

# Redstone Rocket

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## 'We did our best to support Soldiers'



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, will be stepping down from military service May 6. He will retire with 38 years of service, including three years as the commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.**

*Retiring general and wife leave legacy as they enter new chapter of service*

**By KARI HAWKINS**  
Assistant editor  
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As he walks out the door following his retirement, the Army Materiel Command's Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury will leave behind a 38-year legacy of working in support of Soldiers.

But, for this senior Army aviator, retirement isn't about legacies. It's about beginning a new chapter in his own story of military service with his wife, Becky, at his side.

"There's excitement, sadness, sorrow," Pillsbury said. "Becky and I are excited about the future. And that future is going to be right here in Huntsville."

Pillsbury's retirement is very much a

two-person affair. Becky has been as integral to the Army's mission as her husband and she is known in the Huntsville community as a founder of Still Serving Veterans, a national organization that provides social services support to veterans of all branches. While Pillsbury's Army career will be the focus of a retirement ceremony May 6 at 3 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium, a May 5 retirement dinner at the Von Braun Center's North Hall will honor both Pillsbury and his wife.

"At the end of the day, I have tried to serve our Soldiers as best I can," Pillsbury said. "I hope people can look back at Jim and Becky Pillsbury and know we did our best to support the Soldiers."

Pillsbury's current assignment as AMC's deputy commander brought him to Redstone in January. But his relationship with the installation and the local community stretches back much further than that to the days when he served as

commander of the Aviation and Missile Command from December 2003 to July 2007.

"Huntsville was a pleasant surprise for us," he said. "After six months, we decided to retire here. We coaxed our children to move here and both are now working on Redstone Arsenal. And we have a grandbaby here, too. I don't know what the future holds for me, but our location is Huntsville."

The lieutenant general is well known at AMCOM for his dry sense of humor and his passion for University of Texas football. He is also well known among community leaders for his work in the early days of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations that brought AMC to Redstone. Because of his close association with Redstone, it was only fitting that Pillsbury was the first AMC headquarters general officer to raise his flag at Redstone, with

**See Pillsbury on page 8**

### MONEY MATTERS

Redstone Tax Center closes books on a record-setting year with 3,955 returns prepared for the military community.

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### AVIATION UPDATE

The Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition convenes in Nashville.

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### AROUND TOWN

Local schools provide a variety of arts endeavors for students.

**PAGE 22**

### WIN OR LOSE

Charlie Company captures Redstone's final unit-level softball championship.

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# RocketViews

What do you think of Bring Your Child to Work Day, April 28?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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**Pennie Martin**

Product Director, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment  
“I don’t care. I’m going to be in Hawaii (laugh).”



**Gregory Knight**

Product Director, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment  
“I think it is an excellent way to give your child firsthand opportunity to see what you do for a living. Plus it

gives them an idea of maybe this is something they want to do in the future.”



**Cindy Bates**

Garrison Directorate of Logistics

“I believe it’s a good experience for those kids to come and see what their parents do. I have eight kids and I have brought all of

them to my job at one time or another, utilizing that program. I had fun and my kids did, too. I think it’s great.”



**Bruce Howard**

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

“I think it’s great. I think it’s an opportunity for the kids to see what their parents do.”

## Letters to the Editor

### Cyclers appreciate paved shoulders on road

The cycling community sends out a big thanks to the Directorate of Public Works and Traffic Engineering for some extra asphalt. Cyclists have been requesting, pleading and hoping for paved shoulders on Redstone for many years. Well, some are appearing! Thanks to DPW for implementing a partial solution to the highly traveled Martin Road.

There are a lot of roads on Redstone that could use design improvements to be safer for cyclists, but Martin Road is a good place to start. There are smooth asphalt shoulders going in along Martin Road between Patton and Toftoy roads. I discovered that the eastbound shoulder is nearly completed. It’s about 4 feet wide and surely improved my ride out to south Huntsville last week. I’m sure the dozens of bike commuters and the thousands of motorists who drive this way daily will agree that this is an improvement. We can hardly wait until the westbound

shoulder is finished! Maybe it will be done by May, National Bike Month?

The other small shoulder project recently completed was the narrow but useable shoulders on the Neal Road hill. The improvement in safety on that stretch of road is much appreciated!

Let’s not forget that the west end of Martin Road out to Gate 7 is also being widened and the plans call for 4-foot shoulders between Patton and Martin roads. The city of Huntsville will also widen Martin Road going west outside Gate 7, and 5-foot bike lanes will be signed and paint-striped all the way past Wall-Triana Highway. Soon, both Martin Road gates will be much safer for bikes and offer easier bicycle access from the west and parts of the city of Madison.

Even the smooth black extension of the bike/pedestrian recreational trail along Digney and Morris roads may be useable

for some cyclists, although it will be mainly utilized by joggers who will no longer have to run in the road.

Now, what about Martin Road between Rideout and Toftoy? I wonder if there are plans to add some asphalt shoulders to that stretch of road, too?

**Jamie Miernik**

secretary, MARS Team  
Redstone Alliance for Cycling

*Editor’s note: The Garrison provided the following response. “Thank you for your comments regarding the construction of a new fitness trail, and shoulder pavement along Martin Road. Phase 1 of the Martin Road shoulder paving extends from Patton Road to Toftoy, which is currently under construction. Phase 2 will provide shoulder paving on Martin Road from Toftoy to Rideout, and was not funded for 2010. We will continue to pursue funding for completion of Phase 2.”*

### Slow down to catch up with what really matters



**Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Kinder**

We live in a fast-paced, hectic stressful world. Do you ever feel like you’re rushing through life? Our society helps us to hurry with fast food, expressways, Jiffy Lube, Express Mail, drive-through lanes and express checkout.

You are probably familiar with the type A personality characterized particularly by a sense of time urgency and impatience. This is demonstrated by people who, among other things get frustrated while waiting in line, interrupt others often, walk or talk at a rapid pace, and are always painfully aware

of the time and how little of it they have to spare.

Perhaps, you didn’t know where the term type A personality got its start. It was coined by a cardiologist named Myer Friedman who noticed that all of the chairs in his office needed re-upholstering. When the upholsterer arrived, he quickly called Dr. Friedman to show him something peculiar about the chairs. He pointed out that the chairs were only worn out on the edge of the seat. Everything

**See Chaplain on page 3**

### Quote of the Week

“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.”

— Bill Cosby

### Help preserve the river of the great bend

The southern-most extent of Redstone Arsenal is bounded by the shores of the Tennessee River. The river originates up near Knoxville and flows for more than 652 miles to where it empties out into the Ohio River at Paducah, Ky. The river gets its name from an English translation of the

Cherokee word “Tanese,” meaning “great bend.” The Native American tribes used this term to describe the river and its sudden change in direction near our present day city of Guntersville. As the river flows across north Alabama, it passes through

**See River on page 10**

## RedstoneRocket

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# Commands co-sponsor safety day in May

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency will host a safety awareness day to promote safety awareness for the community.

The third annual Joint Safety Awareness Day will take place in the parking lot of building 5220 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 11. Its purpose is to help minimize the risk of unintentional death, injury or damage caused by mishaps and to promote proactive measures within the work force, as well as during leisure activities.

The day's activities will focus on safety demonstrations and inspections performed by members of Redstone Arsenal and its surrounding communities.

Exhibits and safety demonstrations

will include: tornado shelters; motorcycle safety; lawn mower safety; dangerous insects, spiders and snakes; worn tires; drunk driving simulation; fire extinguisher use; boating safety; fireplace safety, air duct cleaning and dryer vent cleaning; blood pressure checks; wood working; Radon; hunting safety; drug and alcohol awareness and severe weather information with a live weather remote.

Lunch will be served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and will be catered by the Officers and Civilians Club. Hamburgers and hot dogs along with side items will be offered. The cost is \$4 and prepaid tickets can be purchased by calling Barbara Dixon, SMDC/ARSTRAT, at 955-2775, or Darryl Jones, MDA, at 955-1823.

## Chaplain

continued from page 2

else looked fine. Friedman concluded that his patients were generally impatient and frustrated that they had to wait to be seen and consequently sat on the edge of their seats eager to be seen and get out as quickly as possible. Friedman saw a direct correlation between their heart disease and hypertension and then type A behavior. He commented, "We suffer in our society from hurry sickness, a disease that kills us both physically and spiritually."

This hurried lifestyle results in an exhausted society. According to a recent survey, more than 70 million Americans suffer from insomnia more than two nights a week. In the same survey they asked Americans what they would do if they were given one extra hour each day to use (25 hours vs. 24 hours), what they would do with it. The No. 1 answer was sleep – not climb mountains, do great deeds, or live life to the fullest.

Many of us have a difficult time disengaging from work. It becomes our preoccupation as well as our occupation. Our minds are racing day and night concerning how to handle work-related issues and problems. We even bring our work home with us.

I recall a story I heard about a father who always dragged his briefcase full of "homework" back to the house every night. Right after dinner he would immediately gravitate to the study to focus on his work for hours. His 6-year-old son, observing this night after night became frustrated with the lack of quality time his dad was spending with him.

One day he asked, "How come you always bring work home with you, Dad?" His dad responded, "Because I couldn't get it all done at the office." The boy contemplated

his father's answer for a minute and then asked, "Well, Dad, couldn't they just put you in a slower group or something?"

I bet a lot of us wouldn't mind being put into a slower group on occasion. And God is interested in our lifestyle as well. He states in Psalms 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." God also created the Sabbath for us to take a day off each week, and recover from our hectic schedule.

Allow me to make a distinction to help clarify this. There is nothing wrong with having a good work ethic and being busy. A good work ethic is emphasized in the Scripture as a positive trait. However, being a workaholic to the detriment of family, friends and other priorities is unhealthy. Likewise being continuously in a hurried state and rushing through life are hazardous to our health.

God's own Son was constantly busy which is our external condition of the body. He traveled extensively teaching and healing. But He was never hurried which is a condition of the soul. You can't listen to people in a hurry. You can't effectively love others in a hurry. When your life has become so frantic and preoccupied, it constrains you from receiving love from the Father and giving love to others.

So, today I encourage you to ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Things will never settle down if you wait to get around to what really matters. You will never do what God made you to do. You will never become what God made you to become. Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual resiliency, and only you can eliminate it – not your spouse, not your friends, not your boss. Start today! Your spiritual health will benefit. Have a fantastic day.

**Chaplain (Col.) Doug Kinder**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT  
command chaplain

## Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

**Name:** Staff Sgt. Jeremy Tindell

**Job:** Career counselor, 2nd Recruiting Brigade

**Where do you call home?**  
San Diego, Calif.

**What do you like about your job?**

I'd say interaction with Soldiers on a day-to-day basis. Being able to meet their needs, wants and desires. And helping direct their career path in the Army.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I'm currently enjoying my 10-month-old daughter (Ava Grace). I like to cook. I also enjoy golfing, riding motorcycles and spending time with my wife (Kimberly).

**What are your goals?**

Short-term goal is I'm starting my bachelor's degree in business administration (through Post University, an online college). Getting promoted – that's a short-term goal as well. My long-term goal is to eventually get a



master's degree and just to solidify my career for sergeant major.

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

I would probably have to say visiting some of the foreign countries that I've never been to – like Australia and New Zealand. And actually doing the tourist aspect of being in a foreign country as opposed to military work.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for April 14-20:

**April 14:** When a contractor was stopped for speeding on Patton Road, he had a suspended license. He received two violation notices.

**April 16:** Someone damaged a glass display window at the Post Exchange food court.

**April 17:** The Zierdt Road perimeter fence was damaged during an off-post traffic accident.

**April 17:** The Patton Road perimeter fence was damaged during an off-post traffic accident.

**April 17:** A Soldier was arrested by Somerville Police for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police and processed back to his Fort Hood, Texas, unit.

**April 18:** Someone passed a counterfeit 10 dollar bill at the Burger King.

**April 18:** A Soldier is being investigated for allegedly extorting money from another Soldier for use of govern-

ment property within their assigned barracks room.

**April 18:** A Soldier was arrested by Fultondale Police for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who processed him back to his unit in Germany.

**April 18:** A travel trailer and generator were reported stolen from a Buxton Road location.

**April 19:** A contractor was driving with a suspended license at the Ride-out Road Visitor Center. He received a violation notice.

**April 19:** A Soldier was arrested by Blount County deputies for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who will escort him to Fort Knox, Ky.

**April 20:** A Soldier is being investigated for making several personal gasoline purchases using a government credit card.

**Traffic accidents reported:** two with injury, three without injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 10 speeding, 2 suspended driver's license, 1 expired driver's license, 2 failure to yield.

## CommunityNews

## NCO/Soldier quarterly recognition will continue after troops leave



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are the third quarter honorees Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Williams and Spc. Hope Univers and fourth quarter honorees Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Waddell and Spc. Miguel Perez.

### Community thanked for honoring troops

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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The announcement from Redstone's Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates was well-received by representatives from the local community.

During the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter recognition luncheon held Thursday, Yates said the program will continue next year. Many of the troops are leaving for Fort Lee, Va., under the 2005 base realignment and closure decisions.

"We are not going to stop the Soldier boards," Yates said. "We are going to continue doing them."

Yates plans to retire in July 2012 and stay in the local community.

"I want to thank the community for what you do every day for our Soldiers here at Redstone," he said.

Organizations and businesses presented gifts to the honorees for the third and fourth quarters. About 80 people attended the luncheon at the Community Activity Center.

The third quarter honorees were Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Williams of the NCO Academy and Spc. Hope Univers of Fox

Army Health Center. The fourth quarter winners were Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Waddell of Fox Army Health Center and Spc. Miguel Perez of HHC 59th.

"It means a sense of accomplishment," Williams said.

"It's a competition showing your basic Soldiering skills," Univers said.

"It's a great honor," Waddell said. "And also I appreciate the support from the community."

Perez is a repeat winner because he was the Soldier of the Quarter for the second quarter.

"I'm grateful to the community," he said. "And second time's the charm."

The NCO/Soldier of the Year luncheon is June 13 at 11 a.m. at the Overlook.

## 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:

### Army concert series

Army Entertainment and Redstone FMWR present Toby Keith with special guest Gloriana and Mockingbird Sun on May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Redstone Activity Field. Gates 1, 8 and 10 onto Redstone Arsenal will open at 2 p.m.



Courtesy photo

## Gifts for children

Seiford Shultz, left, and Paul Soracco present a handmade wooden wagon filled with crafted toys to Army Community Service. Volunteers at the June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center make the wooden toys as gifts for military-connected children. ACS distributes the toys at various activities, such as its open house June 16. ACS has also given the toys to children associated with Hearts Apart, a support group for families who are geographically separated from their deployed servicemember. The wooden toys are also given as gifts to military-connected children who attend the community's annual Operation Christmas Bear party in December.

for the concert. The activity field opens at 6:30. Tickets are \$35 through May 27 and \$40 on the day of the show. Tickets should be available at all FMWR ticket offices (phone 313-5224) or all Ticketmaster locations, www.ticketmaster.com, or charge by phone at (800)745-3000.

### Firehouse pub

The Zooks will perform at the Firehouse Pub on Friday from 5-9 p.m. For

more information, call 830-2582.

### Fun run

The Month of the Military Child 2011 Fun Run is Saturday at the Redstone Arsenal Jogging Path at the intersection of Goss and Hughes roads. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and the race begins at 1. Parking is available at Bicentennial Chapel, CYSS Sports Field or the Child Development Center. For more information, call 313-3699.

# Youngsters try their hands at interactive Earth Day



Photo by James Campbell

**Sgt. Woof, the safety mascot for Army Environmental Command, entertains students at University Place Elementary School.**

## *Engineering center sponsors mock environmental cleanup*

**By JO ANITA MILEY**  
*Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office*

Kindergarten through fifth-grade students donned personal protective clothing in preparation for a mock environmental exercise, where they learned firsthand how the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville completes an environmental field investigation.

The University Place Elementary School students celebrated Earth Day April 20 by watching a team of students walk through the whole process, from the sampling of the mock material to a personal wash-down.

"Each student played a role. Some students sampled the soil, some participated in the decontamination process and others in the audience acted as the Green Team, to assist with finding earth-friendly

solutions for helping clean up the environment after a hazardous material spill incident," Will Eggleston, safety engineer for the Center's Safety Office, said.

Eggleston attended University Place Elementary School and said he had fond memories from his time there.

"It was great to be back at my elementary school and participate in such a fun exercise," he said. "I think children learn more from an interactive activity."

Before the children started, Lt. Col. David Bailey, deputy commander at Huntsville Center described the Corps' role in environmental investigations and the environmental program.

"We explained that our research led us to believe that the area had been contaminated with a hazardous material. We told them that we were sending in teams to take soil samples of this very dangerous contaminant of concern," Eggleston said. "I asked them to help me 'clean up' the earth."

Steve Willoughby, chief of the Center's Electronic Security Branch, and Scott Bradley, an environmental engineer with the Center's Engineering directorate, told the students about how employees work hard to find earth-friendly solu-

tions when working on projects and gave students environmentally friendly ideas. Willoughby and Bradley also attended University Place Elementary School.

More than 450 students participated in the event. The volunteers set up four work zones for the scenario. Two students from each grade were divided into six groups. The rest of the students made up a 'Green Team' with an assignment to find earth-friendly solutions for the questions the Corps' team asked.

"We gave the students spoons to collect the soil. They mixed the soil in the bowls to get a good representative sample," Kellie Williams, a safety specialist in the Center's Safety Office, said. "Our work zones included the hot zone where the contaminated soil was located, the decontamination zone where we removed the student's personal protection clothing to prevent spreading the contaminant; and the support zone where emergency responders and safety specialists tested the air.

Administrators and teachers at the school stayed to watch their students learn about environmental field work and participate in the activities.

**See Youngsters on page 8**

# Pillsbury

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commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody and others following his lead in their moves to Redstone.

“BRAC has brought a shift within the Army Materiel Command,” Pillsbury said. “There are four centers of gravity for AMC – Rock Island (Ill.), Warren (Mich.), Fort Monmouth (N.J.) and Redstone Arsenal.

“(Once all the moves are completed), at Redstone you will have the Security Assistance Command, the Army Contracting Command, the Expeditionary Contracting Command and the headquarters for AMC. I think that you will see that, certainly within the Army, Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal will be the center of gravity and will continue to grow in that arena with a work force second to none.”

When the 2005 BRAC moves are completed later this year, there will be nearly 70 headquarters and agencies at Redstone.

“The synergy brought together by the wonderful high-tech headquarters and organizations here is unparalleled,” Pillsbury said.

**Pillsbury commissioned into the Army** in 1973, just at the end of the Vietnam War, after attending Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, on an ROTC scholarship. The anti-military, anti-government sentiment of the time didn't deter his determination to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps.

“I grew up with the military. It was really easy for me to make that decision simply because my father was in the Army,” he said.

“But the draftee Army was substandard. The challenges were great. As a platoon leader, I led young draftees who were not going to stay in the Army. Many were undisciplined. In some cases, they were uneducated. I knew if I could be successful in the face of those challenges, then I could be even more successful the further I went in the Army.”

At first, though, Pillsbury, assigned as a mortar platoon leader and later as a support platoon leader, with the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash., wasn't

convinced the Army was his career path.

“I had no clue what was going on. I was the youngest officer at Fort Lewis,” he said. “My plan was to pay back the four years of ROTC and get out. But being part of a battalion command team was something that I discovered I really loved. I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed putting on this uniform for 38 years.”

Having his wife, Becky, at his side made an Army career much more rewarding.

“She is a tremendous role model. She has been there for me all along,” Pillsbury said. “She has been an amazing Army wife, mother and teacher.”

Early in his career, Pillsbury served as a platoon leader, detachment commander, and company executive officer and commander. From 1991-93, he served as commander of the 8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.; from 1993-94 he served as executive officer, Force Development, Aviation Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans in Washington, D.C.; and from 1995-97 he commanded the Division Support Command, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell. He also served as assistant division commander (Support) of the 10th Mountain Division (Light), Fort Drum, N.Y., from 1997-98.

His joint assignments include chief of the Sustainability, Mobilization Plans and Exercises Division, J-4, from 1998-99; deputy director for Logistics, Readiness and Requirements, J-4, from 1999-2000; and commander of the Defense Distribution Center, Defense Logistics Agency, New Cumberland, Pa., from 2000-02. From 2002 to October 2003, he was assigned as deputy chief of staff, G-4, for U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. He then was assigned as commander of AMCOM until 2007, when he became AMC's deputy chief of staff for Logistics and Operations, G-3, prior to his current position.

Of his assignments, three really stand out to Pillsbury – his assignment as a support platoon leader for an infantry battalion at Fort Lewis, his assignment as commander of the 101st Aviation Maintenance Battalion at Fort Campbell and his stint as AMCOM's commander.

“Anytime I was in a leadership position, it was a good assignment,” Pillsbury said.

“But that first leadership assignment

is especially memorable because I had no experience base to draw from. Everything was new to me. We were coming out of Vietnam. It was a drawing down time when our Army was broken and the challenge of leading the young Soldiers of that organization was exasperated by the climate of our country at that time.”

**Leadership – knowing how to lead Soldiers** – is the reason his assignment as the commander of the 101st Aviation Maintenance Battalion is a career highlight.

“When you command a battalion, it is the last time you really get to directly influence Soldiers at the battalion level,” he said. “I worked with a great team and it's something I won't ever forget.”

And the highlight of his service as commander of AMCOM goes without saying.

“That was the best two-star assignment in the Army,” he said. “As the AMCOM commander, you touched all aspects of Army aviation. And we did some wonderful things at that time to improve the institution of the life cycle management concept and condition-based management.”

Along the way, Pillsbury has had the benefit of “wonderful role models,” such as Vietnam veterans Mike Carden of Huntsville, a retired Army aviation logistician with 28 years of service; retired Lt. Gen. Mike McDuffie, who served three years as the Joint Chiefs of Staff director of logistics; retired Gen. Dick Cody, who served as the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army; retired Gen. Hugh Shelton, who served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1997 to 2001; and retired Gen. Colin Powell, who served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1989-93, the national security adviser and the 65th secretary of state.

“They knew how to get the job done and how to take care of Soldiers,” Pillsbury said.

“You have to have a passion to be an Army officer or an Army leader. You've got to want to work the long hours and in harsh conditions to serve Soldiers. Obviously, the compensation package is not it. You've got to want to take care of your Soldiers and their families to be successful as an Army leader. The young Soldier is the reason we do what we do. If it's not, then we are wasting a lot of time and resources.”

During his career, Pillsbury said the

Army transformed itself from the dark days of post-Vietnam to an Army of high values through the development of its educational system, especially for the non-commissioned officer.

“The NCO became the professional core of the Army and by developing our NCOs the Army was turned around,” he said. “When the Army made the conscious decision to educate the Soldier and warrant officer, to steep them in leadership skills and to specialize those who needed to be specialized, and when we became an all-volunteer Army, we became the number one most trusted institution in the military.”

Yet, Soldiers and their families still pay a difficult price to serve.

“Every day in the military is not wonderful,” Pillsbury said. “There are deployments and other times when you are away from your family, when you are sent on a mission that can be dangerous. Soldiers deploy every year or year and a half. It's unbelievable what we're asking these youngsters to do.”

**Today's environment**, in some ways, is tougher than the military environment of the Vietnam era. Even though the U.S. military is drawing down in Iraq, it is still called on in other areas of the world. At a time when Congress wants to make budget cuts in military spending, there are still significant and growing needs for sustainment and modernization.

“It's tough to see what is happening,” Pillsbury said. “Military resources are on a down slope. It is frustrating to see that when there are so many needs in the Army.”

Even though the Army does face tremendous challenges in transformation and dwindling budgets, Pillsbury believes the Soldier will continue to be the best the nation has to offer.

“The Army ethics of loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, selfless service, personal courage – those things are not just stickers on the wall,” he said. “These are the values that Army Soldiers are expected to live. There is tremendous pressure on the Soldier and those that live their lives by the same way in terms of ethics, and there's a powerful, powerful bonding among them.”

*Editor's note: To make a reservation for Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury's retirement ceremony, call AMC Protocol at 450-9237 or email reds.amspr.rsa@conus.army.mil. For information about the retirement dinner, call 450-9235.*

# Youngsters

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“Our students enjoyed the activity – it was a great hands-on experience for the children to get to role play,” Janice Summerhill, event coordinator and teacher at University Place Elementary School, said. “They haven't had the chance to participate in such a fun and educational

event for Earth Day in a long time.”

Towana Davis, school principal, said the Corps' facilitating an interactive Earth Day celebration is an innovative way to expose the students to science.

Sgt. Woof, the safety mascot for Army Environmental Command, was also present at the Earth Day event.

Davis said she was pleased that the mascot was present for the event. His unexploded ordnance safety platform is a great

teaching tool for teaching the children what to do when they encounter explosives. Woof gave out safety guides, coloring books and environmental awareness book marks regarding UXO safety.

“We were excited about the hands-on activities during Earth Day, but having ‘Sgt. Woof’ pay us a visit to help us celebrate is an added plus for the students at University Place Elementary School,” Davis said. “He is a big hit today.”

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin, spearheaded the idea. The campaign for Earth Day began as a grassroots effort to teach about environmental stewardship, create an awareness of the environment's fragility and to enlighten the mainstream of American society. The campaign caught on quickly and evolved into what we now celebrate as Earth Day.

# Tax center closes books on record year

*Total returns prepared represent all-time high*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
 Rocket editor  
 skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The verdict is in for this year's Redstone Tax Center. And it's unanimously in favor of the community.

With a courtroom serving as the backdrop, Friday's closing ceremony for the center celebrated a record-setting year of free tax preparation services for military and their families. This year the center's volunteers prepared 2,039 federal tax returns and 1,916 state tax returns for a total of 3,955 returns, exceeding last year's 3,899. This is also an all-time record for Redstone Arsenal.

"It was a complete total team effort," Col. Craig Meredith, Redstone's staff judge advocate and the Aviation and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Redstone Tax Center staff members, volunteers and guests gather after Friday's closing ceremony.**

Missile Command's deputy chief counsel, said.

The volunteers' work produced \$2,360,849 in federal refunds and \$860,067 in state refunds. If they had charged for their services, there would have been \$523,429 in tax preparation fees. Total value to the community, com-

binning the refunds and the avoided fees, was \$3,744,345.

The 18 volunteers, seven of whom have given their time for more than three years, contributed 1,270 hours this tax season.

"You care more about others than you do yourselves," AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister said.

Capt. Patrick Holly, chief of legal assistance and the center's officer-in-charge, noted that the staff included representatives from various organizations. "It's a team within the Army," Holly said. "It's kind of neat. People from all over the place."

Elaine Beck, the Alabama territory manager for the Internal Revenue Service, attended the ceremony from her

Birmingham office. "We've been a partner of yours for over 20 years," she said.

Redstone is among 200 volunteer income tax assistance sites in Alabama.

"I think Redstone is a model site," Beck said. "It is from dedication, commitment, excellence and quality. You really support the military community. We really appreciate being a partner. It's just a real honor."

Honorees included Holly, Sgt. 1st Class Gloria Williams, Staff Sgt. Wilson Fung; Rachael Yeoman, the paralegal who manages the center; Neshia Knight, receptionist; and volunteers Alison Bush, Randolph Duff, Emily Hsi, Sandra Hovde, Larry Howell, Carla Knight, Gregory Knight, Lancelot Latouche, Alan Gene Lovitt, Lisa McCrary, Paul Pickett, Estan Rodriguez, Lee Smith, Song Suk Wallace and David Wyatt.

This was the closing ceremony but there is no offseason for the tax center. Year-round tax services are available through the Legal Assistance Office for amendments and late returns.

# River

continued from page 2

the sharply folded Sequatchie Valley region before making its abrupt turn near Gunterville. The waters then etch their way westward through the Cumberland Outlier Mountains and across the red clay valleys of southern Madison and Limestone counties where Redstone Arsenal is now present. Sections of the river which are found along the Arsenal lie within the Wheeler Basin.

Prior to the construction of the dams by the Tennessee Valley Authority, an archeological survey of the Wheeler Basin was performed in 1932. A team effort headed by Dr. Walter B. Jones and the Alabama Museum of Natural History included several excavations along the Wheeler Basin and close to where the Arsenal was later found. It was determined from these studies that the river with its abundant food and water resources attracted many prehistoric tribes and aboriginal occupation.

The river and its history have always been vital to the Arsenal and for many reasons. Following the completion of various dams along the river, the resulting navigable channels allowed for the safe and secure transport of incoming raw materials and many outgoing finished goods during critical war times. This allowed the chosen site for the Arsenal to be well protected and inland from the oceans. The river also provided a year-round supply of fresh water to the installation. Finally, its dams provided reliable hydroelectric power. The river and its combined resources all played a major role with the decision on where to locate the original Huntsville Arsenal.

Today, the river is easily accessible from within the Arsenal installation. The recreational facilities which are maintained offer easy boat launches, access to piers, fishing, canoeing, areas to enjoy a picnic with family and friends, and much more. Out on the river, a short journey upstream takes us by

Huntsville's Ditto Landing Marina and the historic Hobbs Island. Downstream along the river and across much of the Arsenal are several unique marsh and wetland areas which are all protected by the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

Helpful information about the river can be obtained from a variety of sources:

Information about fishing and hunting licensing, and boating safety requirements can be obtained from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Marine Patrol Division works to enhance maritime safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities.

The Tennessee Valley Authority provides online information about the river, its reservoirs, the environment, power generation, water quality, lake levels, stream flow rates, and other information relevant to a particular reservoir such as Wheeler.

The Nashville District of the Army Corps of Engineers oversees the maintenance of the river channels, its dams, infrastructure management, and water resource engineering solutions. This group also provides navigation charts which can be either purchased or viewed online.

The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge includes an area measuring more than 35,000 acres, much of which adjoins the Redstone Arsenal. The agency's focus is to provide habitat for wintering and migrating birds in addition to 115 species of fish, 74 species of reptiles and amphibians, 47 species of mammals, and 285 various species of songbirds. The refuge is also home to 10 federally listed endangered or threatened species.

The Tennessee River continues to be a valuable asset to both the Arsenal and neighboring communities. While various agencies work to promote the river and its resources, it is ultimately up to each of us as individuals to help protect the river through proper care and conservation.

**Bob Baudendistel**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Bird's-eye view

**At the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area, a heron enjoys the beauty of the Tennessee River April 20, when rain is forecast off and on all day.**

# Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raising events include the following:

**Throughout drive** – Candy sale, sponsored by Business Management Office at the Integrated Materiel Management Center. For information call Jan Pickard 842-6625.

**Through May 12** – Four autographed footballs will be auctioned online. Each football has a team's logo – for Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Auburn – and is signed by its coach. For more information call KC Bertling, the AER chairperson for Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, at 955-4082.

**Today** – Bake sale at 7 a.m. and cook-out at 10, sponsored by SSMD/IMMC, at the building 5400 SELA entrance. For information call Dimeccia Blake 313-5016 or ReQuincia Mack 842-6610.

**Today** – Basketball throw, sponsored by IMMC's Readiness Directorate, at 10:30 a.m. at building 5302 parking lot. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**Thursday** – Cupcake sale at 11 a.m. in the lobby of building 5308.

**May 3** – Hot dog sale and "homemade" cake walk, sponsored by ILS/Publications, Maintenance Directorate,

at 10:30 a.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**May 4** – IMMC Bowling Tournament at 11 a.m. at Redstone Lanes.

**May 5** – Shoe shine, sponsored by Maintenance Directorate, at 9 a.m. at Sparkman Cafeteria.

**May 5** – Bucket drop, sponsored by IMMC's Field Operations Division, Maintenance, at 10 a.m. at the Commissary/Post Exchange. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**May 5** – Deluxe Gourmet Mother's Day Dessert Gift Basket auction, sponsored by Depot Maintenance Division, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the building 5303/5304 hallway.

**May 6** – The IMMC Golf Tournament will be held at 8 a.m. at the Links.

**May 7** – A golf tournament, sponsored by IMMC's Maintenance Directorate, will be held at 8 a.m. at FoxRun Golf Course in Meridianville. For more information, call Celeste Billings 313-2041 or 278-9617 or call Ralph Miller 652-2829 or 876-5806.

**May 11** – Run/walk, sponsored by IMMC's Business Management Office, at 2 p.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

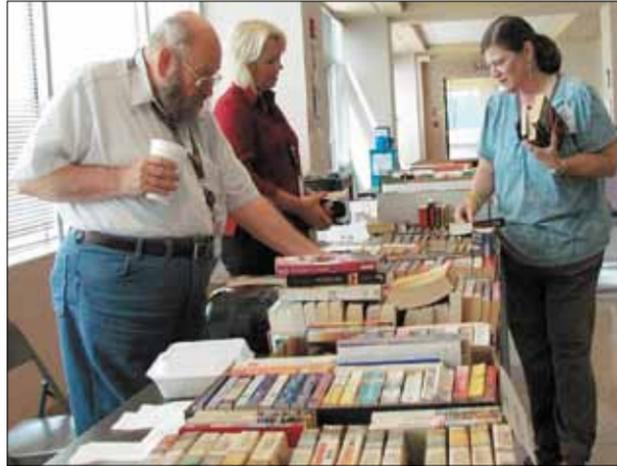


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Angela Raney of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone looks over the literary offerings during the annual Army Emergency Relief book sale fund-raiser in the hallway of building 5300 at the Sparkman Center. Helping her with her selections are, from left, book sale organizer Brian Barry and volunteer Debra Cathey, who both work for the AMCOM Command Analysis Directorate. The book sale will continue through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of building 5300 in the corridor between 5303 and 5304.**

**May 12** – A Disc Golf Tournament will be held 2 p.m. at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is \$15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email paul.sieja@us.army.mil.

**May 17** – Homemade cupcake sale, sponsored by Automation, MMD, at 7 a.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**May 19** – Chicken and biscuit/pastery sale, sponsored by Systems Management Division, MMD, at 7 a.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**May 19** – Deluxe Mother's Day Gift Basket auction, sponsored by Depot Maintenance Division, in the building 5301/5302 hallway. The auction ends at 1 p.m.

For more information about Army Emergency Relief call Kathleen Riester, the acting AER officer at Army Community Service, at 876-5397.

# Volunteers build independence for disabled veterans

*Homes for Our Troops project gives new residences to heroes*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

It will literally be the key to a new way of life.

Cpl. Jeffery Williams was on his first deployment to Iraq in 2004 when the Humvee he was riding in was involved in an IED ambush, killing two of his fellow Soldiers and paralyzing him from the chest down. Seven years after the attack that destined him to live the rest of his life in a wheelchair, Williams is about to reclaim his independence.

In appreciation for his service and his sacrifice, within the year, Williams will become a homeowner, thanks to Homes for Our Troops, a national nonprofit organization that builds specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans, at no cost to them. Gone will be the wheelchair scuffs on the walls of the apartment he currently lives in that is not handicap accessible, and the limitations he has faced because of it; with the keys to his brand new home comes a renewed

sense of pride and privacy. Local individuals and professional tradesmen are encouraged to donate material, equipment, services and money to help build the home for Williams. Tod Yarbrough with Renaissance Builders Inc. in Madison has been named the general contractor for the project.

“If anyone thought for a second about what these guys are doing for us, why wouldn’t you want to do something for them?” Yarbrough said.

Since its inception in 2004, Homes for Our Troops has built 100 homes nationwide and is aiming for 100 more. Williams’ home will be the third home built by the organization in Alabama, the first two completed in Irvington in 2008 and Trussville in 2010. Each veteran is given the opportunity to select the city he would like to live in, the floor plan, which typically runs around 2,600 square feet, as well as the colors. The homes are completely handicap accessible – front doors are flush with the ground eliminating the need for any ramps, hallways and doorways are wider and showers, stoves and other everyday items are easy to get to.

“It’s more than just a home,” said Larry Gill, veterans’ liaison for Homes for Our Troops. “It’s going to renew his



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**From left, Renaissance Builders Inc. workers Tod Yarbrough and Eric Hayden accompany Homes for Our Veterans liaison Larry Gill on a visit to the Madison lot where a house will be built for Cpl. Jeffery Williams.**

independence.”

Once the foundation and rough plumbing is complete on Williams’ home near Nick Davis Road, currently awaiting sale of the land to close, more than 200 volunteers will inundate the site for a weekend in what is called a “build brigade,” transform-

ing the site to a full weather tight house, a job completed in three days as opposed to 10 weeks. Skilled workers are given the tools of their trade, while unskilled workers help move materials, serve meals and assist in other ways that don’t require them to

**See Homes on page 27**

# Aviation force flies into future

*Aging fleet, demands of two wars addressed at forum*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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NASHVILLE – Despite challenges of an aging aviation fleet and the demands of two wars, aviation programs will remain a key component of the Army's focus to win on the battlefield, said one of the Army's leading generals.

Speaking to Soldier aviators, general officers and industry representatives attending the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition at Nashville's Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Gen. James Thurman, commander of the Army Forces Command, said "the Army absolutely remains focused on winning the war today, and Army aviation continues to be a central component of that success. I know we will make Army aviation even more effective in future battles."

Thurman, the keynote speaker at the forum's opening session on April 18, aimed his comments at its theme – "Full Spectrum Aviation: Resilient and Adaptive for the Future Security Environment."

"Our 75,000 aviation Soldiers in the active and reserve components will continue the proud tradition of strength until the enemy is defeated and/or destroyed," he said.

As a senior aviator with 36 years of military service and commander of 80 percent of the military's aviation force, Thurman emphasized the importance of the active Army/National Guard/Reserve aviation team.

"This is the true total aviation force that is making a difference every minute of the day in Iraq, Afghanistan and all around the world," he said. "Their dedicated and meaningful service stands as a personification of Army values."

While aviation is only 7 percent of the total Army budget, "Army aviation is recognized as the key enabler. No matter the enemy or the operation, the

**See Convention on page 24**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Retired Brig. Gen. Rod Wolfe, president of the Army Aviation Association of America, presides over the flag ceremony that opened the association's professional forum and exposition in Nashville on April 18. The flag ceremony was presented by the Fort Campbell, Ky., color guard.**

# Aviation unit gets gift of Kiowa for mission



Photo by Kim Henry

**Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers congratulates the 3-17 Cavalry on their new aircraft during the handover ceremony for a repaired OH-58D Kiowa Warrior on April 19 at the AMCOM exhibit area during the Army Aviation Association of America's annual Professional Forum and Exposition. With Rogers are, from left, Lt. Col. Mike Demirjian, squadron commander of the 3-17 CAV, and Kiowa helicopter pilots Sgt. 1st Class John Smith, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deanne Murawsky and Capt. Chris Foley.**

*Helicopter is second to be rebuilt in new program to sustain fleet*

**By KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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NASHVILLE – Lt. Col. Mike Demirjian is excited about the “gift” he will be taking home following the Army Aviation Association of America’s annual Professional Forum and Exposition.

He spent much of his convention time April 17-20 in the Aviation and Missile Command’s exhibit booth, standing near a newly repaired OH-58D Kiowa Warrior that will be flown to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., and turned over to the 3rd Infantry Division’s 3-17 Cavalry soon after the forum.

As squadron commander of the 3-17 CAV, Demirjian said the Kiowa is much needed in his mission to “get my squadron back up to full capability.”

During an April 19 handover ceremony at AMCOM’s exhibit at the aviation association’s forum and exposition at Opryland’s Gaylord Hotel, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers gave Demirjian the Kiowa’s log books.

“Receiving this aircraft today gets me back to a healthy point where I actually

have the aircraft I need to train my new aviators,” Demirjian said.

This is the second OH-58D Crash Battle Damaged helicopter repaired by the Corpus Christi Army Depot, a crucial program to increase the number of Kiowa Warriors at a time when cost-effective measures are critical to support the war effort.

“This is all about getting aircraft back into the hands of Soldiers,” Rogers said

**See Unit on page 17**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andrew Diener of the Corpus Christi Army Depot shows Bill Doty of Avion some of the new engine parts that have brought new life to a crashed OH-58D Kiowa helicopter. The helicopter was repaired at the depot in a program supported by AMCOM and its partners.**

# Kiowa team gets 'danger close' to save lives

*Army's Silver Star recipient describes teamwork in fight*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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NASHVILLE – In words that rang with deep emotion, Col. Mike Morgan admitted he doesn't talk much about the actions behind the Silver Star that Defense Secretary Robert Gates clipped on his desert camouflage uniform in Afghanistan a year ago in March.

He rarely tells his wife or his parents about the threat he and his OH-58 Kiowa Scout Weapons Team faced this time two years ago when they came to the aid of U.S. Soldiers ambushed while working to clear bombs from a road outside Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

But during the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville, he shared his story for the first time with an audience gathered at the Bell Helicopter exhibit so they could understand the teamwork represented by a new painting by artist Patrick Haskett that depicts Morgan's Kiowa and his Kiowa wingman during the battle. The painting, unveiled following his comments, was dedicated to Morgan's team by Bell Helicopter, which manufactured the Army's fleet of Kiowa helicopters. It will hang in the 82nd All-American Airborne Division Museum at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Even though Chief Warrant Officer 2 (Toby) Familo, Capt. (Anthony) Fuscellaro, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 (Adam) Fletcher's valorous acts are captured in this painting, more importantly they represent the professionalism, commitment and mission focus, which are genuine characteristics of the professionals which fill the ranks of Army aviation," Morgan said.

"When I think about this painting I think about what it represents more than the specific actions units are engaged in during the course of a deployment. I think of the entire team – the team of Task Force Saber, and their work with coalition ground forces."

The OH-58 Kiowa, nicknamed the Army's Scout helicopter, and its pilots are known for spirited actions in battle that draw attention away from ground forces. They can get in "danger close" to the enemy, and are known for being the first to make contact with the enemy and the last to leave.

"When I think of this conflict, this battle... We had our opportunity and time and space to influence the battle. Many others have shown bravery as well," Morgan said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Col. Mike Morgan, a Kiowa helicopter pilot, shares for the first time his story of the April 24, 2009 battle in Afghanistan that led to his award of a Silver Star by Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Morgan told his story of teamwork between both aircraft pilots and ground crews, and with ground forces during a special event at the Bell Helicopter exhibit at the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Members of Col. Mike Morgan's OH-58 Kiowa Scout Weapons Team along with artist Patrick Haskett are recognized by Morgan following the unveiling of a painting depicting his team battling with insurgents on April 24, 2009 in the Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. The battle saved the lives of four U.S. Soldiers, annihilated several insurgents and allowed U.S. forces to gain Taliban intelligence that would turn the tide on an insurgent stronghold.**

Pilots Familo, Fuscellaro and Fletcher, who were also at the unveiling ceremony, were part of the Task Force Saber team led

**See Morgan on page 18**

# Exhibits relate Army's aviation success

*Redstone's work in managing fleet showcased by government, industry*

NASHVILLE – It seemed like all 18,000 members of the Army Aviation Association of America were in Nashville April 18-20.

Scores of visitors attended the association's annual professional forum and exhibition at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center. They were able to attend a variety of aviation sessions on

everything from integrated war-fighting to equipping for the future security environment to future concepts in the cost culture to replacing the Army's aging aircraft. They were also invited to attend several events involving the hundreds of exhibitors, and to view an impressive display

**See Exhibits on page 19**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Shrouds, left, and Spc. Robert Darefsky talk with DeWayne Rudolph of Sikorsky about the performance of the Army's Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopters, which are manufactured by Sikorsky. The two flight medics are with the 11th Aviation Command at Fort Knox, Ky. The exhibit area at the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition gave Soldiers and industry partners the opportunity to exchange ideas for better efficiencies and effectiveness in Army aircraft.**

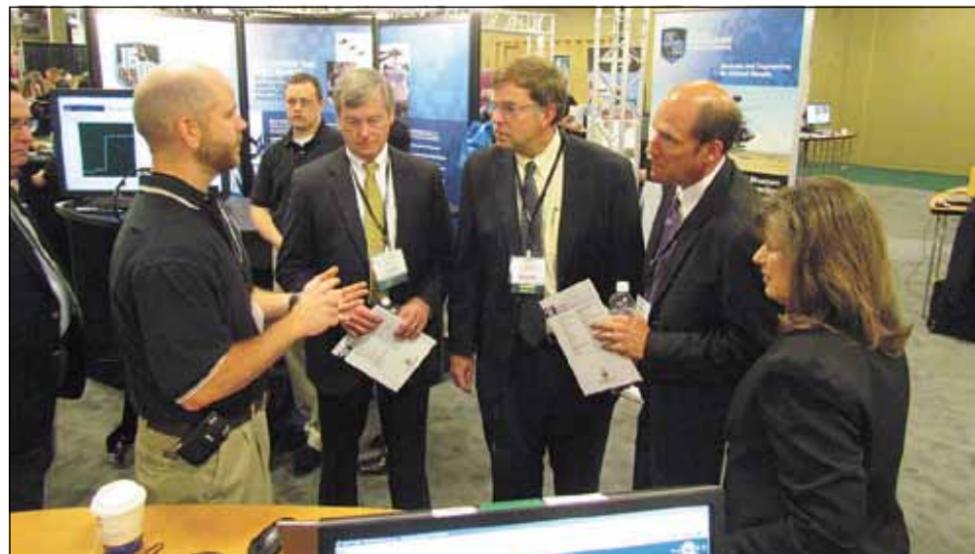


Photo by Kim Henry

**Jason Lawler, left, of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Engineering Directorate, talks with community leaders from Huntsville about the work AMRDEC is doing in support of new equipment for aviation Soldiers. Listening to Lawler's presentation are, from left, Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison Mayor Paul Finley. Also with the group is Patti Martin, director of AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate. The three local elected officials visited the exhibit area during the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville.**

# Unit

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during the handover presentation. "We are making sure that those battle crashed aircraft that would normally be scrapped are put back together because we don't have any more 58s. There is no production line. This is all about taking care of our Soldiers and getting aircraft back in the fight."

The aircraft will be flown to Hunter Army Airfield by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andrew Diener, who is chief of flight test and an OH-58D maintenance test pilot at Corpus Christi.

"This Kiowa crashed belly flat, tail down in Afghanistan," Diener said. "It has a new transmission and new engine, a new transmission deck and engine deck, a new tail bone. Seventy-five percent of it is new."

CCAD, together with the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office, Aviation and Missile Command, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and Bell Helicopter inducted the crash-damaged OH-58D aircraft in 2008, beginning the process to return combat power to the American Soldier.

The helicopter was repaired and rebuilt during a 300-day project at Corpus Christi.

Currently, the 3-17 CAV is short 39 OH-58D Kiowas. Besides accepting the repaired OH-58D, the unit is also having modifications made to convert its OH-58A models to D models.

"This is absolutely wonderful," Dimerjian said of the repaired OH-58D. "I couldn't ask for a better product. This is essentially brand new.

"It's great that AMCOM and CCAD are doing this because the Kiowa community is in short supply of its helicopters."

Currently, the 3-17 CAV has 14 aircraft, with seven of those in reset at any given time. Used extensively in Afghanistan, the OH-58 Kiowa Warriors are in short supply due to their previously proposed phase-out and replacement by the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, a program that has since been cancelled. The OH-58 production line ended in 1999.

The 3-17 CAV is made up of 60 line pilots, with a total staff of about 80, including staff aviators like Dimerjian.

"This will be our 15th D model Kiowa. We are supposed to get up to 30," Dimerjian said. "We are in need of these helicopters because we are in training and preparation to deploy. We are scheduled for a deployment in the next two years. We will train our pilots with whatever aircraft we have."

The Kiowa Warrior, a single-engine, two-seat reconnaissance and direct-fire support aircraft, has logged more than 600,000 combat hours between Iraq and Afghanistan, where it battles sand, snow and high altitudes. It is known for its ability to get "danger close" to the enemy to draw attention away from ground forces.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deanne Murawsky is just as excited as Dimerjian to have the repaired Kiowa in the 3-27 CAV's fleet. She chose to be a Kiowa helicopter pilot because of the helicopter's capability to make a difference on the battlefield for ground forces.

"It gives me the most opportunity to support the ground troops," said Murawsky, who has deployed once to Afghanistan.

"I'm very thankful for the Kiowa. It's an amazing piece of equipment. And, it's nice to know, that if one of them crashes, it can be repaired and put back into the fleet. I'm glad a crash is not the end of its life."

Every Kiowa Warrior is an integral part of the Army's force projection in theater and will be a critical piece of combat aviation brigades for several more years. The project manager instituted the Kiowa repair program as part of the Army's effort to reduce platform sustainment costs and contain the expense of replacing aging helicopters.

Dimerjian said the work being done to repair Kiowas is just another example of how AMCOM and its partners are supporting aviators in the field.

"Everything you guys do at Redstone benefits us. We know you are there to help us," Dimerjian said. "We know you guys have worked tireless hours getting us quality products and we do appreciate it."

# Morgan

continued from page 15

by Morgan, then a lieutenant colonel, during their April 2009-April 2010 deployment in Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, where they were tasked with around-the-clock reconnaissance and security missions. Task Force Saber was an armed reconnaissance task force comprised of 425 pilot, maintenance and support Soldiers, 24 Kiowa Warriors, nine Apaches, two direct support Black Hawks and a Pathfinder Company from the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. They facilitated aviation operations for Regional Command South in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province.

"The environment in Kandahar was perfect for an armed reconnaissance task force. The terrain is characterized by the urban sprawl of Kandahar, the outlying villages connecting the nomadic indigenous population of Afghanistan, and the high mountain desert expanses," Morgan said. "The villages surrounding Kandahar are characterized by interconnected primary and secondary dirt roads, deep vegetated wadi systems (dry riverbeds), and mud one-story structures in the most populated areas."

Task Force Saber provided air support for route clearance patrols of the 4th Engineer Battalion that facilitated freedom of movement within the Kandahar province.

One particular area, known as Howz-e-Madad, was a Taliban stronghold notorious for improvised explosive devices, small arms fire, and direct and indirect attacks on coalition forces.

"Late spring marked the end of the poppy season, and effectively returned the Taliban to focus on fighting," Morgan said. "June and July were filled with small engagements throughout the area of operations, and intelligence was hinting toward a large scale coordinated attack. One of those attacks came on 24 April 2009."

**O**n that day, the 4th Engineers identified an IED on a road known as Highway 1 just east of Howz-e-Madad. They followed the IED's command wire, not knowing it was an attempted ambush.

"The initial insurgent response appeared to reveal approximately 20 insurgents. What evolved was nearly 100 insurgents who were using interconnected, pre-prepared, concealed and covered positions by leveraging the wadi systems, mud buildings and dense tree coverage," Morgan said. "They were armed with AK-47s, RPGs (rocket propelled grenades), and PKM (machine guns) primarily, and their closest positions were within 20 meters of the MRAP (the engineer unit's lead Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle stopped on the highway) and 100 meters from the 4th Engineer support-by-fire position (on a rooftop)."

Morgan and his OH-58D Kiowa two-unit Scout Weapons Team arrived on the

scene as the engineer unit was pursuing the source of the small arms fire, which was actually a baited ambush.

"We could hear the urgency in the voice" and the "tremendous pressure and stress on the battlefield" through the radio messages received from ground forces, Morgan said.

"They were fighting for their lives and looking for any help they could get."

Although the standard response to small arms fire was to bypass and continue along the way, in this situation the engineering unit's platoon leader headed straight for the enemy fire "because he was tired of being shot at. The rhythm of the battle was building," the colonel recalled.

As enemy fire increased, Morgan's team was called in to deliver rocket and .50-caliber machine gun fire onto the insurgents.

"Upon delivering the first pair of rockets into the insurgents, machine gun, RPG, and small arms erupted from multiple locations within 200 meters of the ground force," Morgan said. "The fire was aimed at both the engineers and the aircraft, and the engineers returned high volumes of fire while the aircraft continued a hard break to come around for another engagement ... Unlike previous engagements, the insurgents were reinforcing instead of breaking contact. This was new to us."

Although the ground forces and the two Kiowa helicopters neutralized the most dangerous enemy machine gun positions, the engineer unit's lead MRAP with a four-man team was still receiving heavy small arms fire from the enemy machine gun emplacement located 20 meters away.

"The squad leader relayed that they were still in the kill zone and were unable to turn their vehicle back to the north due to the deep wadis on either side of the road. They required a ground guide to make the turn, and it was evident to the enemy that the lead vehicle was stranded," Morgan said.

**T**hough the Kiowas no longer had ammunition, they entered the area twice on a low and slow profile.

"Everybody in the cockpit was all in and the ground forces were as well. They had no choice and we didn't either," Morgan said.

The two Kiowas distracted the enemy fire so that a ground guide could dismount and direct the MRAP in its turn so that it could leave the kill zone. The co-pilots were only able to fire their M4 rifles from the cockpit to engage the enemy and protect the Kiowas from enemy fire.

An excerpt from the narrative that accompanied Morgan's Silver Star reads: "His heroic actions and those of the aircrews he led were singularly responsible for saving American lives that were on the brink of being overrun by determined enemy insurgents of numerically superior force. Lt. Col. Morgan's quick reaction, skillful employment of his and other attack weapon systems, and mastery coordinating multiple aircraft over a target simultaneously resulted in a confirmed three

insurgents killed and an estimated 20-30 unconfirmed.

"Lt. Col. Morgan, with his aircraft munitions expended, determined that American lives were at risk. He quickly decided to make two additional direct passes with his team, enabling his co-pilots to use their M4 rifles to suppress insurgents attempting to maneuver and overtake the pinned down route clearance team lead vehicle. His actions provided critical time and space to enable the vehicle to maneuver out of the kill zone and back to the north."

For six hours that day, "the Scout weapons teams, attack aircraft, engineers and artillery worked seamlessly as one team. The Taliban intelligence gained during this battle led to operations by coalition forces which would turn the tide on this stronghold," Morgan said. "More importantly the teamwork displayed in this battle and throughout the tour enabled aviation assets to provide non-stop armed reconnaissance in support of Kandahar's coalition ground forces."

Twice, Morgan's Scout Weapons Team, relieved by other Kiowa teams, had to return to the Forward Arming and Refueling Point for refueling and re-arming, and then returned to the fight.

**A**lthough helicopter pilots are often the front-line heroes recognized for being game changers in battle situations, Morgan emphasized the importance of the personnel and aviation maintainers stationed at Forward Arming and Refueling Points in war zones for setting "the conditions for every operation. These great troopers sacrifice often and rarely see the front lines."

He also thanked the aviation enterprise – the Aviation and Missile Command, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, project management, logistics support and industry partners – for making a difference as the "team behind the team."

"They always ensure the forces on the front lines have everything they need to accomplish the mission," Morgan said.

Morgan also thanked the artist Army Korean War veteran Patrick Haskett – for a painting that is representative of all Kiowa teams.

"The action portrayed in this painting represents one of the many performed by the troopers I was honored to serve alongside," he said. "There were many heroes on the ground and in the air during this tour, and Patrick Haskett's art is representative of the entire team that it takes to succeed on today's modern battlefields."

Besides the Silver Star, which is the third highest military decoration for valor in battle, Morgan also received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Army Commendation Medal with Valor for his actions on April 24, 2009. Morgan, whose 22 years in uniform has included seven deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan, is attending the Air Force War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery and, upon graduation, will take command of the 1st Infantry Division's combat aviation brigade at Fort Riley, Kan.

Photo by Kari Hawkins  
**Mitchell Delk of the Aviation and Missile Command's Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate explains to Paul Mullen of Fort Bragg, N.C., the features of a ball-o-wire that represents the size, volume and weight of wiring that is installed in a modified Black Hawk bound for operations in Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. The ball includes 8,575 feet of wire that weighs 175 pounds. It takes about 3,000 hours to install the wire during a Black Hawk modification.**



## Exhibits

continued from page 16  
of aviation hardware in the exposition hall.

“An event like AAAA is a great opportunity to meet with our aviation partners, industry and the war fighter to talk issues and solve problems,” Aviation and Mis-

sile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers said.

AMCOM had its own exhibit area as did the Aviation and Missile Research



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Eddie Mason of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office talks to Florida National Guard Soldiers Sgt. Edgar Hernandez, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Sopczak about new developments in the ground control stations for unmanned aircraft. Hernandez and Sopczak both fly the Shadow unmanned aircraft system, and are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the next year.**

Development and Engineering Center, the Program Executive Office for Aviation and a host of other Redstone Arsenal or-

ganizations. They exhibited side-by-side with contractors such as Boeing, Sikorsky, Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopter.

# Apache stealth breeds fear in the enemy

*Soldier associated with attack helicopter tells story of its game-changing profile*

By KARI HAWKINS

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NASHVILLE – Among the large-scale exhibits, the government employees providing information on innovative programs and the company executives showcasing aviation capabilities, time and time again it was the voice of the Soldier that stood out at the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition.

And that was no exception at the Apache media roundtable April 18 at the Apache Attack Helicopter Project Office exhibit in the Program Executive Office for Aviation area of the forum's exposition area.

In addition to reports on product accomplishments and future manufacturing plans from Apache project manager Col. Shane Openshaw and his staff, and recommitment pledges from Boeing executives, the comments from Apache combat pilot Lt. Col. Hank Taylor gave a picture of how the Apache is a game changer on the battlefield.

"He and his formation and those like him who are deployed around the world every day are the only reason we are here," Openshaw said of Taylor. "These pilots make us relevant and, more doubly, they make us proud of what we do."

Taylor returned about a month ago from Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he was deployed as a squadron commander of Task Force Saber, 101st Aviation Brigade, which has a mix of helicopters to include Apache.

"We would send out daily a large number of Apaches that flew in support of ground forces," Taylor said. "We were determined each day to get out there and support our ground forces, and to keep

ourselves in the minds of the enemy."

On a bad day, when visibility was a half mile or three-fourths of a mile, Taylor said Apache still had a presence on the battlefield.

"You couldn't see us, but you could hear us," the pilot said. "The battalion commander called us to thank us for being there on a marginal day. When the enemy heard us, they would report back to their leaders not to do anything because they could hear the big birds coming. The noise we made was enough to stall and keep the enemy from attacking our friendly force and Afghan forces."

Commanders often describe Apaches and their pilots as "game changers," Taylor said.

"We fired on the enemy with a 30 millimeter Hellfire (missile). As a pilot, I have confidence I was going to make a difference with the Apache," he said.

But, even if the Apaches weren't in a battle, simply their presence gave a "show of force" that often held the enemy at bay, Taylor said.

Not only is the Apache effective in Afghanistan, it is also available. The helicopter has an 80 percent or greater readiness rate in theater.

"It never let us down and, more importantly, it didn't let the ground forces down," Taylor said.

Apaches have flown 800,000 combat hours.

"This aircraft is successful in the field. It is the world's best attack aircraft ever," Openshaw said.

The current Apache version – Apache Block II – remains in production. The Boeing production line delivered 15 new Block II Apaches in 2010 and 12 new Apaches are set for delivery in 2011. By the end of 2011, Boeing will have delivered 158 of 213 Block II Apaches. Block II manufacturing will be complete in 2013.

Block III Apaches have started production, with the first one set to come off the production line in October.

Block III Apaches will have a new fu-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Col. Shane Openshaw provides media with production updates during an Apache media roundtable at the Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition on April 18. To the far right is Lt. Col. Hank Taylor, who gave media a picture of the Apache's effectiveness as a game changer on the battlefield. An Apache helicopter is in the background.**

selage, new technology including a ground fire acquisition system that uses a flash detector to determine the source of enemy fire, composite blades that will increase cruise and combat speed, and increased command and control capabilities with unmanned aircraft.

"With Block III, the evolution continues," Openshaw said, adding the new Apache model will be stronger, faster, more capable and better able to withstand high temperatures.

"We have to keep Apaches in the hands of the world's most capable attack pilots," the project manager continued. "It continues to be the most important asset in the war fighting arsenal for those deployed. For the Soldier on the ground,

Apache continues to make a difference."

In addition, more than 620 Apaches have been remanufactured under the Apache program. In 2010, Openshaw said 37 Apaches were remanufactured and 2011 plans call for remanufacturing 25 Apaches, 15 of which have already been delivered. In addition, 40 Apache A models will upgrade to Block II in 2011.

"Success builds success," Boeing's Mike Burke said. "Block III will be the most popular yet. It has garnered a lot of international interest ... We are working hard to continue to be relevant to support the war fighter ... The Apache strikes fear in the hearts of our enemies while at the same time emboldening courage in the hearts of our Soldiers."

# Aviation winners bring honor to Redstone

*Group effort cited for success in giving Soldiers best systems*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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NASHVILLE – Exploring ways to improve Army aviation in low-level airspace has kept James Kelton in a job at Redstone Arsenal that he very much enjoys.

It also led to his being named the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year at the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition on April 18. The award is presented annually to the Army civilian who has made an outstanding individual contribution to aviation in the previous year.

He was one of 11 award recipients recognized during the opening session of the forum.

Kelton's work as the assistant product manager for the Army's Tactical Airspace Integration System in the Air Traffic Control Product Office at Redstone has given him the "freedom to explore innovative ways to improve air/ground integration," he told the gathering of forum participants at the opening session.

Kelton thanked the team he works

with at Redstone, saying "my recognition is simply a function of their hard work and the magnificent men and women of our armed forces."

In his position, Kelton's efforts directly affect combat effectiveness by providing tactical commanders freedom of maneuver in the third dimension of battle space. He has done revolutionary work with the Airspace Integration Improvements Initiative, which will lead to changes in Air Traffic Control and Airspace Command and Control.

Under his leadership, TAIS systems were successfully deployed in support of the Coalition Attack Guidance Experiment in Canada, Army North Exercise Vibrant Response, and in airspace information centers around the world. He has continually improved TAIS, streamlining the ability to rapidly clear airspace for immediate missions.

His contributions enhance safety and effectiveness of the tactical and national airspace environments.

In other awards, the Utility Helicopters Project Office was the recipient of the Robert M. Leich Award, named after the association's first president and given annually to a unit for sustained contributions to Army aviation.

The Utility Helicopters Project Office



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**James Kelton is recognized with the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award during the April 18 opening session of the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville. Presenting him with the award are, from left, association president retired Brig. Gen. Rod Wolfe, Gen. James Thurman and Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield.**

supports more than 400 utility helicopters in active combat zones, more than 300 processing through preset and more than 300 moving through the sustainment process. More than 900 additional utility helicopters are ready to respond to worldwide natural disasters, rescues, MEDEVACs and

similar operations.

The utility helicopter fleet has amassed the highest number of combat helicopter hours in history, with more than 1.5 million combat hours and more than 6 million total fleet hours.

In support of aviation Soldiers, the utility helicopters team at Redstone has worked to rapidly increase the fleet, digitize helicopter systems, improve situational awareness, modernize the airframes and field sophisticated sensor systems. These include 118 new UH-60M Black Hawks, 54 new UH-72A Lakotas and 435 new T701d engines.

Of the employees of the Utility Helicopters Project Office, project manager Col. Neil Thurgood said: "Their passion, service and dedication to serve the Soldiers is unmatched ... Not a day goes by, not a minute goes by that we don't focus on our combat action brigade Soldiers."

The association also inducted Army aviators in their Hall of Fame during the association's forum. Those with Huntsville connections are retired Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones, a Boeing vice president and Huntsville site executive; retired Brig. Gen. Edward Sinclair, chief executive officer for Science Engineering Services in Huntsville; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Buford Thomas, who lives in Athens.

## AroundTown

# Local schools weave tapestry of arts for students

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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They could be the next William Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart or Fred Astaire.

In a day and age when school budgets are lean but expectations for academic achievement remain high, often the first programs to go to the chopping block are the very ones that have been proven to help students reach even higher levels of success both in the classroom and beyond their educational years. But at some Tennessee Valley schools, the fine arts aren't just barely breathing – they're alive and well.

"Even in times such as these, we have to keep our fine arts programs very much alive," said Geraldine Tibbs, director of communications and public relations for the Madison County school system. "We believe that for one to be educated is to be well rounded. The arts are very much a part of educating a student, as are the other disciplines. They help to mold, guide and direct students, along with helping one to see the broader view of things in life."

**Active duty military night at the Panoply Arts Festival will be held Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. at Big Spring Park downtown. All active duty military with current ID and their families will receive free admission to the Friday night festivities. For more information about Panoply, visit [www.artshuntsville.org/our-programs/panoply-arts-festival](http://www.artshuntsville.org/our-programs/panoply-arts-festival).**

The Alabama Department of Education requires a half credit of arts education, which encompasses dance, music, theater or fine arts, for a student to graduate high school in Alabama. Students in grades 1-6 are recommended daily instruction by an arts specialist; where that is not possible, students in grades 1-3 should ideally receive two 30 to 45 minute instructional sessions weekly; students in grades 4-6 a minimum of 60 minutes of instruction per week. When an art specialist is not available, interdisciplinary instruction in the classroom is encouraged. Neighboring states Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee both require a full credit in Fine Arts for graduation; Georgia requires students take

three credits from career, technical and agricultural education, and/or modern language/Latin, and/or Fine Arts. While that's the bare minimum, in the case of fine arts, evidence shows that more, is in fact, better.

"Art education helps students with creativity, academic achievement and self-discipline," said Barbara Williams, school liaison officer for Child Youth and School Services. "Generally, students who are involved in art and music education think creatively and develop better problem solving skills. They also learn how to work as a team and develop leadership skills. Music teaches children to take risk and conquer fears. When students succeed, they are willing to take more."

The 2010 College Board's total group profile report on the 1.59 million college-bound students that took the SAT from the class of 2010 found that on average, students that had taken more than four years of art and music scored 26 points higher on the reading portion of the test, 23 points higher on the math portion and 27 points higher on the writing exam. Students that had two years of art and music scored on par with the national average, while students that had only studied art and music for half a year or less actually scored lower than average on the college entrance exam.

## Early start in arts

"Anyone worth their salt in education understands the connection between being involved in fine arts and cognitive development," said Julie Finley, assistant principal at Bob Jones High School.

With more than 100 member organizations and individual artists that comprise the Arts Council Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting and advancing the arts in the greater Huntsville/Madison County community, there are a plethora of opportunities for parents to not only introduce their children to the arts, but to also get them involved outside of the classroom, like at this weekend's annual Panoply Arts Festival in Big Spring Park. Besides Panoply's fifth-grade days program, which introduces students from local schools to art in the park, the festival hosts numerous events that educate and showcase local arts programs for children.

"There are a variety of opportunities for parents who want to see their children engage more deeply in the arts outside of school," said Allison Dillon-Jauken, executive director for The Arts Council. "Between the arts experiences that they have in school and those opportunities outside the classroom, all that contributes to increased academic performance across the board."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Jacquez Harris warms up on the violin for the AAA orchestra concert.**

Where sack lunches and juice boxes usually make their home, stringed instruments cover the lunch tables at the Academy for Academics and Arts in Huntsville, waiting for the big moment – the spring orchestra concert – to bring the school's auditorium to life with patriotism, as the fifth and sixth grade musicians play the Star Spangled Banner for an audience for the first time. Open to students in grades K-8, the strings program is just one of the many fine arts courses available at the magnet program.

"The earlier you start them the better," principal Wilbert Brown said. "The whole purpose of the arts is to find more creative methods of communication."

Students are eligible to apply to the school during the year of their fourth birthday. All students must undergo an application and interview process, in which the potential student must demonstrate a distinct interest in the arts, whether it be through dance, music or visual art. More than 100 students apply to the kindergarten program, only 36 are accepted. Waiting applications move up as the student advances throughout their academic career, but with admission at the school in such demand, some AAA hopefuls never make the cut.

"A student that comes here should be interested in the arts," Brown said.

In addition to the typical academics you would find in an elementary school, the approximately 400 AAA students en-

gage in choir, dance, drama, music, strings and visual art. Each student in grades K-5 participates in dance and physical education on a daily basis and the visual arts at least once to twice a week. General music studies begin in kindergarten as well, with every second grader in the school learning how to play a stringed instrument – after second grade it is their choice if they want to continue.

Drama begins in second grade, a popular offering, with the up and coming actors performing once a year, as well as a school-wide production of "Mr. Grumpy's Toy Shop" every four years that includes every student in the school, including the special needs students. Once a child hits middle school, the choice is theirs what they want to pursue. With so many students overlapping in art, choir, orchestra, the special drama group "Stars and Clowns," and dance, it's not always an easy decision to make.

"I could not be a middle school student here," Brown said, laughing at the many options available to students and the difficulty of fitting everything they want into their schedule.

Even though by its very name, the arts are paramount at AAA, the school is not exempt from the budget woes affecting educational institutions across the country, and parents have taken a special interest in keeping the arts not just alive, but thriving at the school. Whether it be giving monetarily, making

**See Arts on page 30**

# Depot riggers save aircraft parts from sinkhole

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Corpus Christi Army Depot riggers rescued millions of dollars in aviation components from a sinkhole April 15, that developed after a water main broke the day before on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

Aircraft parts held at the Defense Logistic Agency's outside storage lot were in immediate danger as the ground below them gave way.

"When we arrived at the scene, there were already aircraft parts floating in the water," Ruben Rivera, CCAD Industrial Trades Branch chief, said. "With the ground giving way, the team had to use extra precautions."

That Friday morning, DLA employees noticed a sinkhole filled with water. Long rotary wing cans teetered above the hole, while smaller barrel-sized cans and boxes had slipped in.

"The hole probably developed overnight," said Tom Reed, Security Officer for DLA. "Nobody anticipated this. It just happened."

DLA commander Lt. Col. Bernard Warrington called and the depot responded immediately. CCAD called on Rivera and his rigging team to help pull

aircraft parts away from the damage.

The rigging team used a small crane to pluck the parts out of the sinkhole and surrounding area.

"It's a lot of unstable ground so we can't drive a forklift. We were real cautious about it," Rivera said.

The sinkhole is believed to be 30 feet in diameter, according to Reed. Another sinkhole, 80 feet away caused by the break was estimated to be approximately 15-20 feet in diameter.

"There was sufficient area that dropped 12-16 inches, somewhere in the area of 100 feet in diameter," Mark Ruszczyk, CCAD senior civil engineer, said.

"When things are trenched, that's what you have to watch out for," said David Askew, safety specialist for CCAD. "There's a buffer zone. You don't know how far this [hole] can go back. There's an immediate exposure and then there's a zone of danger."

The areas where the two sink holes



occurred were immediately roped off, nearby streets were closed to prevent further damage and notices went out to all work forces to stay away from the affected areas.

As the CCAD rigging team extracted

the aircraft parts from the sinkhole, DLA employees were ready with forklifts and trucks, relocating them.

"It all happened pretty quickly," Reed said. "Everybody worked well together to get it done."

"The sink hole is the result of not being able to shut off the water fast enough," Ruszczyk said. He noted that it took less than two hours to shut it off.

Ruszczyk notes that the public water line failed due to aging infrastructure. The pipe that broke has been underground for approximately 60-70 years and has been slowly eroding and corroding through the decades.

"Be prepared for the next one," Ruszczyk said. "As you make a repair, the next weaker section of the pipe starts to erode faster. There's a continual risk on the infrastructure."

The Navy's long-term plan is to make lasting repairs to the aging infrastructure and is presently working on to secure a contract for the repair. (*Corpus Christi Depot release*)

# Convention

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commander on the ground always needs more aviation capability,” Thurman said. “Aviation is a key ingredient to success on the battlefield.”

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism – officially Feb. 1, 2003 – there have been 4.5 million combat hours flown by the Army’s aviation fleet. Currently, the Army sustains over 650 helicopters in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, 149 helicopters are committed to other parts of the world and 129 helicopters are stationed in the U.S. The Army also has a 350-member fixed wing fleet worldwide.

“No Army in the world can put up the numbers that can even come close to these,” Thurman said.

But three issues – continuing high demand for aviation capabilities, the need for continued success after nine years of war and the impact of a reduced operating budget – must be addressed in the future of Army aviation.

“How do we sustain this force, and sustain not only our people but our platforms?” Thurman asked. “How do we continue to manage and equip for two theaters of war? ... I will do everything in the world to protect our Soldiers and keep them sustained.”

The Army will complete the activation of the 12th aviation brigade in 2012 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. But the demand for aviation means even more brigades are needed, he said.

“Our aviation Soldiers carry a heavy load with professionalism and enthusiasm,” Thurman said. “They do a one-year tour every 15 months when the goal is 24 months at home between deployments. The 10th and the 4th are still deploying with only a year at home. We must equip a 13th combat aviation brigade.”

The general touched on the success of the UH-60M model Black Hawk, the requirement for high-altitude mountain environment training for aviation Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan, and the teaming of manned and unmanned aircraft.

He also commented on Army acquisition reform, saying the Army is “working to bring discipline to acquisition programs. We have to field platforms quicker.”

Calling on the nation’s patriots in both industry and government to work together in developing and procuring new aviation systems, Thurman said “We are in an era of protracted conflict coupled with an era of dwindling budgets ... We must build readiness at best value and we must do that with the constraints imposed by the nation’s fiscal situation.”

He mentioned the request for a new



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Gen. James Thurman, commander of the Army Forces Command, expresses his appreciation for his surprise speaker's gift – induction into the Order of St. Michael – during the opening session of the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition. The award is presented by the association in recognition of an individual's contributions to the promotion of Army aviation and to individuals who demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence, and serve the Army aviation or civilian aviation community with distinction.**

armed air scout platform to replace the Kiowa Warrior helicopter. The current Kiowa fleet is “flying well over 100 miles per month on this airframe ... All of our airframes are accumulating hours at four to five times the normal rate.”

While commanders are demanding more aviation capabilities, Army aviation receives only 21 percent of the Army equipment budget.

“We need better efficiencies and we must work closer together as a team. We need every dollar to achieve the best value,” Thurman said.

The opening session of the aviation association’s forum, hosted by association president retired Brig. Gen. Rod Wolfe, began with a flag ceremony presented by the Fort Campbell, Ky., color guard, and with a memorial presentation of three Army aviation icons – Lt. Gen. Jack Mackmull, Lt. Gen. Gus Cianciolo and Col. John Stanko Jr. – who had passed away during 2010. A touching slide show memorial to Army aviators who were killed in combat in 2010 was set to bagpipes played by Joe Ausfahl of Redstone Arsenal.

The association’s Tennessee Valley-Huntsville chapter was named the top senior chapter of 2010. With 2,010 members, it is the largest association chapter and has continued to grow with more than 100 new members each year for the past three years.

The session also included a taped message from Maj. Gen. John Campbell, commander of the International Security Assistance Force, Kandahar (Afghanistan) Regional Command South. The command includes 178 airframes, with

110 of those in the air every day.

“They are flying in the most inhospitable terrain and also the most dangerous,” Campbell said. “We’ve had more than 400 incidents of being fired on (during the past 11 months) and we’ve had 80 airframes damaged. We’ve conducted thousands of air assaults, a total of 132 since March. The Apache remains one of the most lethal killers.

“Heroism abounds throughout the aviation brigades ... Aviation is doing a magnificent job here. I see every day how aviators truly make the remarkable look routine. Helicopters and crews are at high demand. We need more Army aviation ... Our aviators are making a significant impact every day.”

Campbell showed the audience numerous cards that carry the names and pictures of Soldiers who have died in Afghanistan. He takes the cards from his pocket often to reflect on the nation’s and the Army’s loss.

“I will never ever forget their great sacrifice ... Our aviators put it on the line every single day here in Afghanistan,” he said. “We can never forget the sacrifice of these great Soldiers. Air assault!”

Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, commanding general of the Army’s Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, also spoke at the opening session, expressing his dismay and sorrow over the loss of Soldiers in the fight. Mentioning the opening session’s memorial of fallen Soldiers, he said he often asks himself “Am I doing everything I can today to make sure there is no slide show next year at Quad A with pictures of those who were killed?”

Toward that end, Crutchfield said he is working to ensure Army aviation is “adaptive enough, resilient enough to face the enemy of the future. What lies beyond the horizon of Iraq and Afghanistan? What about the future security environment? ... The enemy will adapt to us and we must do the same.”

Army aviation has been drawn into the fight to handle a multitude of missions. After a decade of combat, Crutchfield said “aviation Soldiers and equipment are tired ...

“But, I’m not worried about today’s commitment. We have that. I’m worried about tomorrow’s commitment and resiliency ... What are we doing to train, adapt and equip that future force?”

As a combat enabler, Army aviation is in high demand and will not diminish in the future, he said. There are currently six aviation brigades – representing 623 airframes – deployed in Afghanistan (three), Iraq (two) and Korea (one). Fifty percent of aviation missions are in support of special operations.

“That’s high demand in a fluid environment. That’s why resiliency and adaptability are so important,” Crutchfield said.

The challenge for the future is devel-

oping leaders and modernizing airframe platforms.

“We’ve got to continue to build leaders that are adaptive, both tactically and strategically, so they can lead in an unclear, complex, uncertain environment,” Crutchfield said.

The two-star general said the need to modernize the fleet is imperative to the future of Army aviation.

“The current fleet, although great aircraft, will someday be obsolete. We have to have a method of looking out into the future to ensure we have aircraft relevant to the fight,” he said.

Fiscal year 2025 is the year that Kiowa Warrior is supposed to be phased out of the Army’s helicopter fleet. Fiscal year 2035 is the end year for Black Hawks and Chinooks. And fiscal year 2040 will bring an ending to the Apache Longbow program.

“Technology will change. We’ve got to be resourced to take advantage of technology so that we can be integrators and outcome based,” Crutchfield said. “The future vertical lift airframes have to increase range, speed, payload and survivability, and reduce the logistical footprint ... 2035 is the aim point. We’re not going to get everything we want. But we have to get everything we need.”

If it hadn’t been for the visionaries of the 1960s and ‘70s, Army aviation wouldn’t be as strong as it is today, Crutchfield said. His hope is that the visionaries and leaders of today will leave the legacy of a “healthy aviation branch postured for full spectrum operations in defense of our national interests and our nation.”

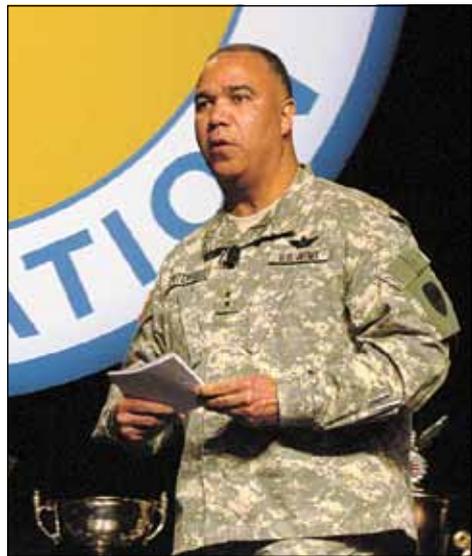


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield talks about the future of Army aviation, and the need for resiliency and adaptability within the aviation community during the opening session of the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition.**

## Win or Lose

# Charlie Company captures final softball title



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Charlie Company's champion softball team includes, from left, kneeling, pitcher/coach Larry Underwood, Kenneth Lakins, Adron Brown, Jared Anderson and Robert Palmer. Standing are Jeff-Eric Brinkley, Marlon Slade, Curtis Cunningham, Miles Brooks, Dennis Laughead, Garrett Stoker, Cameron Hart, Kyle Koeth, Derek Morvant and assistant coach John Johnston.**

## *Wolfpack tops National Guard as unit-level sports era closes*

By SKIP VAUGHN

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There was a feeling of finality when the Linton Field lights were turned off after this night of troop softball.

Charlie Company's win over the National Guard for the 2011 championship marked the last unit-level competition before many of the troops leave for Fort Lee, Va. A tournament replaced the season for five units that had enough players.

After the last out April 19, Charlie Company celebrated its 10-5 victory over the National Guard in the final. The Wolfpack was unbeaten until falling to the Guard 15-14 in the night's first game, forcing a rematch to decide the title.

The National Guard had advanced to the final from the losers bracket by beating Headquarters & Alpha 14-4 on April 18.

But the final championship trophy belonged to Charlie, perhaps the last unit-level sports winner in Redstone history.

"It feels good to be the last post champion," Charlie pitcher/coach Larry Underwood said. "It feels good to represent Redstone like that."

Charlie (4-1) struck for three runs in the top of the first inning in the decisive nightcap. Marlon Slade got a leadoff hit, Kenneth Lakins reached on an error and Underwood doubled them home. Two outs later, Garrett Stoker got an RBI single.

The Wolfpack added three runs in the second, one in the fourth, two in the sixth and one in the seventh.

Slade, Lakins, Underwood and Stoker finished with two hits apiece. Jeff-Eric Brinkley went 3-for-3 with a double.

"We finally got one," Slade said, referring to the championship for himself and Underwood. "Me and him, we started playing together last year. We're the only two permanent party. And we finally got one, and it feels great."

The Wolfpack outthit the Patriots 15-8. In the bottom of the seventh, the National Guard (3-2) scored a run and had the bases loaded with two outs. Marty Jones flied out to left to end the game.

"We just didn't put hits together," Patriots shortstop/coach Rodney Henshaw said. "They had great defense, we didn't hit. We played the first game well. Just didn't show up for the second one."

National Guard pitcher Joe Cox went 2-for-4 with an RBI double.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Charlie rightfielder Dennis Laughead went 1-for-2 with a walk and scored two runs in the Wolfpack's clincher.**

# Security assistance enterprise members cited

CRYSTAL CITY, Va. – Members of the Army’s Security Assistance Enterprise were recognized by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan at the start of the recent Afghanistan Program Management Review in Crystal City. Most team members recognized are part of Army Materiel Command’s subordinate command’s Security Assistance Management Directorates.

“The Army Security Assistance Enterprise significantly improves the way we provide capability to our strategic partners

because of the synergy we get by bringing together all stakeholders,” USASAC commander Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker said. “The enterprise allows our USASAC country program managers to more efficiently reach across AMC, ASAALT and TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command) to provide comprehensive support to our international partners.”

Awards were presented by CSTC-A to the following Security Assistance Enterprise team members: Cheryl Nielson, Army Contracting Command, Rock Island, Ill.; Kristin Rhuele,

TACOM Life Cycle Management Command; Sue Meyers, Joint Munitions Command; Chuck Pace, Security Assistance Training Field Activity; Lauren LiPera, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command; Rick Phillips, Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation; Mike Sprang, TACOM Acquisition Center; and Paul Daigle, Program Manager Non Standard Rotary Wing.

“Their hard work, diligence and teamwork to get the tough work done acquiring capabilities that supported the build-up of Afghan National Security Forces ex-

emplifies USASAC’s motto of ‘Security Through Cooperation,’” Tucker said.

The CSTC-A, in conjunction with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force and the international community, are nested with U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. The CSTA-A programs and implements the generation and development of the Afghan National Security Forces in order to enable and achieve security and stability in Afghanistan. (*Security Assistance Command release*)

## Homes

continued from page 12

pick up a hammer. Typically within 90 to 120 days of the build brigade, the veteran is handed the keys to their brand new home.

“The turnout from the local communities is really what drives the success of our programs,” Gill said. “We simply couldn’t do what we do without them. It would not mean near as much to both the veteran and their family and the community. There’s enough people in the U.S. that want



Larry Gill

to get involved and do something to say ‘thank you’ to these wounded troops. We provide that tool for them.”

It is that connection between the veteran and the men and women that are reaching out to do something good for them, that makes the building process that much more special and the home, as a result, that much better. In an industry where most builders never get to meet the men and women that inhabit their livelihood, a unique bond is forged.

“If it’s not plumb or square, it’s just not good enough,” Gill said.

For Gill, the connection between him and the wounded warriors he works with is ever apparent as well. It was a grenade attack in Iraq in October 2003 that robbed Gill of his ability to serve in combat, but his desire to continue to serve that brought him to Homes for Our Troops.

“I realized from my injuries that I would be retiring,” Gill said. “I saw that as an opportunity. I had accepted the fact that I could no longer take care of troops on the battlefield, so I could help take care of them in the aftermath.

“It could have very easily been me. I was unlucky enough to have permanent injuries to my legs, but I’ve still got them. I think that

brings a certain sense of understanding when we’re dealing with these veterans.”

To learn more about Homes for Our Troops, or to donate time, talent, materials or money, visit [www.homesforourtroops.com](http://www.homesforourtroops.com) or call 866-7-TROOPS. Monetary donations can be made at any Regions Bank in the Huntsville/Madison area.

“These men and women that are hurt, they are an asset to anywhere they want to live,” Gill said. “The neighbors see who these homes are being built for and they’re saddened on one hand because of the severity of their injuries, but they’re happy because they know they’re getting a good, sound, quality neighbor. Automatically the people know the caliber and integrity of the people moving into their neighborhood.”

# Car show drives up charity coffers

*Toys for Tots, Valor Flight among donation recipients*

Though the categories included “Best Motor” and “Best Wheels,” the real winners of the seventh annual charity car show sponsored by Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Club are the military-related charities that will receive donations from the event.

On April 16, just over 200 award-winning show cars were parked outside the Bridge Street Towne Center for the enjoyment of car enthusiasts and shoppers alike.

Funds raised from the car show will be donated to Wounded Warriors, Toys for Tots, Survivor Outreach Services, Army Emergency Relief, Valor Flight and the Tut Fann Veterans Home.

Car show winners were selected in the following categories: Mayor’s Choice – Ronnie Wilkenson with a 1961 Pontiac Venture sponsored by AEGIS Technologies; Best Motor – Terry Hanna with a 1976 Pontiac Trans Am sponsored by O’Reilly Auto Parts; Best Wheels – David Turner with a 1934 Ford Coupe sponsored by Smith Transmission; Best Interior – Thomas Nicholson with a 1964 Ford Mustang sponsored by Woody Anderson Ford; and Best Paint – Darryl Pope with a 1970 Chevrolet C/10 Truck sponsored by AAAA-Tennessee Valley Chapter.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Erick Treves of Owens Cross Roads drives his 1965 Factory Five Racing Cobra into the Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Club charity car show. His image is captured through the hood of a 2011 C-6 Corvette convertible owned by Tony Thomas of Harvest. Treves, who works at Redstone Arsenal, built the Cobra from a car kit.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**District 2 State Sen. and Marine veteran Bill Holtzclaw poses with one of the red hot Corvettes at the Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Club charity car show with club president Ted Whitney.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Mark Young of Huntsville does some final detailing on his 1979 Maserati Merak before judging at the Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Club charity car show.**

# Arts

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photocopies for teachers to cut back on expenses, volunteering to help with a concert or painting the theater's proscenium for the latest play, parents take an active role in their child's education at AAA.

Students that complete their education at AAA have the option of continuing that fine arts immersion at Lee High School in Huntsville, where a gentle melody from a single soprano voice fills the cafeteria, while down the hall and in other corridors, students are sculpting, dancing, and acting. The school's magnet program offers fine arts subjects such as vocal performance, visual art, theater performance, orchestra and dance. On the stage and in the studio, while skilled at their dedicated craft, these teens aren't just artists – they're exceptional students too.

"They're well rounded – not just the best in the school, but the best in the country," said Linda Meigs, magnet coordinator.

Of the approximately 700 to 800 students in the school, 160 are currently enrolled in the school's magnet program, which, similar to AAA, requires an application and audition process. In addition to their daily academic courses, students spend two of their seven class periods a day in their magnet program, performing plays, working on choreography, singing classical pieces in Italian, French and German, or rehearsing an orchestra piece. Celebrating 25 years in existence next year, the program attracts creative students from all walks of life from across the Huntsville area, allowing for not just an artistically connected

community, but a diverse one as well. The mix of diversity and intense focus on the arts is what sets the school's program apart, Meigs said.

"It's supposed to be special, it's supposed to be unique, it's supposed to be something you can't get anywhere else," Meigs said of the program.

The students that call the school home aren't just special in the eyes of Meigs and faculty, but across the area and nation – the awards and accolades for each program are too numerous to count, but include honors at All-State Choir, Visual Art Achievement awards and trophies at the state's Walter Trumbauer Theatre Festival. Performing is just part of the routine for students – a theatre performance showcase, "Llamas, Masks and Guillotines" will be held Friday at 7 p.m. at the high school, the first annual art showcase will be May 5 from 5:30-8:30 at Lowe Mill, a dance concert is on schedule for May 5-6 at 7 p.m., in addition to their performance at Panopoly this weekend, and just days later, May 9, the orchestra will give their spring concert at 7 p.m. Branching out even further, the Lee Lyric Theatre is holding community wide auditions for individuals 13 and older for a production of "Hairspray" this summer. Auditions will be held at 2 p.m. April 30 and May 1.

## Broadway on Bailey Cove

But you don't have to attend a magnet school to get a healthy dose of the fine arts. Perhaps the nickname for Grissom High School's Theatre Department says it best – "Broadway on Bailey Cove."

"Grissom Theatre is a decades old program and it has grown to become a powerful asset to the Huntsville arts and education communities," said Lydia Marsh, theatre teacher at Grissom.

Approximately 200 students enjoy the four levels of acting/directing courses avail-

able at the school on a daily basis, which includes Theatre 1, 2, 3, and 4, along with Technical Theatre, as well as a Musical Theatre course available through the Choral Department. Each year the department program presents five public productions and competes at two-state level competitions, with the most recent honors being a Best in Show trophy from the Trumbauer Festival for the group's one-act play, "Beyond Tolerance." Grissom's legacy of musical productions dates back 20 years, with 4,000 patrons taking in this year's performance of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," which brought together the theatre, dance, choral and band department, who all collaborate to present the school's musicals. Directed by Stephanie Braly-Beutjer, nearly 100 students have the opportunity to participate, whether it be through the cast, orchestra or technical crews.

In addition to its public performances and classes, the department sponsors two student organizations, Spotlight Drama Club which offers workshops, production opportunities, and service projects, and Grissom's troupe of the International Thespian Society, a theatre honorary, which presents an annual Musical Theatre Workshop for students in grades 4-8. Students plan and execute the event, which includes teaching the children and producing a musical performance at the end of the weekend camp experience. Advanced theatre students are also given the opportunity throughout the year to direct underclassmen in one-act plays and other theatre projects.

"Students grow and mature intellectually, personally, and socially as a result of their involvement in theatre," Marsh said. "They learn leadership and responsibility skills. They learn to work together toward a common goal and to take pride in their accomplishments. They learn to share joy, frustration, and fellowship. Hundreds of students graduate from Grissom's Theatre program with lifelong friends and lifelong skills that will help them succeed in their lives as employees, members of their communities, and lifelong supporters of the arts."

Completely self-funded, the Grissom Theatre Department receives no funds from Huntsville City Schools, but rather, supports itself through ticket sales, donations and fundraisers. Parents play a hands-on role through the Theatre Parents Association, which helps sell tickets, makes costumes, publicizes events and more.

Grissom's theatre program is proof that fine arts opportunities are available at the average public school in the Huntsville-Madison area, a trend other schools as well have picked up on. Bob Jones High School in Madison employs three art teachers, two drama teachers, one choral director and two band directors for its largely successful fine arts program, which is constantly in motion. All Bob Jones students take the state minimum half credit requirement for fine arts, but assistant principal Finley esti-

mates 80 percent of students stick around for more, whether it be in visual arts, music or theater.

"Many forms of artistic expression play a vital role in our curriculum at Bob Jones," Finley said. "We encourage our students to go beyond the state minimum and take advanced art opportunities which will strengthen their ability in all other classes. We understand visual arts such as drawing, sculpting and painting build cognitive capabilities through creativity. It's documented that playing an instrument or even listening to music for just one hour a day impacts EEG results, while theater and speech strengthen memory and build social presentation skills."

Jasmine Woods, a senior, just needed to get her fine arts credit for graduation, but something about performing on the stage stuck – not only is she a student of the audition-only advanced production class, but her post-graduate plans include majoring in theater at Troy University. Both she and Alex Stratton, a junior who snagged one of the eight female spots for the advanced production class out of 86 girls that auditioned, recognize the impact the performing arts have had on their lives – whether it be on their public speaking abilities, their communications skills, the confidence they carry themselves with, or the lessons learned in working with people they don't get along with.

"It has given me life skills that I will use forever," Stratton said.

Even if students don't pursue a career in the arts, the lessons they have learned in the classroom are something that will remain with them forever, Finley said.

"It's something you can add on to your future plans," Finley said. "It gives you a hobby, a way of release."

Drama teacher Dwayne Craft, who helps direct the school's nine drama productions each year, this year's 10 which includes the upcoming production of "The Crucible" May 6-7 at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon show, likens the impact of the performing arts to two engineers working on a missile program, both equally qualified, except one had been a part of the drama in high school, the other not.

"Who do you want presenting to a room of generals? The one who had experience in theater in high school, or the one who had not?" Craft said.

Art I, II, III and IV, as well as two advanced arts classes are available, allowing for the remarkably talented student artists to work in various mediums such as oil, watercolor, charcoal, clay and acrylic, their pieces of art transforming their ordinary classroom into an accomplished gallery. Regardless of what subject area the student chooses, whether it's music, drama or visual arts, they don't just have the support of their teachers behind them, but also the whole community.

**See Programs on page 31**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Dance director Niki Hunkapillar leads her dance class at Lee High School. The class will perform at Panopoly this weekend.**

# Programs

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“We live in a community that has a great deal of respect for cultural diversity and artistic expression. Because of that we continue to have enormous parent support as well as high expectation for continued development of the arts,” Finley said.

## Community support

That community support remains a constant nearly 20 miles away in Huntsville, where the plaque on the wall of Joel Mason’s office at Mountain Gap Middle School is a testament to the legacy of the school’s band – Best Bandsman, 8th Grade, Mountain Gap Middle School.

“There’s such a tradition of great bands here, it just kind of feeds into itself,” Mason, director of bands, said. “It’s a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

More than 40 percent of students participate in one of the four band classes at the school – 184 of them to be exact – whether it be in the two beginning band classes, intermediate class, “Symphonic II” or advanced class, “Symphonic I.” Students at Mountain Gap are required to take either band or choir their sixth grade year.

“Every child deserves access to music education,” said Mason, who cited the confidence, self-esteem and intellectual benefits music education provides. “Not everybody is going to be a quarterback. Sports are not for everybody. Music is an important outlet for a lot of kids.”

The 2010 College Board’s report found that on average, students that had studied music performance scored 28 points higher on the critical reading portion of the test; 22 points higher on the math portion and 29 points higher on the writing part of the exam. Students that had studied music or music appreciation scored 32 points higher on the reading, 20 points higher on the

math and 32 points higher on the writing. One of the greatest strengths that accompanies music, Mason said, is that everyone has a chance to play their part, giving everyone a chance at enhancing their intellectual development.

“There’s no bench,” Mason said. “Nobody gets the pine in band class. Everybody plays.”

What they play is entirely up to the students, who spend the first three weeks of their beginning band class determining what instrument they want to play. In addition to learning about each instrument, students are given the opportunity to try each one, whether it be flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trumpet or percussion, before declaring their choice. Students in the upper classes are expected to practice 30 minutes a day, seven days a week. Performances typically come once or twice every nine weeks, allowing the musicians the chance to showcase their newfound talents at football games, Veterans Day festivities, Christmas, and in contests. In addition to the kids performing themselves, Mason also brings outside performers in, such as the Army Jazz Band, to further the educational experience.

“It takes a village to raise a band,” Mason said. “We have fantastic parent support, we have great kids who want to learn and an administration that thinks music is important. It just makes for a great program.”

The curriculum in place at AAA, Bob Jones, Grissom, Lee and Mountain Gap is just a sampling of the arts education opportunities across the area. Madison County schools have fine arts courses in all of their schools, with schools sharing teachers in the elementary schools, and the middle and high school levels offering visual, band, chorus and performing arts. Grants are provided at some Madison County schools to offer afterschool programs in the fine arts for students that

might otherwise not receive it, Tibbs said. Each elementary art teacher in Huntsville city schools is assigned between two and three schools, and rotates between those schools on a 10-day cycle, providing each elementary student with one 50-minute art class every 10 days.

Art class at Weatherly Elementary in Huntsville offers an escape to Asia for students without ever leaving Alabama. Louise Fine, art teacher at Weatherly, focuses on a theme for her art curriculum each school year, with this year’s focus on Asian Art, allowing students to try their hand at developmentally appropriate art forms such as Japanese Kabuki portraits, Chinese ink paintings and rubbings, all the while learning about symmetrical balance, positive and negative shapes, textures, shapes, lines and color patterns. Each year during March the school celebrates the visual arts with a school-wide student art exhibit, guest artists and a family art project.

“Early exposure to the arts encourages the development of fine motor skills and higher order thinking skills that they will continue to use throughout their education,” Fine said. “Art integrates math, language, science and social science concepts thus enhancing student learning. Young students in today’s world are constantly being exposed to visual images through a variety of media and technology. Art provides students a means to interpret and analyze these images as they relate to their own experiences and surroundings.”

## Professional development

The Arts Council is working to further develop art opportunities in the classroom by offering area teachers this summer a free professional development workshop on the art of creative teaching, Dillon-Jauken said, which will provide classroom teachers with the skills to incorporate the arts in all classroom settings, so they can use the arts across the curriculum.

“We all need to work to see that the arts continue to be an important part, or restate it as a critical component for all students in all schools,” Dillon-Jauken said.

You’re never too old to enjoy the arts however, and opportunities also abound for adults in the area to connect with their creative and artistic side, whether it be spending a quiet moment admiring the work located in the Huntsville Museum of Art, treating your ears to a performance by the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra or taking in a show presented by the Broadway Theatre League, just to name a few. While fine arts may not be the first thing that comes to mind when an outsider thinks of the Rocket city, a strong presence



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Anna Ruth Bennett constructs her sculpture in visual arts class at Lee High School.**

is there, contributing to and improving the quality of life for those that live and play in the Huntsville area.

Dillon-Jauken was one of those newcomers skeptical of the art scene in North Alabama. Before arriving in June 2009 with a background in art and arts administration, Dillon-Jauken wasn’t quite sure what she was going to do in the community known for its aerospace and Army presence, until she began research on the arts community nestled in the Tennessee Valley. Today, in her role with The Arts Council, she has a mission to spread the word across the nation that arts are important in Alabama.

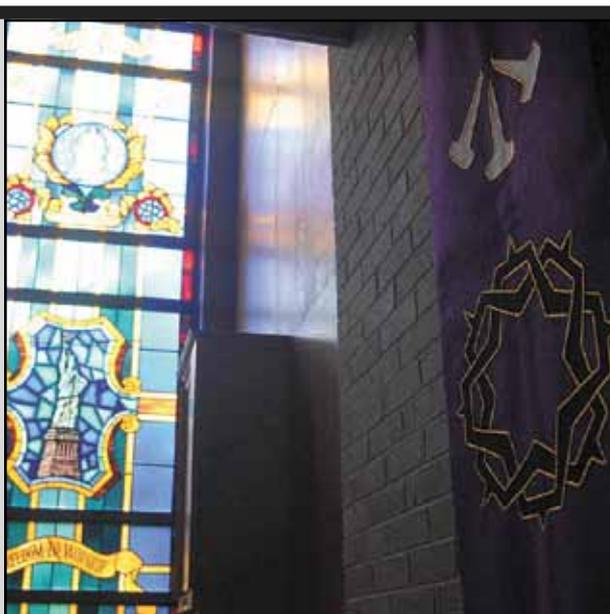
“That’s our challenge,” Dillon-Jauken said. “And that’s what we need to communicate – anything you can find in any other major metropolitan area is also here in Huntsville, whether it’s museums, galleries, visual artists, the symphony, ballet to chamber music performances – there’s something here for everyone.”

“What people will also find here in Huntsville that they may not find in other places is there’s so many opportunities to get involved. If they lived elsewhere and really wanted to pursue a professional career, they could try that, but in Huntsville they get to make a great living by day as engineers and still do what they love by night. For people with a love of the arts, they can enjoy performances but also be a part of the arts community.”

Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Spiritual reminder

**At Bicentennial Chapel, patrons were reminded of Holy Week last week by this banner depicting the nails and thorns that Jesus Christ bared when crucified. It appears in the chapel April 20, next to one of the stained glass windows that reads “Freedom to Worship.” Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim information was posted in the chapel.**



# Rocket Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### Golf tournament

Redstone Test Center will hold its annual Commander's Cup Golf Tournament on May 13 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove. All proceeds will benefit the Military Child Education Coalition. Sponsorships and team slots are available now. Contact Sherry Hilley 842-6715, sherry.hilley@us.army.mil, or Mike Krause, mike.krauseSR@us.army.mil.

### Basketball benefit

Buckhorn High School will hold its inaugural 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Friday and Saturday. There will be multiple age divisions, three indoor gyms, slam dunk and 3-point contest. The cost is \$40 per team, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Registration on-site that afternoon at 4 or at any Jack's location. For more information, call 683-5439 or go to 977thezone.com and look in "events."

### Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide a Boating Safety six-week course through May 26 each Thursday night at 6:30 at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687. Each session lasts about two and a half hours. The course is designed for all boaters and others interested in the safe handling of watercraft. There is a fee for the instructional manual only. For more information, call Tom Kunhart home 830-6621, cell phone 527-4475 or

email tkunhart@knology.net.

### Model boat race

The Huntsville Model Boating Association is holding its annual John Hall/Gene Taylor Memorial Model Boat Race on Saturday and Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Brahan Spring Park off Drake Avenue in the south lake. Free to spectators. For more information, call Bill Zuber 361-3325.

### Fun run

The Month of the Military Child 2011 Fun Run is Saturday at the Redstone Arsenal Jogging Path at the intersection of Goss and Hughes roads. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and the race begins at 1. Parking is available at Bicentennial Chapel, CYSS Sports Field or the Child Development Center. For more information, call 313-3699.

### Disc golf benefit

A Disc Golf Tournament, to benefit Army Emergency Relief, will be held 2 p.m. May 12 at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is \$15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email paul.sieja@us.army.mil.

### Golf benefit

Health Establishments at Local Schools will hold its second annual "HEALS on the Green Pro-Am Golf Tourney" May 2 at The Ledges. The shotgun starts are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cost is \$250 per person

or \$1,000 per team. Sponsors, players and volunteers are wanted. For more information, call Lauren Mosley 428-7560 or e-mail Lauren.Mosley@healsinc.org.

## 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 meet each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. The lunchtime Bible study meets at 11:30 a.m. The Korean sisters begin their study at 10:30 a.m. There is some child-care available with proper registration. For more information, call Laura Coffey 585-2547.

### Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Community Activity Center. Breakfast is available at the Java Cafe. 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 Tennes-

see Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 859-3784.

### 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 425-5307 – at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for \$5. For more information, call Hobbs 425-5307.

### Aviation conference

The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement's "Army Aviation Exhibition and Conference" is scheduled June 6-8 at the Community Activity Center. It will bring together Army leaders and aviation experts to address program updates including Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Attack Scout, Apache, Cargo, Utility and Fixed Wing. Register for free exhibit hall and expo passes. For more information, call Alexa Deaton 1-212-885-2725, email alexa.deaton@idga.org and visit www.ArmyAviationEvent.com.

### Test week

Test Week 2011 will launch June 13-17 at the Von Braun Center's South Hall. This DoD-sponsored forum focuses on the issues of Test and Evaluation. Information can be found on www.testweek.org. Registration fee is \$425; visit Course Catalog F113TW in TIP. The conference will hold tutorials, technical program, TST 303 certification, exhibits and other events. For more information, call event coordinator Sherry Hilley 842-6715 or e-mail sherry.hilley@us.army.mil.

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Williams military night

Columbia High's JROTC color guard participates in "Welcome to Military Family Night" held Thursday at Williams Middle School.



**Toastmaster clubs**

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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 Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

**Women's connection**

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will meet May 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The feature is "Inexpensive Ways to Refresh Your Home Decor" by Kathy Blades. Music will be provided by Camilla Pruitt, community vocalist. Frances Lynch of Knoxville will speak on "Importance of Right Role Models." Free child care for age 6 and younger is provided off site. Reservations for lunch or child care are due by May 2. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339. HCWC is an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, a support ministry for military wives and other women.

**Air defenders**

Air Defense Artillery Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will hold a spring social today from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub skybox. This is free to corporate and individual ADAA members. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. For information, e-mail corby.dellarocco@smdc.army.mil.

**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.

**Aeronautics/astronautics group**

The Greater Huntsville section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will hold a luncheon May 3 at 11 a.m. at the UAH University Center Exhibit Hall. Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is the speaker. Cost is \$20 for the buffet lunch. For reservations call Emmett McDonald or email distribution@al-ms-aiaa.org.

**Parkinson's support**

Elizabeth Abel will speak to the Parkinson's Support Group on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road. Abel is an attorney specializing in estate planning and taxation. The topic of the meeting will be "Elder

Law Issues." Family, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Fred Seeley 534-6767.

**Support group**

The Greater North Alabama Sarcoidosis Support Group will meet May 7 at 2 p.m. in the Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall Wellness Center Training Room. A physical therapist as the guest speaker, followed by open discussion. There is no charge to attend and all are welcome. The Medical Mall is located at 1963 Memorial Parkway southwest Huntsville. For information call 325-3696 or email Karen.reynolds@knology.net.

**Federally employed women**

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:15 a.m. in Room One, Redstone Lanes. The public is invited. For more information, call Angela Jones 955-2494 or Mary Peoples 955-4275.

**Tennessee Valley summit**

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and Rep. Chuck Fleischmann will be joined by Rep. Mo Brooks and several other new members of Congress as the annual Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit returns to Chattanooga on May 15-16. Registration is now open to the public; and all science, technology, research, economic development, education and business leaders are encouraged to register by visiting [www.TennValleyCorridor.org](http://www.TennValleyCorridor.org).

**Space development**

The National Space Society and its host chapter, the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, are bringing the 30th International Space Development Conference to Huntsville May 18-22 at the Von Braun Center and Embassy Suites. The annual event invites entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, politicians and private citizens who are interested in creating a space-faring civilization "From the Ground Up," which is the theme of the conference. For more information on calls for papers or sponsorship, volunteer, or trade show opportunities, contact ISDC2011@gmail.com. The conference website is [www.isdc2011.org](http://www.isdc2011.org).

**Weight watchers**

Weight Watchers at Work meetings are held Thursdays at the Sparkman Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Weight Watchers new PointsPlus program makes it easy to lose weight without that dreaded four letter word 'diet,'" a prepared release said. "The Weight Watchers PointsPlus program works because it's not a diet. You'll learn how to eat right and live healthy. The PointsPlus program is based on the latest nutritional science, and factors in the way your body actually processes food. Combined with the proven advantages of the Weight Watchers approach, the program helps you make healthy choices for long term success." For more information, call Pat Sandy 313-5655 or e-mail pat.sandy@us.army.mil.

# Rocket Announcements

## Miscellaneous Items

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

**Surplus sale**

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

**Officer recruitment**

Interested in being an Army officer? If you have completed a four-year college degree and are interested in the opportunities being an Army officer can provide, call Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

**Flight training**

If you're interested in becoming an Army aviator, you can apply for the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program by calling Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

**Mr. Man pageant**

SB Productions has begun its search for the exceptional caliber of men needed to compete in the 2011 "Mr. Man Premiere." This year's event is Aug. 27 at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville. Candidates will go through a screening process for the final selection. Finalists will have runway preparation and etiquette training for the pageant. For more information, call Samuel Brown 683-3083 or visit [www.mrmanpremiere.com](http://www.mrmanpremiere.com).

**Fraud hotline**

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract

companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name - all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

**Education test center**

Taking online college courses? Need a proctor for your exams? If so, call the Redstone Arsenal Testing Center 876-9764 for more information. They can proctor exams for most colleges. Proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community.

**Prior service military**

If you are prior service military without any military service obligation and are interested in joining the Army Reserve, call Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

**AER book sale**

The AMCOM G-3/Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief continues through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center building 5300, on the first floor in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. They're accepting donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes until today. To donate items or for more information, call Brian Barry 876-8563.

**Stepfamily seminar**

The Bicentennial Chapel and Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program are co-hosting a StepFamily 911 Seminar on Friday from 6-8:30 p.m. and April 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the chapel's Activity Room. There will be free child care at the Child Development Center next to the chapel. The presenters are Todd and Tammy Gangl. Pre-registration is required. Call ACS at 876-5397 or e-mail Denise English at [wanda.english@us.army.mil](mailto:wanda.english@us.army.mil).

**Reserve openings**

If you are an Army prior service (enlisted/officer) military member with a remaining military service obligation, are assigned to the Army Individual Ready Reserve, and interested in transferring to a local Army Reserve unit, call Sgt. 1st Class Ramiro Torres 665-6557 or Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Burley 374-9659 to discuss available positions and benefits of serving with a Reserve unit.

**Chapter scholarship**

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the

# Rocket Announcements

Army Warrant Officers Association will present one \$1,000 scholarship in 2011. The application deadline is Sunday. For details, eligibility and the application form, visit [www.redstonewarrants.com](http://www.redstonewarrants.com).

## Motorcyclists' benefit

Wingstock XI, to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities and Children's Hospital in Birmingham, will be held May 21-22 at 27 Berryhill Lane in Fayetteville, Tenn. Pull tabs from aluminum cans are collected to help cover the cost of families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are being treated. The Dice Run begins at Halftime Bar and Grill on Highway 72 in Madison. Registration starts at 9 a.m., with the last bike out at 11. There will be music by Down Stroke and Prairie Wolf, biker games, a 50-50 raffle, and a chicken drop. For more information call Kenneth Kelly, president of the Lapdance Riders Club, 466-7801.

## Fiesta fund-raiser

The Cinco De Mayo Fiesta, a fund-raiser for the Tut Fann Veterans Home and the Huntsville Veterans Memorial, will be held May 4 from 6-8 p.m. at Las Trojas Cantina, 3760 Highway 53 in Huntsville. Go north on Research Highway from Gate 9. The \$20 cost includes dinner, soft drinks/sweet tea and entertainment. For more information, call 852-6381.

## Scholarship dinner

The Madison County Democratic Women will hold its annual JFK Scholarship Dinner on May 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn downtown. Guest speaker is Justice Mark Kennedy, newly-elected chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party. Scholarships will be awarded to local students. For information and reservations, call 536-2701 or email [marilyn.robertson@knology.net](mailto:marilyn.robertson@knology.net).

## Regiment commander

Lt. Col. Jimmy Bowie will relinquish command of the 4th Battalion, 321st Regiment, to Lt. Col. John Perrel in a ceremony Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Post Parade Field. RSVP by Thursday to Cameron Caddell 876-4074 or [cameron.caddell@usar.army.mil](mailto:cameron.caddell@usar.army.mil).

## Heritage ringers

The Heritage Ringers of Huntsville presents their annual spring concert Monday at 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road. There is no admission charge.

## NCO Academy finale

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold a Colors Casing Ceremony on Thursday at 10 a.m. at the NCOA field directly behind Woodyard Hall, building 3329 on Mauler Road. The Ordnance Corps Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Muhammad will be the guest of honor as the NCO Academy bids

farewell to Redstone Arsenal after more than 24 years of training NCOs. Graduation Hall will be open for all attendees to view a unique piece of history, as the walls of the hall are adorned with hundreds of class pictures, plaques and creative sculptures that student NCOs have donated to the academy over the many years of training there. If you know an active or retired Soldier that holds or held the MOS 89D, 89B, or any of the CMF94/63 specialties, chances are they have come through the NCO Academy at some point in their career, and their picture may still be hanging up in Graduation Hall. The Army Materiel Command Ceremonial Band is scheduled to provide musical support. Also in attendance will be retired Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas M. Young, the first commandant who stood up the academy in 1987. As part of Base Realignment and Closure, the NCO Academy will be moving to the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Va. Training for the CMF 94 Senior Leaders Course is already being conducted at Fort Lee, and remaining courses are now or will soon be in their last iteration on Redstone Arsenal.

## Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled June 28 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To arrange for participation, call Sgt. Steven Griffin 876-7969 or Staff Sgt. Marcus Holder 876-7969 by June 3. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled Sept. 22.

## Bring child to work day

Team Redstone employees with school-age children are encouraged to attend the 2011 Bring Your Child to Work Day, Thursday from 1-4 p.m. at the Airfield. This is for children ages 5 to 19. For more information, visit the website at [https://ams8.redstone.army.mil/bctw/bctw\\_home](https://ams8.redstone.army.mil/bctw/bctw_home).

## Panoply arts festival

Active duty military night at the Panoply Arts Festival will be held Friday from 5-9 p.m. at Big Spring Park downtown. There will be free admission for all active duty military with current ID and their families to the Friday night festivities, which include six performing stages, the Global Village, more than a dozen free children's art activities and more. Panoply will be held Friday through Sunday at Big Spring Park. For more information on this and other art oriented events, visit [www.ourvalleyevents.com](http://www.ourvalleyevents.com) or [www.artshuntsville.org](http://www.artshuntsville.org).

## Space Camp scholarships

The Air Space and Missile Defense Association, a non-profit organization, is offering 16 scholarships for selected children to attend a one week, all expenses paid, Space Camp this summer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Cen-

ter. These scholarships are open to any child, age 9-11, of a parent or guardian of military or civilian personnel currently assigned or matrixed to SMDC/ARSTRAT, JFCC IMD, PEO-M&S, MSIC, NASA Marshall, or MDA, and contractors supporting these organizations who work for corporate members of ASMDA. Information, qualifications and applications are available on the ASMDA website at [www.ASMDA.us](http://www.ASMDA.us). Applications are due May 3.

## Watercolor workshop

Elizabeth Chapman is the award juror for the Watercolor Society of Alabama exhibit that's at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 511 N. Water St. in Tusculumbia, May 15 through July 8. She also will teach a three-day watercolor workshop. Designed for people who want to advance their watercolor techniques, the workshop is 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (with an hour's break for lunch), May 12-14. Cost is \$200. Applications are available at [wsalabama.org](http://wsalabama.org). Send applications to Jaceena Shepard, 1571 C.R. 414, Town Creek, AL 35672 or Nanette Jones, 8943 Tara Circle, Milton, FL 32583. Deadline to register is April 30. For more information, email [jaeshep@aol.com](mailto:jaeshep@aol.com) or [nanette80@gmail.com](mailto:nanette80@gmail.com).

## Rag tag recycling day

Christmas Charities Year Round will hold our annual Rag Tag Recycling Day on May 7 from 8 a.m. until noon. "Accepting all clothes and rags in any condition," a prepared release said. "Just bag 'em, tag 'em (usable clothing or rags) and bring the bags to us! We also accept shoes and purses in any condition." The two dropoff locations are Star Market on Bailey Cove Road and CCYR at 2840 Jordan Lane. For more information, call 837-2373.

## Latin party

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day at a Latin party Saturday from 9 p.m. until 1:45 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. Cover charge is \$10. For information call DJ Ed 651-9626.

## Day of prayer

A prayer experience for the entire community will be held May 5 from noon to 1 p.m. at the UAH Baptist Student Center, 450 Sparkman Drive. "Come on your lunch break and pray for the nation and the military," a prepared release said. No lunch is served at this event. For more information, call Marilyn Merkel 679-7912 or email [merkerm@knology.net](mailto:merkerm@knology.net). For directions call 837-9140.

## Thrift Shop

The Thrift shop is now accepting summer items for consignment. The shop also accepts healthy plants in good soil and containers. Call the NO-LIST number at 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The consignment room is closed today because of a volunteer function. Since its last plant sale was so successful, the shop will have another plant sale May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Remember: Mother's Day is May 8. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45

a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5 and the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. It's located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible. If you are interested in volunteering, stop by or call 881-6992.

## Military Sunday

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church will hold its first Military Sunday Event on May 22 at 11 a.m. "Come out and join us in divine fellowship as Pastor Timothy M. Rainey delivers the word of God," a prepared release said. The church is located at 380 Indian Creek Road, through the traffic circle, behind Providence Main. "We're asking active duty service men and women to wear their uniforms if they desire," the release said. "All will be recognized during the 11 a.m. worship service for their outstanding service and contributions to this grateful nation." For more information, email Renee Kelly at [renee.kelly@knology.net](mailto:renee.kelly@knology.net), Cynthia Hughes at [chugh1@hotmail.com](mailto:chugh1@hotmail.com) or call the church office 837-2335 from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

## Old drugs turn-in

Redstone Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program, Fox Army Health Center and the Redstone Police will give the Redstone community an opportunity to prevent medication abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your medications for disposal to the Post Exchange. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Last September, Americans turned in 242,000 pounds - 21 tons - of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners. For more information, call Redstone's Army Substance Abuse Program 842-9895 or email [ruby.j.turner@us.army.mil](mailto:ruby.j.turner@us.army.mil).

## Space for kids

Youngsters ages 3-12 are invited to a "Build a Moon Rock Workshop" on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "Learn all kinds of facts about the Moon, and make your own Moon rock to take home," a prepared release said. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members or \$5 with museum admission. For more information and advance reservations, call 721-7114 or email [josandram@spacecamp.com](mailto:josandram@spacecamp.com).

## Space science education

NASA's Interdisciplinary National Science Program Incorporating Research Experience, known as INSPIRE, is accepting applications from high school students through June 30. NASA will make selections in September. The selectees will participate in an online learning community in which students and parents have the opportunity to interact with their peers and NASA engineers and scientists. For information about the project, including details about how to apply, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/education/INSPIRE>.

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 <a href="http://WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL">WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL</a>																			
SCBK11988767	Substance Abuse Prg Spec	27-Apr-11	US Army Ins Mgt Cmd	GS-0101	11	11	58,343 - 75,843			X			X	X	X	X			
SCBK11965206	Inspector/Investigator	27-Apr-11	AMC	GS-1801	12	13	69,930 - 108,102	X			X			X	X	X			
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X			X	X	X	X			
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X			X	X	X	X			
SCBK10631337OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907								X			X	
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X		X	X	X	X			
SCBK11972063	Gen Eng, Phy Scientist, Oper Res Analyst	27-Apr-11	ARSTRAT	GS-0801, 1301, 1515	14	14	98,265 - 127,743				X	X		X	X	X			
SCBK11976723	Public Affairs Specialist	28-Apr-11	ACC	YA-1035	1	2	48,221 - 75,843				X	X		X	X	X			
SCBK11021115	International Program Mgt Spec	29-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-0301	13	13	83,156 - 108,102					X		X	X	X			
SCBK11999854	Logistics Mgt Specialist	29-Apr-11	AMC	GS-0346	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X	X		X	X	X			
SCBK11999877	Logistics Mgt Specialist	29-Apr-11	AMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102				X			X	X	X			
SCBK11967679	IT Specialist	29-Apr-11	AMC	GS-2210	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X			X	X	X			
SCBK11911978	Human Resources Specialist	29-Apr-11	ECC	YA-0201	1	2	39,422 - 62,683						X	X					
SCBK11988174	Logistics Management Specialist	28-Apr-11	AMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102				X	X		X	X	X			
SCBK11960268	Secretary (Office Automation)	29-Apr-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0318	6	6	37,983 - 49,375						X	X	X	X			
SCBK11975250	IT Specialist	1-May-11	ECC	YA-2210	2	2	69,930 - 90,907				X	X		X	X	X			
SCBK11938510	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	2-May-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X											
SCBK11666266	Dental Assistant	2-May-11	US Army Dental Clinic	GS-0681	4	6	28,446 - 36,977		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
SCBK11933371	Safety & Occupational Health Manager	2-May-11	Redstone Test Ctr	GS-0018	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X	X	X	X			
SCBK11978740	Principal Asst to Director, Miss Opers	2-May-11	ECC	YC-1101	3	3	96,211 - 157,779	X						X	X				
SCBK11990764	Telecommunications Specialist	2-May-11	AMRDEC	DE-0391	4	4	83,156 - 127,743	X						X		X			
SCBK119517487D	Physicist	2-May-11	RDECOM	DB-1310	3	3	69,930 - 108,102											X	
SCBK11948950	Logistics Mgt Specialist	3-May-11	AMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X		X			X	
SCBK11010510	Supervisory Accountant	3-May-11	AMC	GS-0510	15	15	115,588 - 150,266						X		X	X		X	
SCBK11495243	Administrative Support Specialist	3-May-11	AMC	GS-0301	11	11	58,343 - 75,843						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK11956870	Supervisory Logistics Mgt Spec	4-May-11	AMCOM	NH-0346	4	4	98,265 - 150,266	X											
SCBK11029826	Executive Assistant	4-May-11	AMC	GS-0301	12	13	69,930 - 108,102					X	X		X	X		X	
SCBK11989810	Technical Writer-Editor	5-May-11	AMCOM	GS-1083	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11975555	Supervisory Logistics Mgt Spec	5-May-11	AMCOM	NH-0346	4	4	98,265 - 150,266	X											
SCBK110035562	Program Analyst	5-May-11	PEO Aviation	NH-0343	3	3	69,930 - 108,102						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK11988594D	Mechanical Engineer	5-May-11	RDECOM	DB-0830	4	4	98,265 - 150,266											X	
SCBK11995028	Program Analyst	6-May-11	Acquisition Spt Ctr	GS-0343	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X											
SCBK11998884ENG	Architect, Civ Engr, Mec Engr, Elec Engr, Gen Engr	8-Jun-11	US Army Engring Spt Ctr	GS-0808,0810, 0830, 0850, 0801	13	13	83,156 - 108,102			X				X	X	X		X	
SCBK10674714OC	Contract Specialist (Price/Cost Analysis)	9-Jun-11	ACC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK10724481OCE	Contract Specialist	29-Jun-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907								X			X	
SCBK11733651	Logistics Management Specialist	5-Jul-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	11	13	58,343 - 108,102						X		X	X		X	
SCBK10444988OC	Contract Specialist	17-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X	X						X	X		X	
SCBK1044488OC	Contract Specialist	18-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	2	2	47,215 - 108,102	X	X						X	X		X	
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743					X	X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK10482841OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743				X	X		X	X	X		X	
SCBK10482823OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				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.