late spring or early summer."

Redstone officials call enhanced use leasing a win-win-win for all three parties involved – the Arsenal, the city and the private developer, LW Redstone LLC out of Montgomery. Legislation has been introduced in the Alabama Legislature to lay the groundwork.

"There is legislation that is going to facilitate changes in the state laws on city financing of infrastructure within a city," Craig Northridge, program manager in the Directorate of Public Works, said. "To help develop the site, the city has requested changes to that. That bill is currently in Montgomery."

At last report, the bill had gone through the House committee and was sitting behind the highway bill in the Senate.

"Our expectations are to break ground in the late spring/early summer time frame for the first of the buildings," Davis said. "This really is a three-way partnership and a win-win for all between the city of Huntsville, Redstone Arsenal and the private developer, LW Redstone LLC."

After the groundbreaking, it will probably be two years before the doors open; and it will take 10-15 years until the area's complete development. The magnitude is staggering – think of the Sparkman Center times four. Sparkman is more than 1 million square feet of space. This will be closer to 4 million square feet of administrative space, representing about 50 or so buildings.

"We're working on a master plan right now for the whole area," Davis said. "Rideout Road will see some significant improvements to facilitate traffic in and out of the site."

The leased property will still belong to Redstone; it just won't be behind the fences anymore. After 75 years – a 50-year lease with a 25-year option – the lease will expire. And the entire area will revert back to Army ownership.

"We actually started out (three years ago) looking for land to relocate our concert site," Davis said. "What it has evolved into is Research Park South."

The existing Research Park, in northwest Huntsville, has run out of room. The same can be said of Redstone Arsenal.

Redstone is constructing buildings on post for the organizations moving here under base realignment and closure. But studies envision 5,500 additional contractor jobs in Huntsville to support these BRAC arrivals. With Research Park nearing capacity, those companies will have no place to relocate in Huntsville.

"What this (enhanced use leasing plan) does is provide speculative development space right outside the main gate," Davis said.

Enhanced use leasing should also help solve Redstone's space limitations. There are 1.2 million square feet of requests for space on Redstone Arsenal from either organizations on post that are expanding or those outside the gate who want to move onto Redstone. The Army Contracting Command, under the Army Materiel Command, is moving to Redstone from the Washington, D.C. area with 330 jobs. They will be placed in modular facilities – trailers – until permanent accommodations can be acquired. If EUL was in place, those contracting workers could lease space in the new research park initially until permanent space was acquired.

Other Army installations have utilized the enhanced use leasing program in the past, but this is a first for Redstone. Said Davis, "I don't know that it's been (done) by anybody else of this magnitude."

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:

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: 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.

Building Army family

Army Family Team Building Level III: Upper Management helps connect families to the Army – one class at a time. The upcoming session is Feb. 23-26 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. In these free classes, participants acquire knowledge, skills and abilities to become leaders in their organizations. Classes offered are Communication Skills for leaders, Understanding Needs, Leadership Styles, Building Cohesive Teams, Coaching and Mentoring, and more. Childcare is available with advanced registration, and food will be provided each night. To register or for more information, call ACS at 876-5397.

Girl Scout sending sweet thanks to war fighters

She collects cookies for deployed troops

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
kelleylanesivley@att.net

This time of year, all Girl Scouts have cookies on their minds. While many will go door-to-door to deliver their goods, Claire Munster's cookies will have a bit farther to go. She is sending her cookies to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I want to send them all around Iraq and Afghanistan where our Soldiers are stationed," Munster said. "That would make me really happy."

Munster, 11, is a member of the Redstone Girl Scout Troop 465. She comes from a family with a strong military background. Her father, Lt. Col. Matthew Munster, is the product manager for unmanned aircraft systems at PEO Integration. Both of her grandfathers served in the military, as have all of her uncles. In fact, the idea to send cookies to Soldiers grew out of the stories about Vietnam her grandfather told her.

"My Poppa would talk about our Soldiers and Vietnam. It really depressed me that they weren't treated properly when they got home," Munster said. "I decided that I wanted to show our thanks to our Soldiers and cheer them up a little with cookies."

Instead of asking friends, family and neighbors to purchase cookies for themselves, the sixth-grader is asking them to buy boxes for troops. Once the cookies arrive, they will be packed and sent to Soldiers who have volunteered to distribute them to others.

"You can't send them to 'Any Soldier' anymore

because of security," mom Sandy Munster explained. "She has someone from the neighborhood, someone from school and someone from church that is willing to distribute for her there."

Instead of going door-to-door, Munster decided to write a letter explaining her idea and asking for support. Her mother then e-mailed relatives and the friends that they have made while living around the world as a military family. The response has been fantastic, Sandy Munster said.

Checks have arrived steadily in the mail. Munster had decided that if she was able to send 200 boxes to Soldiers, she would be happy. As of last week, she had met that goal. She isn't done yet, however. She is still taking orders and will take donations when her troop begins booth sales through the end of February.

Munster's cause has also been taken up by the Gulf Coast District Elks Lodges in Texas, where her aunt lives. Since many of their members are veterans, they were particularly touched by Munster's letter. They have been collecting on her behalf since the beginning of the year. She has been told that they will call with their total this weekend.

"They've been fund-raising for the past month," Sandy Munster said. "They're giving her the total this weekend to surprise her as a Valentine's gift. So we have no idea what's coming, but we're thinking its going to be big."

Originally, Munster's troop leader had offered to pay the postage to send the cookies overseas. With the total number of boxes climbing though, the troop may not have enough money to handle them all. They hope that some area businesses, organizations and individuals will step in to help with shipping costs.

"It's gotten so huge," Sandy Munster said. "We're going to have to do fund-raising to pay all the postage."

To order cookies for deployed Soldiers or make a donation for shipping expenses, e-mail Sandy Munster at msmunster@hotmail.com.

"It's such a great opportunity to say thank you for all that our Soldiers do," Munster said.

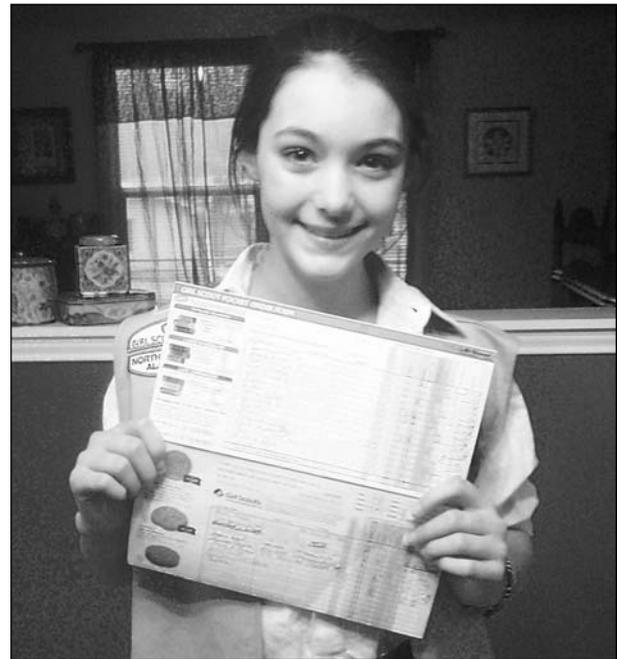


Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

ORDER FORM— Girl Scout Claire Munster will surpass her goal of 200 boxes of cookies for deployed troops.

Army substance abuse program adds to staff

Wellness team
welcomes two

By AMY GUCKEEN
Staff writer
amy.guckeen@gmail.com

Two new faces for the Army Substance Abuse Program are working to bring Redstone Arsenal's civilians and Soldiers to a greater level of wellness.

Ruby Turner, Garrison alcohol and drug prevention officer, welcomed Kerrie Branson, Risk Reduction Program coordinator, and Skip Johnson, prevention and education coordinator, to her staff November and December.

"They're bringing a lot to Redstone," Turner said. "They have very good skills and I'm just so happy to have them on board."

Branson and Johnson are committed to maintaining a healthy wellness for both Soldiers and civilians on the Arsenal.

"It's critical," Johnson, an Air Force retiree, said of the outreach ASAP provides. "Based upon the nature of our business, it's important that we are all fit to fight. We are all part of the fight against global terrorism."

That fitness includes both physical and mental wellness. Through awareness campaigns, Johnson is placing a special focus on suicide prevention and mental health awareness, as well as alcohol abuse prevention.

"We're a team," Johnson said, stating that we must all be "battle buddies" for each other. "It's a part of our life. We're here to help."

Those that feel they may be experiencing mental health issues or alcohol abuse are able to take an online screening survey through Screening for Mental Health's site, www.militarymentalhealth.org. The survey screens and educates members of the Redstone Arsenal community for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar



Photo by Amy Guckeen

HERE TO HELP— Kerrie Branson and Skip Johnson joined the Army Substance Abuse Program team at the end of 2009.

disorder, alcohol abuse, eating disorders and generalized anxiety disorder. After completing the survey, those in need of treatment will be referred to the appropriate health services.

"Seeking help is not a weakness," Johnson said. "History has shown us that most individuals are reluctant to go to a mental health clinic, not understanding that they can help you deal with everyday stressors. The key is focusing on resilience, the ability to cope with obstacles and setbacks."

Johnson, in his role on the Suicide Prevention Task Force, will assist Branson in helping Soldiers that may be experiencing high-risk behaviors, as part of the Risk Reduction Program.

"We can reach a Soldier in need of help, and make sure they're given the proper resources to overcome a bad situation," said Branson, who previously worked as an

RRP coordinator for Fort Drum, N.Y.

As coordinator of RRP, a Commander's Program, Branson collects data on 14 high-risk behaviors among the Soldier community on post. The behaviors include death, accidents, injuries, STDs suicide gestures and attempts, AWOLs, drug offenses, alcohol offense, traffic violations, crimes against person, crimes against property, spouse abuse, child abuse, financial problems and positive urinalysis. Data is collected quarterly from DES/Provost Marshal, ASAP/DTC, AER/Financial Counselor, Preventive Medicine, Community Mental Health, Casualty, Safety, Housing, Staff Judge Advocate and Family Advocacy, and then analyzed and put into a Shot Group Report, comparing Redstone's data to the Army rate, to determine what high-risk behaviors commanders need to target.

"Here at Redstone, we're not like other installations. We don't have a lot of high-risk behaviors," Branson said.

Each quarter, the Installation Prevention Team and Suicide Prevention Task Force, led by Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli, will meet to determine what areas of high-risk need attention and what can be done by the special agencies on post to reduce the risk. Even though the numbers on Redstone are not as high as other installations, it does not decrease the need to be vigilant of high-risk behaviors in the Soldier community, Branson said.

"No matter how big or small our numbers are in each of these areas, it is important that leadership know what's going on in the Soldier population at Redstone," Branson said. "It's a great opportunity to look at those numbers, remember those high-risk behaviors exist and to come together to practice a preventive approach. The success of this program is when a strong team is put together and trainers and educators from all the different service agencies are working together to coordinate and provide effective well-rounded services to our Soldiers."

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.

New exhibit highlights Army's space roots

Army history display marks first for 40-year-old space museum

By **CLAUS MARTEL**
AMCOM History Office

Retired Brig. Gen. Larry Capps, chief executive officer of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 30 to dedicate a new exhibit commemorating the Army's role in this nation's space program.

The ceremony was held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration which houses one of the last remaining Saturn V rockets.

Mike Baker, command historian for the Aviation and Missile Command, served as the Army's point of contact and subject matter expert for the team that designed and built the exhibit.

"As far as I can recall, this was the first time an exhibit contractor wanted to get the story right," Baker said. "I spent many months answering their many great questions and provided many if not most of the imagery used for the display."

The purpose of the exhibit is to show that the Saturn rocket's roots go back many years before the establishment of NASA. One of the panels shows how Huntsville went from the "Watercress Capitol of the World" to "Space Capitol of the Universe," all during the Army's presence from World War II to the 1950s.

"The Army not only established a world-class manufacturing facility here during World War II, but set in motion the genesis of the nation's space program right here at Redstone Arsenal," Baker said. "When tourists from around the world come and visit the Space & Rocket Center, this exhibit will very clearly outline the Army's legacy in space."

Along with photographs and artifacts of the era, he provided video footage to the exhibit design team. Visitors can activate videos that show some of the many highlights of the Army's early space successes.

Baker said this exhibit has positive implications for Redstone Arsenal today. "We've got many people coming to work at Redstone due to (base realignment and closure) BRAC moves. Clearly, I've got a challenge to educate the work force on our history. Because so many new employees visit the Space & Rocket Center, they'll see in a very entertaining way why we're here, what we've done, and the longstanding tradition of excellence that's been a hallmark of Redstone Arsenal for almost 70 years."

Editor's note: The U.S. Space & Rocket Center's hours of operation change according to seasons, so for visiting times check www.spacecamp.com.



Photo by Claus Martel

LEGACY—The exhibit at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center traces Redstone's historical role.

Appointment no-shows waste medical dollars

Impact also cuts accessibility for patients, according to Fox Army Health Center

By AMY GUCKEEN

Staff writer

amy.guckeen@gmail.com

Fox Army Health Center lost \$406,562 between September and December 2009 – a loss they are asking patients to help combat today.

From September to December 2009, Fox documented 1,550 no shows, people that simply did not show up for their appointment, according to Susan Goodman, chief of the managed care division. At an average billing of \$350 per visit in network costs, the excuses of “I forgot” or “I’m just not going to go,” quickly add up.

“You still pay the staff,” said Barbara Williford, chief of the clinical support division.

No shows peaked at 9.5 percent in October. With around 500 appointments scheduled a day at Fox, that’s nearly 50 people not showing up, costing the center thousands of dollars.

“It all adds up,” said Maj. Jon Lasell, deputy chief of administration. “It’s more than just not showing up.”

The impact of no shows reaches beyond the financial realm, and also reduces accessibility for Fox Army Health Center patients. Each no show appointment, according to Williford, costs three appointments – the missed appointment for the person who did not come in, the appointment that person must then rebook, and the appointment that someone else could have booked if the no show had canceled well enough in advance.

“The people that no show, they’re just going to create more calls,” Lasell said. “The result triples the work for the facility, because one person didn’t show up.”

Fox requests that patients are conscientious of others, and cancel their appointments in advance, preferably 48 hours prior to the appointment, if they foresee that they will be unable to make the appointment.

“Appointments are in high demand, and an early can-

cellation gives another person the possibility to have access to timely medical care,” Goodman said.

In November, Fox implemented an appointment reminder call system, where patients receive a phone call 48 hours prior to their scheduled appointment, reminding them of the date and time of the appointment, and the doctor they are seeing. At that time, patients may cancel their appointment if necessary. Patients are also able to cancel an appointment 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 955-8888 and selecting option 2. Since the implementation of the appointment reminder system, no shows have decreased by 25 percent. In January 2010, Fox averaged 7.4 percent, compared to the MEDCOM standard of less than 5 percent.

“No shows have always been a concern,” Lasell said. “It is very important for us that we raise the level of patient satisfaction. Our patients are not as satisfied when they have to go somewhere else. We want our patients to be happy and to want to come here.”

While staff has taken steps to combat no shows, the ultimate responsibility comes down to the patient.

“Please cancel your appointment in advance,” Williford said. “If you can do it early enough, we can fill the open spot.”

No shows also have an impact on a patient’s wellness. Not showing up interrupts the “continuity of care,” misses “an opportunity to solve an acute health problem,” as well as costs the provider the “opportunity for a timely review of patient health, treatment and progress,” Goodman said. Patients must be responsible for their health.

“It’s a partnership,” Goodman said. “The patient needs to be educated. You really need to have active involvement.”



Photo by Amy Guckeen

WHERE ARE YOU?– Fox Army Health Center is asking patients to help cut back on the cost of no shows by calling at least 48 hours in advance if they need to cancel an appointment.

Volunteering to affect positive change

Two Redstone representatives participate in Army conference on behalf of families

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Reimbursement for Soldier non-medical caregivers. Funding for service dogs for wounded warriors. Shortages in Behavioral Health service providers. Restrictions on Family Readiness Group fund-raising. Enrollment eligibility for Reserve Component Soldiers in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Those were the top five issues that surfaced during the annual Army Family Action Plan Conference hosted by the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C., in January. The theme for this year's conference was "Changing the Army One Issue at a Time."

The top five issues were chosen from among 82 issues presented at the conference. Each issue, first introduced at installation AFAP conferences, represents months of research and preparation, hours of intense discussions, and voting approvals by volunteers from throughout the Army who relied on facilitators and subject matter experts to review and understand the issues.

Among those volunteers were two representatives of Redstone Arsenal – delegate Alhadella McRae, a program management assistant with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center who is also married to a retired Army officer, and facilitator Elise Becton, an Arsenal volunteer and the widow of Barry Becton, whose service as a DA civilian included a stint as the chief fire inspector at Redstone in 2006.

Each volunteered to participate in the Redstone Arsenal AFAP in October 2009, something they had been involved with in previous years.

"I've been volunteering with Army Family Team Building and the Army Fam-

ily Action Plan since 2001 in some capacity," said Becton, who also volunteers with the American Red Cross and Huntsville's Operation Stand Down.

"I really like the role of facilitating a group. In that job, I work the process. I make sure everyone stays focused and discussion on issues keeps flowing."

Becton and McRae took their experience with the Arsenal AFAP with them to the international conference. And, after seeing how the entire process works, both are convinced that AFAP is indeed responsible for making fundamental changes in the Army that positively affect its families and Soldiers, and their quality of life.

"So many people think this doesn't work. There is cynicism about it," Becton said. "But when you volunteer with AFAP, you see that it does work and you see the passion the higher generals have for the program. Everyone knows they are not there to represent themselves. They are there to represent the Army as a whole. You see that we can work together and get things done for our Army family."

Added McRae: "These issues can make a difference in your personal life and the way you work. Working these issues helps the Army family, both military and civilian."

AFAP began in 1980, though the first official AFAP conference was held in 1983. In the past 25 years, 633 issues have been identified as needs and concerns of the total Army family. AFAP has driven 107 legislative changes, 154 Army policy and regulatory changes, and 173 improved programs and services. It is also notable that 61 percent of all active AFAP issues impact all the services.

At Redstone, Becton facilitated the Consumer Services work group while in D.C. she facilitated the Employment work group. Coincidentally, McRae was a delegate in the same two groups.

"We were assigned to our work groups," said McRae, who worked alongside delegates from places like Fort Hood, Texas, and installations in New Jersey and Japan.

"The Employment work group had 12

issues to review. Of the groups, we had the most issues. We had to whittle our issues down to our top two."

In all, 82 issues were considered at the DA AFAP level by eight groups – Employment, Family Support I, Family Support II, Housing and Facilities, Medical and Dental I, Medical and Dental II, Soldier Support I and Soldier Support II. Each group chose two issues as top Army issues to present to the entire delegation. Of those, five were chosen as the top issues to be addressed immediately.

"Each work group had a spokesperson to brief out on the two issues their group brought forward," McRae said. "After hearing the briefings of all eight groups, the delegates vote on the top five issues and those move forward to the General Officers Steering Committee for review. All 16 issues will be worked. But the top five are worked right away."

McRae said she was particularly impressed with the commitment of the General Officer Steering Committee to both the issues being currently worked by their committee and the new issues introduced at the AFAP conference.

"You can see how they really care about the issues," she said. "(Installation Management commander) Lt. Gen. (Rick) Lynch was very passionate. They were all very much into the AFAP process. I really liked getting the chance to meet them and to talk to them about things that concern Army families."

Besides Lynch, several other high level officials were present during the confer-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

REPRESENTING ARMY FAMILIES— Elise Becton, left, and Alhadella McRae say serving as volunteers at Army Family Action Plan conferences at the local level and the Department of the Army level re-emphasized to them the depth of commitment Army leadership has toward affecting positive changes that improve the quality of life for active and Reserve component Soldiers, retirees, veterans, civilians and contractors, and their families.

ence, including Secretary of the Army John McHugh; Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey; Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli; Brig. Gen. Rueben Jones, commander of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command; and Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

"There were a lot of wounded warrior issues discussed. We ended up with two top issues related to wounded warriors. We even had one wounded warrior with a service dog present to us," McRae said.

See **Volunteers** on page 11

AMCOM leadership program celebrates fifth anniversary

Graduation certificates awarded to three classes

By AMCOM G-1

For the Rocket

Thirty-eight participants graduated Jan. 25 from AMCOM's Leader Investment for Tomorrow programs.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, presented certificates to the graduates and guest speakers of LIFT I Class 7, Class 8, and LIFT II Class 4.

This year celebrated the fifth anniversary of the LIFT programs. The program has grown from LIFT I being deployed in 2005, to LIFT II in 2006, and most recently the deployment to Corpus Christi Army

Depot (Texas) and Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.). The program at Redstone includes participants from organizations across AMCOM as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Missile Defense Agency, and the Garrison. Since 2005, there have been 201 graduates of the program.

The Leader Investment for Tomorrow programs last eight months and meet one full day per month. LIFT I is designed for employees at the GS-11-13 level or the equivalent. LIFT II is designed for GS-14 and GS-15 or the equivalent.

Programs consist of formal leadership sessions with guest speakers, practical applications, leadership assessment, selected leadership readings, group project, staff ride, and homework assignments. Participants focus on Army values, effec-

tive decision making, time management, risk management, selling ideas through presentations, conflict resolution, situational awareness and ethics.

LIFT has become an integral part of the AMCOM culture. This program supports the AMCOM goal of "Building the Bench." It has helped in the development of a culture of "leaders developing leaders" at all levels of the organization through senior leader involvement in the programs.

The G-1 will be accepting applications mid-March for the LIFT I and LIFT II programs. The programs will run from May through February 2011. For additional information on the LIFT programs, go to the G-1 (Human Resources) website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/602251> or call Jamie Candelaria at 876-5080.

Graduates of the LIFT programs include the following:

- **Level II, Class 4** — Robert Dewberry, Shirley Perkey, Robert Domitrovich, Ida Shelley, Fred Frost, Michael Switzer, Jack Greer, Kimberly Wright, Diane Helser, Shen Zhu and Bryan Lorge

- **Level I, Class 7** — Holly Blanton, John Mendes, James Collins, Chris Robinson, Cindy Davis, Teresa Salmon, Amy Donlin, Angela Saville, Peggy Hunt, Anna Wilson, Marcus Jarmon, Janine Wright and Deatrice Johnson

- **Level I, Class 8** — Ray Barnes, Judith Mari Jackson, Gina Best, Raymond Nabors, Bessie Breedlove, Sara Northcutt, Timothy Clark, Eric Sharp, Lisa Dawn Duncan, Karen Stage, Natalie Terrell, Peggy Traweek, Allyson Heck and Adrienne Walls

Armywide family delegates
make recommendations

Volunteers

continued from page 10

The following is a listing of this year's top five AFAP issues and the recommendations:

- Monthly stipend to ill and injured Soldiers for non-medical caregivers – The Army does not offer a monthly stipend to ill or injured Soldiers who do not qualify for Traumatic Service Members' Group Life Insurance. In the absence of a monthly stipend for non-medical caregivers, these Soldiers could require residential institutional care. It is recommended that a monthly stipend be provided to Soldiers that do not qualify for TSGLI and are certified to be in need of assistance from a non-medical caregiver.

- Funding service dogs for wounded warriors – The Department of Defense does not offer a formal program that funds service dogs for wounded warriors. Yet, significant anecdotal evidence shows that animal assistance programs help Soldiers recover from injuries and illnesses, and service dogs may assist wounded warriors in attaining a higher level of independence and self-reliance that allows them to function more successfully in their community and profession. It is recommended that DoD fund a formal program to provide service dogs for wounded warriors.

- Behavioral Health services shortages – Between June and October 2009, the Army lost 72 psychiatrists and 50 psychologists, and reported an unmet requirement of 923 behavioral health providers. The shortage of behavioral health services impacts individual health and ultimately contributes to the rising suicide rates, and drug and alcohol abuse. The recommendation is to increase the number of behavioral health providers and services, and increase the use of alternative methods of delivery, such as tele-medicine.

- Family Readiness Group external fund-raising restrictions – Currently, FRGs can only raise funds through unsolicited donations and fund-raising efforts on a military installation or through the unit's members. The recommendation is to authorize FRGs to fundraise in public places external to National Guard armories, Reserve centers and military installations.

- Exceptional Family Member Program eligibility for Reserve component Soldiers – It is recommended that Reserve component Soldiers should be authorized to enroll in EFMP, which entitles family members with special medical and educational needs to free education and all medically related services in pursuit of education.

Other issue recommendations pinpointed for further consideration at the AFAP conference were:

- Standardize security measures in barracks Armywide by requiring the installation of visual monitoring systems for surveillance of hallways, common areas and parking lots for all Army barracks, and requiring keyless entry and peep holes in residential doors.

- Require the availability of 24/7 child care with Child and Youth School Services delivery systems at all U.S. garrisons.

- Authorize travel and transportation allowances for Reserve component Soldiers

traveling more than 50 miles for inactive duty for training at training duty stations, drill sites and assigned unit locations.

- Reduce eligibility age for retirement of Reserve component Soldiers mobilized in support of overseas contingency operations between Sept. 11, 2001, and Jan. 8, 2008 to match the benefit of Soldiers mobilized after Jan. 8, 2008.

- Extend transitional survivor spouses' Tricare Prime medical coverage at the active duty family member status from three to five years to provide additional time for rebuilding after the death of the active duty service-member.

- Eliminate prescription costs for active duty family members who are not enrolled in a military treatment facility and who must use retail or mail-order pharmacies.

- Authorize supplemental mission funds for Reserve component Family Readiness Groups to augment FRG informal funds and to allow Reserve component FRGs to further connect families and focus on their mission.

- Provide compensatory time for Department of the Army civilians at the rate of 1.5 hours for every overtime hour worked.

- Provide all government employees and their family members who serve in the Reserve components with the options of selecting either Federal Employee Health Benefits or Tricare Reserve Select.

- Authorize reimbursement of the Tricare allowable charge for the standard durable medical equipment to offset costs when a patient chooses an upgraded or deluxe DME.

- Standardize the housing application process across privatized installations.

During the conference, the General Officer Steering Committee met to review actions on the following AFAP issues from previous conferences: military spouse unemployment compensation, Reserve component post-mobilization counseling, convicted sex offender registry, retroactive Traumatic Service Member Group Life insurance, bereavement permissive temporary duty assignment and medical entitlements for college-age family members.

In addition, conference delegates voted on the Army's strengths and weaknesses in the areas of mobilization, deployment and family readiness. The strengths are:

- Army Community Service, including Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building, Financial Counseling, Survivor Outreach Services, Family Advocacy, Volunteer Program, New Parent Support, among other ACS programs.

- Army Wounded Warrior Program.
- Chaplain's Programs, including Strong Bonds and Unit Ministry Team.

- Army Family Covenant and Community Covenant.

- Morale Welfare and Recreation Programs, including Fitness, Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers, Leisure Travel and other recreation programs.

The weaknesses are:

- High Suicide Rate.
- Length of Deployments.
- Impact of Deployments on Children and Youth.

- Duplicate Programs, such as Army Community Service and Family Assistance.

- Centers and Support for Wounded Warriors.

- Funding for Family and Deployment Support Programs.

Tax Credit EXTENDED!!

Get Your

\$8,000!

TIME TO BUY!

PROMENADE

at RIVER LANDING

WE CAN GET YOU INTO A NEW HOME BEFORE THE DEADLINE!

COLLECT \$6,500 to \$8,000!

+The housing tax break for first time buyers, which was initially set to expire at the end of November, is now available to buyers who sign a contract soon and close by June 30, 2010.

+In addition, other buyers who have lived in their current residence for at least five years of the last eight but want to relocate to a new primary residence can receive a credit of up to \$6,500.

This means that those who want the benefit of a new home must act soon to assure a closing in time for the credit. **Gross Builders has allocated a limited number of homes to meet demand, but it is being quickly purchased by those taking advantage of the program.**

Proudly Offered By:

RISE Real Estate
GET MORE.

GROSS BUILDERS
SINCE 1916

90 Years of Excellence

REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITY

WWW.LIVEATPROMENADE.COM

Courtyards from \$119,990!



"Courtyards" under \$120!

GRAB IT NOW!
1 available at
\$119,990!
or
\$728/mo.

Villas from \$129,990!



"Villas" from \$120's

GRAB ONE available at
\$129,990!
Under \$130!

Patio Ranchers from \$139,990!



NEW!
\$139,990!

I-565 to Exit 8, South on Wall Triana Hwy 5.2 miles, Left on Beadle Lane ~OR~ Take Zierdt Rd South and turn Right on Beadle, right into site



OPEN 11 AM - 6 PM Every Day!

256.693.2265

*only (1) home left at \$119,990 and (1) at \$129,990! 5-1-10. **See us.gov for details on First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). *Monthly payment for Courtyard home based on purchase price of \$114,000 with 30-year FHA financing, \$4,000 Down Payment, FHA FIXED RATE with 3 year buydown. Payment for year 2 is \$873/mo., payment for year 3 is \$765/mo., and years 4 thru 40 at \$652/mo. Note rate of 2% for year 1, 2% for year 2, 4% for year 3 and 5% for years 4 thru 30. Rates are subject to change at any time, check with preferred lender. Payment includes an estimate of taxes and HOA fees and excludes Home Insurance. Rates and Quotes are subject to change at anytime without notice. Some loan programs have credit and asset qualifications. Products subject to loan approval. Based on 30-day pricing/close, purchase. FHA/Nonconventional financing. \$500 money you program is for first time buyers only and is available on finished express homes only. THDA qualifications and income restrictions apply. Gross Builders reserves the right to change plans, features, prices and information without notice. Prior sales excluded, offers subject to change at any time without notice. ©2010 Gross Builders 01171947

Tax Assistance Center returns savings to military clients

Military families reap benefits every year

By **AMY GUCKEEN**

Staff writer

amy.guckeen@gmail.com

This tax season, the Tax Assistance Center is once again putting more sense into how a Soldier spends their hard earned dollar.

The completely free tax return preparation service has returned to Redstone Arsenal for active duty Soldiers, military retirees and their families – emphasis on the free part – which allows clients to enjoy all of their tax refund, rather than spending part of it filing their return.

“Our interest is giving an accurate tax return with the most advantageous refund,” said center manager Rachael Yeoman. “We’re not out to earn a dollar.”

In tax year 2008, the center served 3,402 individuals, filing 1,830 federal returns and garnering \$2.9 million in refunds. While the center hopes to reach 4,000 individuals this year, simply helping all those that need the center’s services is enough for Yeoman.

“We want to make sure everybody that is able to use our services comes in,” she said. “Every year we’re finding people don’t know about us. We’re here and we’re ready to help.”

Twelve expert volunteers staff the

center, guided by Yeoman and three other staff members. On average, the center assists anywhere between 40 to 64 clients a day with their returns.

“I love to help people and play with numbers,” said volunteer Emily Hsi, in her seventh year of volunteering with the center. “I love hearing people’s stories.”

The outreach takes the anxiety out of tax season, easing the life of the already busy Soldier.

“Some people just dread tax season,” said volunteer Kay Theodoss, in her third year of work at the center. “It’s fulfilling to help them get through that.”

“They have enough to worry about over everything else. We don’t want them to worry about their taxes,” Yeoman said. “Our volunteers have lived our clients’ lives, and if we can make one part of their lives easier, we’ll do it.”

The Tax Assistance Center is located in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax and Zeus roads. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required; bring your Social Security card, last year’s tax return, all current tax and direct deposit information to your appointment. All active duty servicemembers, reservists on active duty for more than 29 days, military retirees, and their dependents are eligible for the center’s free service. To schedule an appointment, call 842-1040.



Photo by Amy Guckeen

ANSWERING THE CALL— Tax Assistance Center volunteer Kay Theodoss scans the appointment book for openings.

McChrystal notes progress in Afghanistan

By FRED W. BAKER III
American Forces Press Service

ISTANBUL — Although he stopped short of saying the worst is over for troops as they prepare to surge into some of the toughest Taliban-held areas, the top NATO and U.S. commander in Afghanistan said here Feb. 4 that conditions no longer are deteriorating.

"I am not prepared to say that we have turned the corner. I am saying that the situation is serious. But I think we have made significant progress in setting conditions in 2009, and ... we'll make real progress in 2010," said Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

The general spoke in an interview with reporters who accompanied Defense Secretary Robert Gates to Istanbul for a meeting of the alliance's defense ministers to determine how many more additional resources, if any, they will contribute to the fight in Afghanistan.

Last summer, McChrystal delivered a much harsher description of the situation on the ground to the Defense Department and the White House, saying that conditions were deteriorating, Taliban influence was growing and the confidence of the people of Afghanistan in U.S. efforts there was waning.

President Barack Obama directed a revamped strategy for Afghanistan. As part of that change, Obama ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops to deploy to Afghanistan by this summer.

McChrystal called 2010 an important year, as critically needed troops flow into the country as fast as facilities and bases can be built for them. U.S. forces will number about 100,000 by the time all of them arrive this summer. NATO has

offered up an additional 9,000 forces, but that still leaves ISAF about 4,000 short of the mentors and trainers it needs, officials said.

Sixty-four mentoring teams are operating now in all five regions of Afghanistan. Another 80 are expected in the next few months, but 20 more are needed as the Afghan security forces grow this year.

McChrystal's prediction of continued progress in Afghanistan comes as coalition and Afghan forces prepare for one of their largest combined operations to remove insurgents from areas of central Helmand province not already cleared by ISAF troops. It is not typical of military commanders to announce operations in advance, but the general said they are trying to send a message.

"We're trying to signal to the Afghan people that we are expanding security where they live. We are trying also to signal to the insurgents ... that it's about to change," McChrystal said.

The general said he also wants to give those Taliban members and other insurgents who would rather not fight a chance to consider their options.

"If they want to fight, then obviously that will have to be an outcome. But if they don't want to fight, that's fine too," he said. "We're not interested in how many Taliban we kill. We'd much rather have them see the inevitability that things are changing and just accept that."

The general said he considers this operation a "next step" as NATO forces continue to work to develop the size and capacity of the Afghan national security forces.

Over the past few months, McChrystal said, ISAF has made internal command changes and has begun partnering more closely with the Afghan government, from the ministries down to the local level.

Terrorism expert to speak on security awareness

Steve Emerson is the featured speaker at SMDC/ARSTRAT's Security Awareness Day training Feb. 24 in Bob Jones Auditorium. All of Team Redstone is invited to the sessions at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Emerson is considered one of the leading authorities on Islamic extremist networks, financing and operations. He serves as the executive director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism, a non-profit organization that serves one of the world's largest storehouses of archival data and intelligence on Islamic and Middle Eastern terrorist groups.

He and his staff frequently provide briefings to U.S. government and law enforcement agencies, members of Congress and congressional committees, and print and electronic media on terrorist financing and operational networks of Al-Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and the rest of the worldwide Islamic militant spectrum.

Since 9-11, Emerson has been interviewed frequently on all the major television networks and in the national and international print media. The website of the Investigative Project on Terrorism, which was started in September 2007, is now considered one of the top counter-terrorism websites in the world and can be accessed at www.investigativeproject.org.

Emerson launched The Investigative Project on Terrorism in 1995, following the November 1994 broadcast of his documentary film, "Jihad in America," on public television. The film exposed clandestine operations of militant Islamic

terrorist groups on American soil. For the film, Emerson received numerous awards including the George Polk Award for best television documentary, one of the most prestigious awards in journalism. He also received the top prize from the Investigative Reporters and Editors Organization for best investigative report in both print and television for the documentary. The award from IRE was the fourth he had received from that group.

The documentary, which was featured on 60 Minutes, has become standard viewing for federal law enforcement and intelligence organizations.

Emerson is recognized as one of the first terrorism experts to have testified and warned about the threat of Islamic militant networks operating in the United States and their connections worldwide. In a pioneering congressional testimony delivered in 1998, he specifically warned about the threat of Osama Bin

Laden's network. Nearly every one of the terrorist suspects and groups first identified in his 1994 film have been indicted, convicted or deported since 9-11.

Prior to starting the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Emerson worked as a correspondent for CNN and previously as a senior editor at US News and World Report. His first job in Washington, D.C. in 1977 was as a staff researcher for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has a bachelor's and master's from Brown University and once ran a marathon in two hours, 59 minutes, a feat he was never able to repeat.



Steve Emerson



Photo by Cherie Cullen

TOP LEVEL— U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates meets with Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, in Istanbul, Feb. 4. Gates is in Turkey to conduct NATO bilateral meetings and to attend the Regional Command South meeting.



Courtesy photo

Aircraft on rise

The Army's newest and most advanced Unmanned Aircraft System, the Extended Range/Multi-Purpose UAS, has successfully completed a Milestone C review, marking approval for the UAS Project Office to enter into Low Rate Initial Production. The decision was rendered Feb. 2 by the Department of Defense, following the program's review for compliance with all milestone criteria and the successful completion of an Operational Assessment test phase.

Budget for Corps of Engineers' Civil Works released

NASHVILLE — The President's Budget for fiscal 2011 includes \$4.939 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, offset in part by a proposal to cancel \$52 million of prior year funding. The budget included \$293.3 million in funding specifically for the Nashville District, which encompasses the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins.

The FY 11 funding for the Nashville District Corps of Engineers will be divided into accounts for investigations and studies, construction, and operation and maintenance of Corps projects. The President's Budget included \$134 million in funding for ongoing seepage repairs at the Wolf Creek Dam in Jamestown, Ky., the largest amount ever for a single project in the Nashville District. The seepage rehabilitation project at Center Hill Dam in Lancaster, Tenn. had \$77.8 million in the budget.

Some \$2.87 million was allowed in the budget for completion of the highway and railroad superstructures construction contract at Kentucky Lock in Grand Rivers, Ky. Additionally, \$78.1 million was included for Nashville District operations and maintenance, to fund activities for hydropower, navigation, recreation, environmental stewardship, flood damage reduction, and water supply at the projects.

"We fully support the President's Budget," said Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, commander of the Corps' Nashville District. "The FY 11 budget reflects our commitment to safety by focusing heavily on dam safety and seepage control projects such as Wolf Creek and Center Hill."

Mitchell also emphasized that the funding made available for planning, design and construction of water resources projects will provide high economic and environmental returns on the nation's investment.

While the President's Budget includes \$293.3 million in funding specifically for the Nashville District, other items have been budgeted at the national level. National programs such as Planning Assistance to States, Flood Plain Management Services, General Regulatory Functions, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies, include funds that will eventually be distributed to all Corps districts. Project sponsor cost-sharing funds will also be added to the Nashville District's workload for FY 11.

Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, said, "This year's civil works budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports the administration's priorities of improving the nation's infrastructure and revitalizing the economy.

"The budget funds the planning, design, construction, and the operation and maintenance of projects, and focuses on the Corps' three main Civil Works mission areas: commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration," Darcy continued.

The new federal funding in the Civil Works budget consists of \$4.051 billion from the general fund, \$764.4 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, \$82.3 million from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and \$41 million from Special Recreation User Fees. *(Nashville District release)*



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

Soaring with eagles

Newly-promoted Col. Jeffrey Hager raises his right hand as he is sworn in by Brig. Gen. Tim Crosby during his promotion ceremony Feb. 1 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Hager now serves as the product director for integrations within the Utility Helicopters Project Office. He previously served as the Apache Longbow Block III product manager. "I just want to tell you how proud the Army is, and PEO Aviation, of you," Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said.

Homework plus fun on school-age center's agenda

Elementary children enjoy activities on Arsenal before and after school

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Princesses are fluttering around the Drama/Music Room at the Myra M. Garriott School Age Services Center.

They are dressed in all kinds of glorious attire. The Chinese, Hispanic and African princesses as well as Pocahontas and Rapunzel are dancing, giggling and checking out their "look" in a full-length wall mirror. Also in attendance are two nurses and a doctor, ready to care for them when they don't feel well.

"We are dressing like princesses today," child and youth program assistant Donixsa Convers told her students, rang-

ing from kindergarteners up to fifth-graders, as she helped them into their costumes.

"We are going to combine the princess outfits with the puppets we made, and we will play with all those things. We will also need a doctor and nurses because princesses get sick."

With a bit of instruction, the girls are ready for their debut in a skit about princesses, friendship and helping each other.

Such is the scene on any given day at the School Age Services Center, which offers before-school and after-school programs through Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation's Child and Youth Services Programs. After-school activities are planned daily to involve students, teach them about character and allow them to share fun time with friends.

The after-school program, which begins at about 3 p.m. when the first bus

of students arrives from Williams Elementary School, starts with a snack. The students then plan their afternoons by selecting which areas – sports, drama/music, arts/crafts, activity room, computer lab and homework lab – they want to spend their time in.

The Homework Lab is a busy, but quiet place where several of the older students spend time on math, English, science and social studies assignments.

"We have to do our homework so that we don't get in trouble with our teacher," said fourth-grader John Reid, as he worked on an English paper. "But then I want to show my friends some of the books I've brought with me."

John and his friends, Kamardi Humphrey and James Willard, are all excited about reading "Real Life Mon-

sters," and two of the "Who Would Win?" series, one book comparing polar bears and grizzly bears and the other comparing killer whales and great white sharks.

"Then we are going to the Activity Room!" said Kamardi, who went on to list the activities – a Wii, Wii Fit, Playstation 3, Skateboard and other electronic games – that fill the Activity Room.

In the arts/crafts room, second-grader Jarea Parker, fifth-grader Kylie Courtland and kindergartner Paige Jordan are painting milk-box radios in bright colors.

"We do a lot of fun stuff," Paige said. Arts/crafts teacher Ashley Keith offers a different project for her students to work on every day. Those projects are selected by her students.

"We look through our books and catalogs,

See Children on page 17



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HELPING IS FUN!— Alexis Harris, 9, is always happy to have clean-up duties following snack time at the Myra M. Garriott School Age Services Center. Elementary-age children who attend the SAS program after their school day are provided a snack and then enjoy an afternoon filled with activities, including music and drama, art and physical education.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PLAYING DRESS UP— School Age Services teacher Donixsa Convers helps Ja'Mya Green put on an African princess costume as her young charges get ready to perform in a play about a sick princess, and all the nurses and princesses who help her get better. Waiting for a nurse costume is Natalie Cusker.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HEART FOR LOVE— Kindergartner Paige Jordan is a "sparkly girl" who loves to smile, talk to her friends and make art projects at the School Age Services Center. Her face is framed with a pink and purple heart she made out of large pipe cleaners with the help of art teacher Ashley Keith.

Youngsters select their after-school activities on post Children

continued from page 16

and the children decide what we are going to do. They do the planning and I order the supplies,” she said.

Mary Washington, director for the School Age Services Center, said about 50 children attend the center’s activities

every day. Since the new center opened in the spring of 2009, it continues to get new equipment and supplies for the children.

“We’re still expanding our outdoor playground area,” she said. “We’ve added sewing machines and more stuffed animals, books and digital games. We are in the process of adding more cooking activities. Many of our additions and new programs are decided on after surveying our children and finding out what they want us to offer.”

Besides providing activities, the center’s teachers also concentrate on helping the children develop their character and instilling positive character traits, such as sharing, honesty and politeness.

Before-school and after-school care is offered every school day, from 5 a.m. until children are picked up by their school bus, and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. School Age Services also offers weekend activities during the school year, summer care and camps during school vacations.

The center is open to children of

and retired military, and Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors. Fees are based on income. Registration must be completed at Central Enrollment Registration, building 1500, Weeden Mountain Road, phone 876-3704.

The center is accredited by the National School-Age Care Alliance and the National After School Association. It is located on Youth Center Drive and can be reached at 876-6595. Visitors are always welcomed.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HOMEWORK INCLUDED— Afternoon activities provided by School Age Services personnel aren’t all fun and games. Children are also required to do their homework during their time at the SAS facility. Putting their pencils to work in the homework lab are, from left, third-grader Alexis Harris, and fourth-graders James Willard, Kanareil Humphrey and John Reid.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WAITING FOR ACTION— Andrew Mockenstrum tries to wait patiently for basketball drills as Youth Sports and Fitness program associate Jackie Goodman straightens out the drill line. The group of boys plus one girl were put through lots of running drills before trying their skill at making hoops.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

COLORFUL RADIOS— Fifth-grader Kyli Courtland and second-grader Jarea Parker work on painting milk-box radios with bright colors. The two like to spend their fun time in Arts and Crafts at the School Age Services facility.

Support services available for couples on Redstone Couples

continued from page 1

Mark Smith, commander of Fox Army Health Center. "This is not the Army's fault. It happens. We really want to do everything we can. There's not anything we won't do to help them."

This Valentine's Day season, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program and Bicentennial Chapel will host "Building Better Relationships," a one-day workshop to enhance relationships, Feb. 20 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the chapel's activity room, facilitated by Fisher. The free non-denominational workshop will provide tips and techniques to help couples and individuals, whether they be young, old, married or dating. The program is open to anyone with access to the Arsenal.

"You always need work, to relook at a relationship," Fisher said. "You can never do that enough."

Amy Sears is all too aware of the blessings she and husband, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Sears, find in their marriage. High school sweethearts, the Sears have been happily married nine years, but have witnessed military marriages around them fail. In Sgt. 1st Class Sears' second deployment, 16 couples trusted.

"We know that we can trust each other, no matter the miles or the time," Amy said. "You realize how much you can lose when they're that far away in a dangerous place. I call him and tell him 'I love you. I'm so glad to have you.' We're really lucky to have found what we have."

While Sara Fisher and Amy Sears both knew when they said, "I do," that they were not only saying yes to their husbands, but also to the Army, the challenges of being part of a military marriage haven't been any easier.

"All of the TDYs and deployments can put a lot of pressure on a marriage," Dempsey said. "Sometimes absence makes the heart grow fonder, and sometimes it doesn't. It's not a job, it's a 24/7 commitment. The Army decides where you go and what you're going to do."

For the Sears and the Fisher families, those decisions have sent husbands to war zones and turned wives into head of household, father and mother all in one. As their husbands deal with convoy attacks and mortar hits, Amy and Sara must feed the children, pay the bills, take out the garbage and get the oil changed, hardly the happily ever after some brides dream of on their wedding day.

"To be an Army couple, you both need to buy into the Army lifestyle," Sara said. It is Amy's constant support for her husband's work that allows her to say goodbye with each deployment, knowing that there will be rough times ahead.

"He's never wavered or fought to stay back when he could have," Amy said. "Part of me says, 'Why not?' The other part of me says that's his job. He's there for that part of his family. I don't think I tell him enough how proud of him I am. He was made to be a Soldier. I can't picture him doing anything else. This is what he does. This is who he is."

When the time to say goodbye comes, Amy is well-prepared. Utilizing Yahoo! Messenger, webcams, care packages, e-mails and old-fashioned letters to bridge the gap, Eric and Amy are able to keep up the most important element of their relationship – communication – even as Eric is working on his mission overseas. While the two don't keep secrets from each other, for the good of her Soldier, Amy doesn't share all the daily complaints, such as the dog getting into the trash. Likewise, Eric doesn't share all the stories from the war.

"Don't hide something because you think it will hurt, be upfront," Amy advises spouses on what to share with their Soldier. "But pick what bad things you tell them. Make sure they know what's going on, but the little

hear war stories. "Some day he'll tell me what's happened," Amy said, noting that spouses should not take it personally if their Soldier doesn't want to share what happened during their deployment. "But nothing will change if he doesn't want to talk about that. It's open. Nothing he can do or say can change how I feel. He comes back and you can tell each time he's a little different."

"Have grace," Sara recommends. "Don't expect things to immediately be as they were before, if they ever are. He's changed. You've changed."

Dempsey advises couples to be on the lookout for signs of post-traumatic stress or other emotional problems, and to seek help immediately by calling Fox Army Health Center.

"The spouse might need to make the call for them," Dempsey said. "Soldiers shouldn't travel the path by themselves. You are a family. PTSD can have an effect on everyone."

For couples considering divorce, Dempsey and Fisher emphasize the need to take a step back before making any big decisions.

"There are reasons you chose each other, and even if you don't like each other right now, deep down there still may be a lot of love and care," Dempsey said. "Give it a shot. Try to make it work, because you might lose a lot that you have invested in that relationship."

"Don't," Fisher said of the decision to divorce. "Put a time limit on it. You've got the rest of your life to live, can't you give this person six months? A year? During that time divorce is off the table. You can't talk about it. Go back to a place where you can press the reset button."

If that reset button is nowhere to be found, Fisher recommends looking to your spouse's strengths, rather than weaknesses.

"When you fell in love with them, you didn't see the weaknesses, you were blind to it," Fisher said. "When you make the marriage work, you focus on the strengths."

"It's sort of like a mental spa," Breeden said. "You get the pampered treatment. Now is the time to try new things." Both women attribute the success of their husbands' deployments to the support they receive from the Army through various organizations and support programs, such as PWOC – Protestant Women of the Chapel – and ACS, which is there every step of the way for waiting spouses and their children. Redstone's welcoming atmosphere has been a godsend for Amy, who has become the ACS volunteer coordinator in preparation for her husband's third deployment this spring.

"I love that there's not the rank barrier here," Amy said. "To have the major and the colonel say they're here for you, that's really cool. ACS is key. It costs nothing but the courage to walk in the front door and say, 'I need help.'"

At the end of a deployment, the couple's journey doesn't end when the Soldier is welcomed home. Figuring out whose roles fit where, whether it is as simple as who takes out the trash, takes time. The first step, Fisher said, is to acknowledge what your family has been through, and move forward from there.

"Post-traumatic stress goes both ways," Fisher said. "We get into my year was worse than your year, and that fight is so destructive. We have to accept that everybody's year was not fun. It was traumatic. You've both walked a hard road. Let's put that bad year behind us and move on."

Reconnecting as a couple, Dempsey stresses, is key in relationship building after a deployment.

"It's important to start the courtship all over," Dempsey said. "With the Soldiers, their focus has been on the mission, for the spouses it has been keeping the home fires burning. You have to reinvent the family."

"It's like getting married all over again," Amy said of the transition. "You have to figure out who fits where."

Giving the returning Soldier space and time to readjust to being at home is key, Amy said, and to not expect to

hear war stories. "Some day he'll tell me what's happened," Amy said, noting that spouses should not take it personally if their Soldier doesn't want to share what happened during their deployment. "But nothing will change if he doesn't want to talk about that. It's open. Nothing he can do or say can change how I feel. He comes back and you can tell each time he's a little different."

"Have grace," Sara recommends. "Don't expect things to immediately be as they were before, if they ever are. He's changed. You've changed."

Dempsey advises couples to be on the lookout for signs of post-traumatic stress or other emotional problems, and to seek help immediately by calling Fox Army Health Center.

"The spouse might need to make the call for them," Dempsey said. "Soldiers shouldn't travel the path by themselves. You are a family. PTSD can have an effect on everyone."

For couples considering divorce, Dempsey and Fisher emphasize the need to take a step back before making any big decisions.

"There are reasons you chose each other, and even if you don't like each other right now, deep down there still may be a lot of love and care," Dempsey said. "Give it a shot. Try to make it work, because you might lose a lot that you have invested in that relationship."

"Don't," Fisher said of the decision to divorce. "Put a time limit on it. You've got the rest of your life to live, can't you give this person six months? A year? During that time divorce is off the table. You can't talk about it. Go back to a place where you can press the reset button."

If that reset button is nowhere to be found, Fisher recommends looking to your spouse's strengths, rather than weaknesses.

"When you fell in love with them, you didn't see the weaknesses, you were blind to it," Fisher said. "When you make the marriage work, you focus on the strengths."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Birthday party

Members of the AMCOM command group gather in the commanding general's conference room Feb. 3 to honor Alice Myles, right, whose 57th birthday was Feb. 2. She is the wife of Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command. Applauding is Carolyn Caudle, the general's executive assistant.

Bicentennial Chapel offers bridge to faith

Contemporary Christian service focuses on closer walk with God

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Just a little after 6 on Sunday nights the sounds of praise music can be heard in the halls at Bicentennial Chapel, calling adults, teens and children from classrooms to join in a celebratory, reflective and heart-touching worship service focused on helping them build a special connection with God.

“The Bridge at Redstone” is a new service offering at Bicentennial Chapel begun last fall to reach out to those who are looking for a casual worship experience. Its music – led by worship pastor Andy Good on guitar – and its message – offered by either Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie of the Garrison or Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion — are contemporary in nature, reaching out to those who are looking for an alternative to traditional church services.

“This is the type of service that appeals to a lot of people,” Luckie said. “It’s modern. It’s relevant. It’s forward thinking. The music and message help us to reflect on our journey and celebrate our journey of faith.”

“We are focused on families, single Soldiers, teenagers and kids. Our vision for Sunday night is to provide them with a



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORSHIP TEAM— Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie, foreground, leads the worship team that coordinates worship during The Bridge at Redstone on Sunday nights at Bicentennial Chapel. The team includes from left, pastor Darrell Good, worship pastor Andy Good and Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher. The Bridge begins at 5 p.m. each Sunday with dinner followed by a 5:30 Bible study and a 6:15 worship.

sense of community and a place where they can find their own bridge to God.”

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with fellowship over a meal. It continues at 5:30 with a small group Bible study program based on the evening’s message. The worship service begins at 6:15 in the chapel.

“We want to provide a time when people can come together, and develop a community and relationships with each other,” Luckie said. “That sense of community is built around a meal. Then, relationships are made during open and honest discussion in our small groups. It all comes together during the worship.”

Sunday night topics revolve around building a deeper faith and walk with God. The theme for each week’s worship sermon is used in the small group discussions.

“Our discussions are about our faith and how our faith impacts our actions,” Fisher said. “Our small groups coordinate with what we are doing in the worship. We use age-appropriate materials with the different groups in teaching how to walk with God and how to talk with God. It’s all intertwined and meant to encourage open thought and involvement. It’s a very participatory service.”

For The Bridges’ young audience – the elementary-age children – hands-on activities, art projects, songs and games are used to help them understand the concepts of Christianity, said Scott Shuffler, who volunteers to work with the children with his wife, Kimberly, and

who is employed as director of Youth Services.

“We find ways to add value to the overall experience for the children. We find ways they can express the truth that is being presented that evening,” Shuffler said. “We want to make them feel like the evening is for them as well as for the adults.”

Shuffler holds a degree in Christian education and his wife has a degree in psychology. Both have the resources and experience to plan Bible student programs each week for the children.

“We want to provide a quality program for the kids,” Shuffler said. “We spend time sharing things they want us to pray about. Everyone gets their time as the center of attention and that’s important when you are connecting with these children.”

Also getting their time within their own Bible study group are the teens who attend The Bridge, which is part of the chapel’s overall youth program that also includes Tuesday and

Thursday night Bible studies along with other special activities.

“As we teach the Bible to the youth, we want it to become real and applicable to their lives. The Bridge helps us with that,” said youth pastor Darrell Good, who is assisted in the ministry by his wife, Cheryl.

“Our weekly programs are a platform that leads to The Bridge on Sunday nights. It’s very important to help these kids develop good friendships that will follow them through life and develop a closer relationship with God so that they feel His presence in their lives.”

Coordinating the small group discussions with the sermon theme is essential to creating an experience that worshippers can respond to on a personal level.

“We want everyone talking about the same thing in the small groups. We want everyone going in the same direction and focused in the same way so that the worship service carries a deeper meaning for them,” Luckie said.

Although The Bridge is a new offering on the Arsenal, contemporary worship services have been offered by many local churches for several years. While the contemporary nature of The Bridge is appealing to all age groups, Luckie said it especially connects with youth.

“We still offer our traditional church services on Sunday mornings,” Luckie said. “But this service is meaningful to those who want to know how to have a conversation with God. It is meaningful to people who are asking ‘What is it about

See **Bridge** on page 22



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SINGING GOD’S PRAISE— Worship pastor Andy Good brings a lot of Christian contemporary music to the congregation at The Bridge at Redstone. Worshipers sing along with Good with the aid of song lyrics projected on a large screen.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MESSAGE OF FAITH— Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Fisher talks about faith and leadership during The Bridge at Redstone worship service. He relied on stories from his own personal experience with God to connect with worshippers during a recent Bridge service.

Wolfpack shoots past Headquarters & Alpha

Charlie Company heats up in second half vs. Gators

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

The Charlie Company basketball team had a slow start last week.

The Wolfpack found itself trailing Headquarters & Alpha 33-26 at halftime Feb. 1 in Pagano Gym. But Charlie got on track after intermission.

Robert Patterson scored 22 points, including three 3-pointers, as the Wolfpack beat the Gators 64-47. Michael Greenhouse and Desmond Williams added 11 points apiece. Williams also had three 3-pointers.

“Overall we persevered throughout the game and came on for the win,” Charlie coach James Akers said.

Akers wasn’t there but watched the footage later. Assistant coach Tomeka Moten led the Wolfpack (2-1) in his absence.

Jared Little scored 16 and David Howard 10 for Headquarters & Alpha (1-2).

Bravo-2 55, Marines 41: The Bulldogs earned their first win while giving the Marines their first loss.

Keith Walker scored 16 and Jason Holmes 13 for Bravo-2 (1-2). The Bulldogs led 28-18 at halftime.

The Marines (2-1) were led by Damian Cason with 17 and Justin Billings 14.

On Feb. 3, the 326th Chemical Company defeated Bravo-1 51-43; and Charlie beat the National Guard 67-43.

On Feb. 4, Bravo-2 edged the defending champion HHC 59th 55-54; and the Marines stopped Headquarters & Alpha

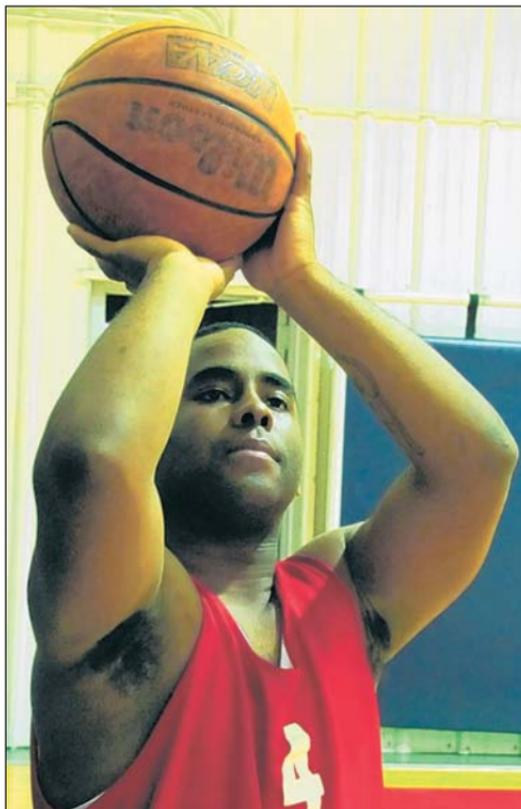


Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON POINT— Charlie Company point guard Desmond Williams scores 11, including three 3-pointers, in a 64-47 win over Headquarters & Alpha on Feb. 1.

45-41.

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

Air Cavalry Brigade first to employ new Unmanned Aircraft System

By Sgt. TRAVIS ZIELINSKI

1st Air Cavalry Brigade,
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI – Placing a new aircraft in a combat situation is a true test of its capabilities and future role within the Army.

Unmanned aircraft systems have become a mainstay in military operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom; injecting new concepts and technologies will only further push the uses of these aircraft.



Courtesy photo

ON DUTY— After completing a 24-hour mission, an MQ-1C Sky Warrior aircraft from Quick Reaction Capability 1, attached to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-Center, makes a landing Jan. 11. The Soldiers of QRC1 conduct daily operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Quick Reaction Capability 1, attached to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-Center, is a small unit of 16 Soldiers deployed from Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training Battalion out of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., that has spent the past months putting the new MQ-1C Sky Warrior UAS through numerous tests to help Army officials determine the path of the unmanned aircraft systems.

The Sky Warrior, a system larger than the Predator, is operated by Soldiers in Iraq as opposed to being flown remotely from the United States. It has a wing span of 56 feet and is capable of carrying

Hellfire missiles.

The Army wanted QRC1 to be assigned to the Baghdad area of operations; and since the 1st Cavalry Division was in charge of operations for Baghdad at the time, the unit fell under 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, said Capt. Travis Blaschke, from Spokane, Wash., commander of QRC1.

“This aircraft is in its infancy. The aircraft that we have right now on the flight line are the first aircraft produced by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems and deployed by the Army,” Blaschke said. “All of the aircraft were built during the Development and Testing phase of the acquisition process, which means all the aircraft are prototypes.”

Even though the Sky Warrior is still in a testing phase, it is being used in missions to support units on the ground. Through these missions, the QRC1 unit is gathering data to determine the direction the program will go.

■ Contemporary service draws worshippers to chapel

Bridge

continued from page 20

this journey call discipleship that is important for me to grow spiritually?”

“It’s about everyday living with God and discipleship with God. It’s about becoming a better person, and growing and maturing in your faith.”

Contemporary services appeal to youth because of the upbeat music and dynamic message. At The Bridge, much of worship is spent in song, using music from today’s popular contemporary Christian musicians and projecting the words of the songs on a large screen so that worshippers can sing along.

“The music really resonates with them personally in this generation,” Andy Good said. “Just like with hymns written in the style of long ago, it resonates and connects the truth to them in a new and interesting way. We are having to think of new and creative ways to get the word out to people and to strengthen the community of Christians.”

On a recent Sunday night, worshippers talked about leadership, and the healthy

and unhealthy characteristics of leadership in their small groups, based on Luke 11:42-54. During worship, Fisher added his favorite Biblical passage — Psalm 73 — to the sermon, in which he talked about how a crisis within his family forced him to assume the yolk of leadership at a young age, and how the crisis caused him to question his own faith in God.

“We’re all on our journey of faith,” Fisher said. “We are learning together and gleaning together, and leaning on each other as we join together. Together we have the strength and courage to commit even more to the things of God.”

With a worship service that encourages participation and expression, Luckie said it is hoped The Bridge touches worshippers in many ways.

“We want to engage the mind, body and emotion, and have a communion with God in a way that helps us answer the question ‘How does our faith meet today’s walk of life?’” Luckie said.

During prayer time at a recent Bridge worship service, Pvt. John Gallagher, who is in training at Redstone Arsenal, thanked the worship team for offering the contemporary service.

“It’s great to have an uplifting group like this to keep our hearts with God,” he said.

**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 "LoggingOnTo-Courage.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.

Genealogical society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Main Branch, Auditorium. "Looking at Brickwalls and Solutions" will be presented by speaker David Byers. For information call 883-5650.

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.

Engineer society

SOLE Tennessee Valley Chapter will hold

a luncheon Feb. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Lane Collie, principal deputy G-3/5 for operations/executive deputy for supply chain and Industrial Operations Command Forward senior representative, will speak on Supply Chain Transformation. Cost is \$20 for non-members (\$15 for members). For reservations call Jane Campbell 544-1001 or Dave Welch 489-1688.

Aviation symposium

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

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. "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.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday 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.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10. The speaker Dr. Michael Pugh will address dental concerns and procedures unique to elder dental care; and he will 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 tonytwilliams57@aol.com.

Defense acquisition alumni

The Defense Acquisition University-South
See Announcements on page 24



Photo by Pfc. Bailey A. Jester

Hometown hero

Huntsville native and 2nd Lt. John Andrew Wilson, left, was a platoon leader assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, when this picture was taken Dec. 12 in Iraq. He was visiting an Iraqi federal police unit to gather some missing information for the units' continuity book at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal. The 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers were compiling missing information to pass on to the incoming unit. Wilson, a Grissom High graduate, returned to Fort Hood, Texas, after his deployment.

Rocket Announcements

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 SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9435 or Chief Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

See Announcements on page 25



Photo by Jack Carney

Bronze Star

Staff Sgt. Wyatt Brown, center, is presented the Bronze Star medal Jan. 8 by Logistics Support Activity commander Col. James Rentz, left. Looking on is Col. Brian Tenney, commander of headquarters AMC Army Reserve Element. Brown, currently assigned to the Army Reserve Sustainment Command, LOGSA Detachment, has returned from his third deployment to Southwest Asia and is being assigned to the LOGSA Army Oil Analysis Program, Program Management Office. The Bronze Star citation recognizes him for "exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the wholesale responsible officer for the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Burgers on the go

Redstone Arsenal's new Burger King officially opens with the cutting of a patriotic ribbon during its grand opening celebration last Friday. Doing the honors are, from left, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper, Burger King manager Randy Cartwright, Post Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo and Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli. Burger King, which is managed through the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, has been a part of the Arsenal community since 1986. Pastorelli called Burger King's new facility a "well-needed facelift" in a better location near the PX/Commissary mall. The old Burger King facility will be renovated and possibly used for a coffee shop.

Civilian deployment

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

Motorcycle safety

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

Reserve unit

If you have several years invested in your military career, you do not want conflicts

between Reserve duty and civilian life to keep you from earning 20 qualifying years. The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Spc. Liddle at jennifer.liddle@us.army.mil or visit <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

Evening on Bayou

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold one of its main fund-raisers of the year that will benefit military families and other non-profit organizations supporting the military. The Evening on the Bayou, a collaborative effort with OCWC members, will be held Feb. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Officers and Civilians Club. There will be food, silent auction, live music and dancing, beer and wine tasting, and various other activities. Proceeds will be used to further community assistance and merit award programs such as scholarships, donations to other supporting military events, and assistance to military families. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. The event is open to individuals with gate access. For tickets or more information, call 489-3009 or visit www.redstoneocwc.org.

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.

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.

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.

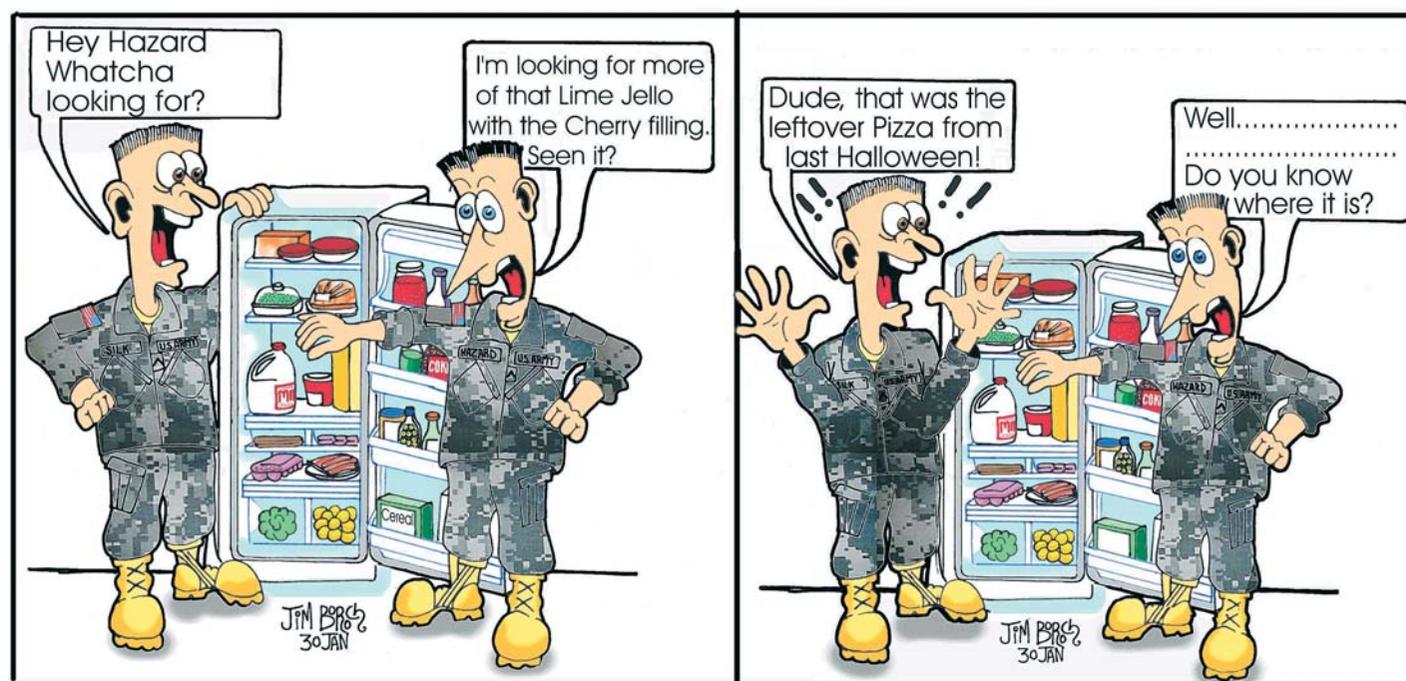
Buffalo Soldiers monument

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.

Newly created command

The Army Reserve Sustainment Command is looking for Individual Ready Reserve, National Guard, and traditional Troop Program Unit Soldiers interested in serving in the newly created ARSC. It

See Announcements on page 27



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

THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL

SCBK10976895	Management Analyst	5-Feb-10	IMMC	GS-0343	11	12	57,408 - 89,450			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					
SCBK10980343	Staff Assistant (OA)	8-Feb-10	LOGSA	GS-0303	7	7	39,422 - 51,253						X	X	X				
SCBK10930460R	General Engineer	8-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	81,532 - 105,993	X											
SCBK10020012	Secretary (OA)	9-Feb-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-0318	5	5	31,825 - 41,369								X				
SCBK10031190	Historian	9-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0170	13	13	83,156 - 108,102		X		X	X		X	X				
SCBK10031190D	Historian	9-Feb-10	SMDC	GS-0170	13	13	83,156 - 108,102												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	
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											
SCBK10036508	Equipment Specialist	15-Feb-10	TMDE	GS-1670	12	12	69,930 - 90,907						X	X	X			X	
SCBK109527031	Safety Engineer	16-Feb-10	Safety Office	GS-0803	14	14	96,346 - 125,254	X											
SCBK10CRP80003	Interdisciplinary Engineers	16-Feb-10	USA Engr & Sup Center	YD-0800 Series	2	2	47,214 - 108,101						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK10943350	Program Intergration Support Specialist	16-Feb-10	USA Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0301	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X	X										
SCBK10045307	Supv Logistics Management Specialist	16-Feb-10	USASAC	YC-0346	3	3	98,265 - 127,743			X				X	X			X	
SCBK10040776	Product Integrator	16-Feb-10	USA Acq Sup Ctn	GS-0301	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X						X				X	
SCBK10007219	Aerospace Engineer	16-Feb-10	RDECOM	DB-0861	3	3	69,930 - 108,102				X	X		X	X			X	
SCBK10065412	Interdisciplinary Psychologist/Soc Work	17-Feb-10	USA Med Dprt Activity Cmd Grp	GS-185/180	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			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	
SCBK10001715	Aerospace Engineer	25-Feb-10	RDECOM	DB-0861	3	3	69,930 - 108,102						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	
SCBK10002839	General Engineer	1-Mar-10	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X											
SCBK10045290	General Engineer	2-Mar-10	RDECOM	DB-0801	4	4	98,265 - 150,266	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	
SCBK09783545OC	Contract Specialist	22-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	14	14	96,346 - 125,254		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	
SCBK09783534OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	12	12	68,564 - 89,128		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	
SCBK10048145	Security Asst Program Specialist	30-Sep-10	USASAC	GS-0301	11	13	58,343 - 108,102						X	X	X			X	
SCBK09783548OC	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	YA-1102	3	3	96,346 - 147,332						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK09783541OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-10	AMCOM Contracting CMD	GS-1102	13	13	81,532 - 105,993		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	

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

- A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
- B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
- C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
- D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
- E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements) (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 viewed on the web at www.redstonemwr.com or you may telephone **876-7772**.

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 & NEAE04756647**, for more information.

...eeks logistics, acquisition, aviation and other MOS/branches/specialties E-6 through E-8 and first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. The ARSC provides augmentation support to the Army Material Command and its major subordinate commands such as LOGSA, ARDEC, ARDEC, TACOM, CECOM, USASAC, JMC, etc. throughout the U.S. It also has opportunities for qualified Soldiers in the Defense Contract Management Agency. Potential voluntary mobilizations are possible/available subject to overseas contingency operations and CONUS requirements. It asks for the least three OERs/NCOERs and a current military bio/resume for placement. The contact is Col. Mario Aguirre at mario.aguirre@us.army.mil.

Thrift shop

Escape from the cold at the Thrift Shop's "Big Winter Sale." It features 75 percent off many items – including new clothing, shoes, boots and purses, plus new things arriving every day. Visit any Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 9-4, Thursday from 9-5 or the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. The shop's at building 3209 on Hercules Road off Patton.

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.

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>.

New employee orientation

The next New Employee Orientation for civilian employees will be held Feb. 23 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. NEO participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Civilian Personnel Advisory Center director remarks, Staffing/Classification Procedures, Employee Benefits, Human Resources Development, Management and Employee Relations and Labor, American Federation of Government Employees, Employee Payroll, Equal Employment Opportunity, Legal, Communication Security, Defense

Acquisition University, Employee Assistance Program, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Safety. For more information on how to participate in NEO, call LaToya Davis Ragan 313-0286 or Jessie McCray 876-4803. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by Feb. 23 in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.

Scholarship fund-raiser

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, Council and Court 286, St. Joseph Catholic Community, Huntsville, will hold its seventh annual Scholarship Valentine-Champagne Luncheon fund-raiser Saturday 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 www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html.

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.

Rocket Announcements

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.

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 College 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/D_AU_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>.

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.

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.

Special Forces briefing

Soldiers are invited to a Special Forces Briefing today and Thursday at noon and 4:30 p.m. at Post Retention, building 3493. APFT will be determined at the briefing. For information call Sgt. 1st Class Norman or Sgt. 1st Class Proefrock (877) 671-7942 or (877) 842-8548.

Print shop

Document Automation & Production Service, aka the Print Shop, will have an open house and 60th anniversary celebration Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 5688 on Wood Road. For information call 876-2759.

Commissary news

The Commissary is closed Presidents Day, Feb. 15 and open Feb. 16.

Relationships workshop

Bicentennial Chapel and the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program are hosting a one-day workshop designed to provide tips and techniques to enhance your relationship. "Building Better Relationships," led by Chaplain Jonathan R. Fisher, marriage and family counselor, will be held Feb. 20 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel Activity Room. The free event is open to all active, retired, Reserve and Guard military, Army civilians, contractors and their spouses or significant others. Participants will receive a continental breakfast, sandwich lunch and afternoon snack. Childcare will be provided at the Child Development Center, where lunch and snacks will be provided. You must pre-register. To register visit Army Community Service at building 3338 or call 876-5397.