

For this last **Rocket** edition until Jan. 4, the **Rocket** staff wishes you and yours a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Redstone Rocket

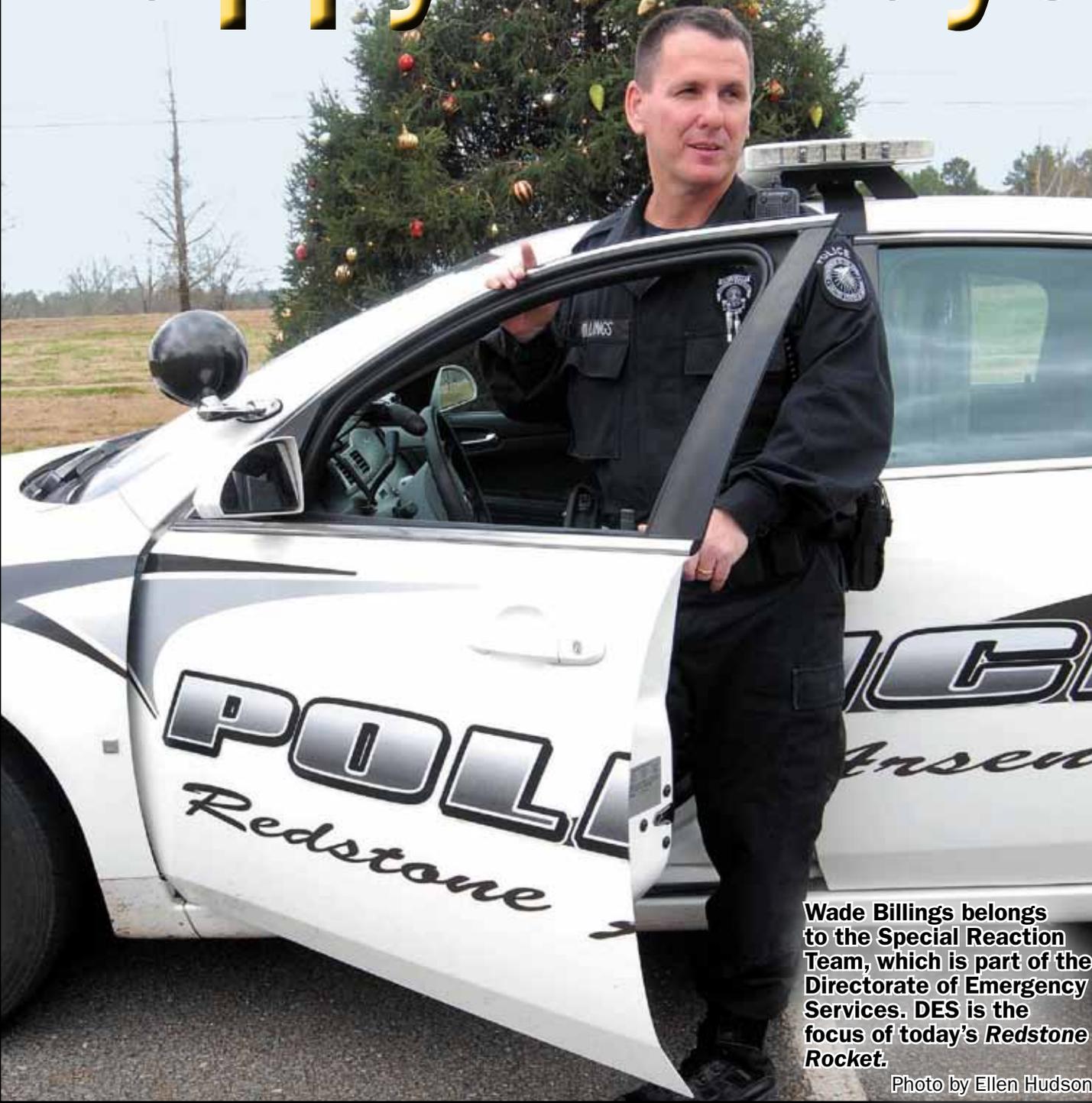
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December 14, 2011

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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Happy holidays



Wade Billings belongs to the Special Reaction Team, which is part of the Directorate of Emergency Services. DES is the focus of today's *Redstone Rocket*.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

HEALTH NEEDS

Kidney recipient spreads message.

PAGE 6



SPECIAL SECTION

Emergency Services focus for observance.

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HELPING HANDS

Army family serves at rescue mission.

PAGE 36



WIN OR LOSE

Weight-loss competition invites teams statewide.

PAGE 43

RocketViews

What do you want for Christmas?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
 Rocket editor
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Randy Gloyd
 AMCOM G-8
 (Resource Management)
 "Peace and happiness for everybody because we need that this time of the year for sure."



Master Sgt. Jose Mendez
 2nd Recruiting Brigade
 "Just a happy Christmas with family because we're moving at the end of the year to Fort Knox, Ky.; (I, my wife and four daughters are moving) but my son is staying. My son is going to college at UNA."



Sara Bates
 Mills Road Child Development Center
 "I would love to see all of my family members for Christmas and have a delicious Christmas dinner, because I don't get to spend a lot of time with my family members. I have four brothers and three sisters so I would love to get them all together."



Anna-Mae Metcalf
 Age 4, Mills Road Child Development Center
 "A pony, because I'd like a pony."

Letters to the editor

Caring exemplifies spirit of the holiday season

One of the world's greatest leaders was a gate guard who worked at the main gate of Fort Benning, Ga. What made Jimmy McCoy so great was that he knew his job was more than checking ID cards. With his awesome attitude, he conveyed to every person passing through his lane that he cared.

Somehow he succeeded in making a difference just through his genuine message of "Welcome Home!" I've talked with many people who had contact with him – Soldiers, parents visiting their Soldiers, civilians going to work, and visiting retirees who were stationed at Fort Benning years ago, and all agreed. He made a difference.

We've all seen this type of inspired leadership on every installation. Showing that we care exemplifies the very spirit of the holiday season.

The great thing about being part of the Army family is that caring goes beyond the holiday season. It is day in, day out, year-round.

Margie and I and our four kids have lived and grown as a family on Army installations around the world. In addition to Mr. McCoy, we've met many whose sense of service far exceeded their job description – really dedicated people at a housing office, Youth Sports coaches, and Child Development Services, to name just a few.



Courtesy photo

Fort Benning gate guard Jimmy McCoy poses with then-Maj. Gen. Michael Ferriter, when Ferriter commanded the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, Ga., in 2010.

My family's experience is not unique. Every Soldier and family member can point to service providers on our garrisons who go out of their way to help.

The same sense of caring is why so many Soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees volunteer their time and talents across the installation. Our volunteers welcome newcomers. They teach classes, mentor children and teens, and run play groups for young mothers and toddlers. They plan

outings for wounded warriors, build houses for disabled veterans, support survivors, help prepare families for deployment and throw welcome home parties.

Caring and selfless service is ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it. Army strong!

To everyone who has extended a helping hand this past year, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer, thank you. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference for Soldiers, civilians and families.

Let's all enjoy what the season offers, wherever we are, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones. As we celebrate, let's remember those who are deployed and extend extra support to their families at home.

Let's also be mindful of those around us who may find this time of year more difficult. For those who need assistance, our installations provide a number of Soldier and family support services. If you are unsure where to go, start with Army Community Service or the chaplain's office.

From my family to you and yours, we wish you a safe and happy holidays and a blessed new year.

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter
 Installation Management Command commander

Editor's note: Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter assumed command of the Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio Nov. 17. He is also assistant chief of staff for installation management. IMCOM's mission is to provide Soldiers, civilians and their families with a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service.

Photo by Pam Causey

Christmas cookies

Caitlyn Beauvais and Ethan Lawniczak look forward to decorating Christmas cookies at the Post Library this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a drop-in event for children of all ages. For more information, call the library at 876-4741.



Quote of the Week

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph.
 — Shirley Temple

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
 Rocket editor
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Name: Brian Crampton

Job: Driver/operator, Redstone Fire and Emergency Services

Where do you call home?
 Hanover, Mich.

What do you like about your job?
 Being able to help people. When people need us, to be able to help them.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
 Hunting, camping, fishing. Spending time with my sons (Hazen, 24, Keith, 19, and Dakota, 17).

What are your goals?
 To progress into the highest point in the firefighting career field.



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

Go back to Michigan and retire there. I was raised there and always wanted to eventually go back, live in the country.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Dec. 1-7:

Dec. 1: A civilian entered Gate 8 and was found to have a misdemeanor warrant with the Madison County District Attorney Office. He was released to a representative from that office.

Dec. 2: A Soldier was arrested by the Fort Payne Police Department for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police and was later processed back to Fort Knox, Ky.

Dec. 4: A civilian approached Gate 9 lost and there was an odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from him. He was asked to submit to a series of

field sobriety tests which he failed. He was apprehended and directed to submit to a Draeger test which resulted in a blood alcohol content of .17 percent. He was detained in the D-cell. After his BAC reached an acceptable level, he was cited and released.

Traffic accidents reported: Four without injury.

Violation notices issued: 44 speeding, 1 failure to obey a traffic control device, 1 failure to stop at stop sign, 1 failure to signal intent, 1 driving the wrong way on a one way, 1 failure to stop for a red light, 3 no proof of insurance, 1 following too close, 1 failure to maintain lane.

CFC spotlight

Name: Michelle Davis

Job: Service representative, Social Security Administration, with responsibility for processing Social Security cards, retirement entitlement issues and disability claims for citizens living in Madison and Jackson counties.

How long have you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign?

Three years, since I started working for the agency and learned about CFC. This year, I am the coordinator for our office of just over 30 employees. They asked for a volunteer and I jumped at the opportunity because I think CFC is a great organization. My first year, our speaker at the kickoff was someone from the Harris Home for Children. I was really impressed that you could donate to the Harris Home and other charities through one organization like CFC. This year, we had speakers from Harris Home, Birdie Thornton Center in Athens and the National Children's Advocacy Center. For me, personally, I think that's what inspires people to give. When you can see where your money is going and how it helps others, you want to give.

Why did you decide to become a CFC contributor?

I feel like I have been blessed in my personal life. It's a privilege to be able to give back and an honor to give back. I give to bless others and in return I receive a blessing. When you give, you end up getting back so much more.

What charities do you like to contribute to through CFC?

Nationally, I like to give to Invisible Children. I got involved in the local chapter of Invisible Children when I was a student at the University of Alabama-Huntsville (2007 graduate). It's a non-profit organization that raises awareness about the longest running war in Uganda where they use children as soldiers. Invisible Children tries to prevent children from going to war by building schools for them where they can get a quality education and learn from mentors. Invisible Children also works to rebuild communities, and to help children and families working to survive the war. The organization was started by three filmmakers from California who went to Uganda to make a documentary and left wanting to make a difference. They rely on youth in schools and colleges to help raise money for their work. Locally, I like to give to the National Children's Advocacy Center and the Harris Home for Children. The work these charities do is amazing.



Protecting children's rights and helping kids is so important. I also like to give to the Birdie Thornton Center (known as the Athens/Limestone Association for Retarded Citizens Inc., in the CFC brochure) because they teach employment skills and life skills to retarded adults so that they can have a good quality of life. When the representatives of the Birdie Thornton Center visited us, they brought some of the retarded adults that they serve, and they told us their stories and how happy they are at the center. They sang us a song. There wasn't a dry eye in the place when these wonderful people visited us.

Why do you continue to be a CFC contributor?

I have the means to be a CFC contributor. I've been blessed. To whom much has been given, much is expected. Especially in this economy, we should all try to give back. One person can't do it all. But together we can do a lot to make a difference. I am hoping to be the CFC coordinator for our office again next year because I have learned so much this year about the job. I have some ideas of what I want to do next year to share CFC with my co-workers. I know next year will bring some new challenges and if they want me to serve again as the coordinator for our office then I am willing to meet those challenges.

Editor's note: The CFC spotlight is a special feature in honor of "50 Years of Caring." Each week during the annual charity drive, the Redstone Rocket has featured a contributor to the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign. This is the last CFC spotlight of the 2011 campaign.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone update

Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive officer for missiles and space, speaks during the "Redstone Update" and "Hail to AMC" held Monday at the Von Braun Center.



Trip to Pacific showcases nation's strength

AMCOM senior leaders see operations firsthand

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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For Soldiers throughout the world, the support of the Aviation and Missile Command is just a video teleconference or email away.

But sometimes that support comes in the form of actual “boots on the ground” visits by senior leadership who want a better understanding of the issues and working conditions of Soldiers who are trained and experienced in fielding the aviation and missile systems managed by the command.

In that respect, Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, led a whirlwind trip this fall to visit Soldiers serving in aviation and defense artillery units. Yet, this particular trip didn't take them to the world's high profile conflict areas, but rather to the west to visit sites within the Asia-Pacific region.

“The Pacific Command has been growing in importance for several years. It has often been overshadowed by events going on in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. But our mission is not just to support the war fighter in war, but Soldiers all over the world,” Rogers said.

Making the trip with the two-star commander were the Aviation and Missile Command's deputy commander Ronnie Chronister, Command Sgt. Major Ricky Yates and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Langewisch. Those making the trip were selected for specific reasons – Yates for his knowledge of Soldier issues and for his work as a leader among enlisted Soldiers; Langewisch for his knowledge of aviation maintenance issues; and Chronister for his work in representing the command on behalf of Rogers and its employees.

The group began their trip with a 15-hour commercial flight from Atlanta to Seoul, South Korea, where they spent two days meeting with leadership and Soldiers from the Eighth Army, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the 6-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

They then traveled to Okinawa, Japan, where they met with leaders and Soldiers from the 1-1 Air Defense Artillery. Rogers was the first commander from the Aviation and Missile Command to visit the unit.

“A Patriot battalion was put in there six years ago,” Chronister said. “It's not a place that is real easy to get to. But it was really worth the effort to meet with the battalion there. It is strategically important because it is located there to defend

from attacks from North Korea or China. When you visit, you very quickly see and understand the strategic importance of that little speck of an island.”

Lastly, in Hawaii, the group visited the Pacific Command headquarters. The command is a unified combatant command that encompasses about half the Earth's surface, stretching from the U.S. west coast to the western border of India, and from the Antarctica to the North Pole. The 36 nations in this region are home to more than 50 percent of the world's population, 3,000 different languages, several of the world's largest militaries, two of the four largest economies, and five nations allied with the U.S. The Pacific Command includes about 250,000 or about one-fifth of the total U.S. military strength.

While in Hawaii, the group also visited the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, which is getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan, and a National Guard unit that will be receiving new CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

At each stop, the group looked closely at issues related to aircraft and missile sustainability.

“We looked at everything, down to the tools and shop sets and equipment,” Yates said. “We wanted to make sure they had the current operating equipment. We wanted to see the interaction of the Soldiers with the equipment at each location. That particular Soldier – whether it's a private or a sergeant – who is talking to us can give us better ideas on how we can help to sustain them in the field. Putting a face to the Soldier helps us to do our job better.”

The group's four-day in-country itinerary was supported by the command's logistics assistance representatives assigned to the Pacific Rim as well as the combatant and brigade commanders within the Pacific Command.

“The LARS helped develop our timeline. They are in the field and they know what needs to be important to us. They did all the coordination to get us in to see these units and their leadership,” Langewisch said.

The fact-finding trip allowed the group to visit with Patriot missile units in South Korea and Japan, where they viewed corrosion issues up close.

“The site picture we got gave us a little more added emphasis on the issues and validated the needs of their reports,” Rogers said.

It was of interest to the group to learn about the Patriot's role in Okinawa, and how the Army's Patriot units relate to the Air Force and Marine units they are collocated with.

“What are the Patriot units really doing



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers reviews with his deputy Ronnie Chronister some of the findings from a trip to visit Soldier units in the Asia-Pacific region that are supported by the command.

in Okinawa? What are we defending? Who are we supporting? The Air Force has put their arms around our Soldiers located on an Air Force base,” Yates said. “We were able to see the differences between a Patriot system in the continental U.S. and one that is outside the continental U.S. The trip helped us get a view of where we can help the OCONUS Patriot sites.”

The group was aware of corrosion issues related to the Patriot system, but “maybe not the extent that they were a problem. The trip validated we were taking care of those Soldiers and the equipment,” Chronister said.

They also looked at the support provided at each visited site by the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment activity at Redstone.

“Even on small weapons gauges, it takes TMDE to gauge them to guarantee accuracy on firing,” Yates said. “It takes TMDE to support the war fighter.”

Beyond gathering information, the trip carried a secondary mission to show the command's presence.

“It was about making a statement. We wanted to show Soldiers that AMCOM is interested in their work,” Rogers said. “It allowed us to see the area firsthand and to see how important the Pacific Command is to the whole country. We wanted to see firsthand how we could better help the Soldiers assigned to the Pacific Command. We wanted to get our own sense of where they are at and the issues they are having. We wanted to come back with some challenges.”

The trip gave the Aviation and Missile



File photo

A Patriot missile system is fired at a test range. A Patriot battalion established in Okinawa, Japan, six years ago was visited by Aviation and Missile Command leaders during their trip to the Asia-Pacific region.

Command a higher profile among the units they visited.

“AMCOM is a hidden support to the war fighter,” Yates said. “They've heard of AMCOM but they really don't know what we do. When they find out what we do, they want to get more in-depth in conversations on how we can support them.”

See Pacific on page 9

HealthNeeds

Kidney recipient recruiting organ donors

She spreads message of immediate needs

By MEGAN COTTON

For the Rocket

Ann Cripps wouldn't be here today without the help of a friend.

Eleven years ago this March, Cripps received a kidney donation from Donna Bean. The two were friends in the choir while both their husbands were stationed at Carlisle, Pa., when Cripps started to experience kidney failure and needed a transplant.

"Basically she found out that I needed a transplant and just asked me what she could do," Cripps said.

Matching for a transplant is not easy. There are six factors doctors will check to judge the likelihood of the transplant being accepted; and you have to have at least four of them to qualify.

"Normally only family members will be a perfect match for all six factors," Cripps said.

She suffered from polycystic kidney disease, where over time the kidney accumulates so many cysts that it eventually shuts down. The disease is hereditary and approximately 1 in 1,000 Americans are affected. Cripps' sister and cousin have each had a transplant since Cripps. Her aunt had a transplant in 1970 at Emory University, back when the transplant field was in its early years.

"I grew up in an atmosphere of, 'you don't take it with you when there is someone down here that you can help,'" Cripps said. "That's why I have a license plate (that says she's a kidney recipient). I figure if I can change one person's mind I've done a good thing."

Cripps urges people that are thinking about signing up to be donors to do it now.

"Don't wait to make yourself a donor, go ahead and look into how you



Photo by Megan Cotton

Ann Cripps, who received a kidney transplant 11 years ago, has a license plate designed to increase awareness that transplantation works.

can have the card in your wallet or the sticker on your license," she said. "A lot of people say they're waiting until they need to make the decision, but when the time comes you won't be able to make it happen."

The average person can live for about 10 years on a donated kidney. But that is only when the body doesn't reject the new organ and not everyone is lucky enough to have their body accept the transplanted organ.

Cripps participated in a study conducted by the National Institute of Health to prevent organ rejection in patients. Before her transplant, they worked to lower her immune system so that her body wouldn't fight the new kidney. Of the eight people in the study, the other seven accepted their kidneys with no problems. Cripps however wasn't so lucky.

"I rejected two weeks after my transplant," she said. "I don't know what all they tried on me to get me to accept it. I was in the hospital for two months and I don't think anyone thought I was ever coming out of there."

Today Cripps says she is doing very well. She still takes anti-rejection medicine, but that is common for kidney recipients. She is still in contact with Bean and she enjoys being a grandma, quilting and reading.

Team Redstone celebrates Christmas holiday season

Holiday ball held Friday at O' Club



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, his wife Reba and his brother Rep. Mike Rogers greet Fox Army Health Center commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson at the Team Redstone Holiday Ball on Friday evening at the Officers and Civilians Club.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and his wife, Melinda, enjoy the Team Redstone Holiday Ball.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left are program executive officer for missiles and space Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim Borch, his son Sgt. Peter Borch and Jim Borch's wife Hope.



Pacific

continued from page 4

Yates shared the AMCOM mission with many enlisted Soldiers as the group went from meeting to meeting with Soldier leadership.

“I’d be off wandering around and pulling and retrieving Soldiers to talk about issues. I would introduce them to the commanding general so that he could hear their concerns. And he would recognize them and let them know how much we appreciate them,” Yates said.

Leaders and employees of the Aviation and Missile Command are aware of issues that Soldiers face in the operation of aviation and missile systems.

“We track readiness every day,” Chronister said. “But it’s always good to see firsthand what is going on. You never really know what’s going on until you sit down with the Soldiers and talk with them. Because the attention is on Iraq and Afghanistan, sometimes these Soldiers may feel neglected. But they are not.”

This was Chronister’s third trip to the Pacific Rim. He has also represented the Aviation and Missile Command in the area in 2005 and 2008.

“This trip was different than the others I’ve taken,” he said. “There was a different feeling this time. There’s a sensitivity, a level of attention of what’s going on. Threats in the area are clearly elevated. There’s a heightened sense of urgency.

“The strategic importance of the Pacific Rim to the security of the world and world economy, and the threats to that security and economy, validates that we have to pay very close attention to what’s going on over there, and that’s consistent with the present (presidential) administration.”

For a 27-year career Soldier like Langewisch, the trip served to emphasize the Soldier mission in the Pacific Rim.

“I think we got a greater appreciation for the mission that we may not get over a video teleconference or through an email,” he said. “We gained an appreciation not only for the work being done by the Soldiers there but for the whole concept of why we are there. It goes beyond protecting borders to include a bigger strategic plan.”

Yates, who has traveled to the Pacific Rim one other time in his current position, said the visit with units at Okinawa “helped us to better understand exactly the urgency of when a radar goes down or a Patriot site goes down, and what the mission really is all about.”

One of the benefits of the trip was the opportunity to visit with Soldiers that the command supports.

“The Soldiers are doing great. They love what they are doing and they were all very positive. They have a real mission there. The Soldiers knew what their mis-

sion was and it was very evident that they are doing their service with pride,” Rogers said.

The AMCOM group also took the time to mentor the young Soldiers they met.

“We talked to groups of Soldiers about what’s going on in the world and how they fit into that. We wanted them to know how much we appreciate the great work they are doing,” Rogers said.

Chronister said the Soldier visits were meaningful for the group.

“Any time you get to see Soldiers, it’s a highlight of the trip,” he said. “It re-energizes your batteries. With all the pressure and stress of budgets and taking care of people back here, visiting Soldiers in the field really validates what we do.”

One highlight that was especially personal to the group was their visit with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and one of its OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilots – Capt. Brandon Nixon, who previously served as the aide to the Aviation and Missile Command commander. Nixon volunteered to join the 25th CAB so that he could deploy with the unit.

“We got to see Capt. Nixon, and his wife and their three young children. It really does make what we do personal when you have a connection like we do with their family,” Chronister said. “And it emphasizes for us why we need to be focused and concentrated on the mission. Capt. Nixon and his family represent what’s great about Army families. They are the epitome of an Army family. He’s willing to volunteer for a deployment and his family supports his commitment to service.”

Chronister added that meeting with Soldiers readying for a deployment carries with it a certain degree of intensity.

“Their mindset is very focused. Their attention was clearly on the mission,” he said.

The message the group heard from leaders throughout the Pacific Rim emphasized the importance of the region to world peace and prosperity.

“I was impressed that the whole Pacific theater of operations is focused on telling the world how important their mission is. They spoke with one voice,” Rogers said.

As China, South Korea, North Korea, Japan and other countries in the region grow and prosper so, too, does their importance as a strategic partner to the U.S.

“These countries are an integral part of the world economy,” Rogers said. “Their growth in population and wealth makes them important. And it is important to the U.S. to provide defensive systems like the Patriot to protect our interests.

“History has shown that if you become an isolationist, you have no say in the world. Our country has had to learn that a couple of times. We are the democracy of the world that others look up to. It’s in our best interest to help all of those countries who support us.”

Get ready, set ... And they're off and running

Slot car racing enthusiasts start new club at NASA

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Slot car racing has arrived at Redstone Arsenal. Thanks to a few enthusiastic hobbyists, the MARS Slot Car Racing Masters of Huntsville is now an officially sanctioned club.

David Wilkie, a NASA technician and founder of the club, explained that the slot car racing the club supports is scale auto racing with a 1:32 scale rather than 1:24. The cars they use look like real cars rather than the alternative which is a plastic wedge with a motor and several magnets to hold it to the track.

"This is more exciting even though you have to keep the speed down with these cars," he said as he demonstrated racing two of his cars on the NASA Exchange track that MSCRAM races on at building 4666.

Each slot car has a digital chip installed which allows it to be programmed to work with the digital system that runs

the track. The addition of digital systems to slot car racing has brought a resurgence of the hobby in the U.S. Now racers have the capability of changing lanes on the track and more strategy is involved.

While the digital system has many advantages, it also is a more fragile system than what was originally used. Digital chips can short out and cars can break into pieces. One of the drawbacks of digital racing is there are dead spots on the track and racers will have to physically move their cars to get them started again after getting stuck on one. Yet, avoiding that has become part of the strategy involved.

Wilkie first became interested in slot car racing as a child in 1966. His father bought him a race track and two cars. They would spend hours racing each other and neighborhood kids would gather around to watch or take a turn. Five years ago, Wilkie started collecting slot racing cars. After a few years of that, he decided to get his old race track out of storage to see if it worked. It did.

Fellow slot car racing enthusiast Dave Cockrell was instrumental in turning Wilkie's interest into an official club. The club now has 12 members, with Cockrell

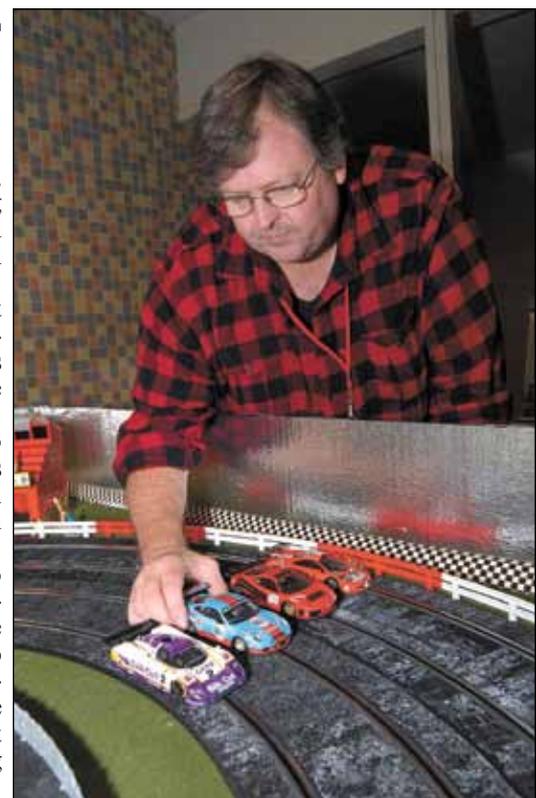
Photo by Ellen Hudson

David Wilkie, a NASA technician, demonstrates racing slot cars on the MARS Slot Car Racing Masters track at building 4666.

as president, Wilkie as vice president, Matt Hurst as secretary, and Doug Reeves as treasurer. The first official meeting was Dec. 1. The first official race day was Dec. 2.

The club members hope to have at least one official race per week on Fridays at 5 p.m., with additional races scheduled for Sunday afternoons. The next meeting will be Jan. 20 at 5 p.m. at building 4666. The club is open to anyone age 14 or older with access to the Arsenal. Those interested in joining or getting more information should call Wilkie at 508-1558.

"This is a great time to get into this club because all of us are basically beginners," Wilkie said. "The only problem I foresee with the club growing is if we get too many members and need to draw lots before the races. We'll have too many cars to fit on the track then. But I'm looking forward to that day."



Simulation conference enhances foreign military sales

By **KIM GILLESPIE**

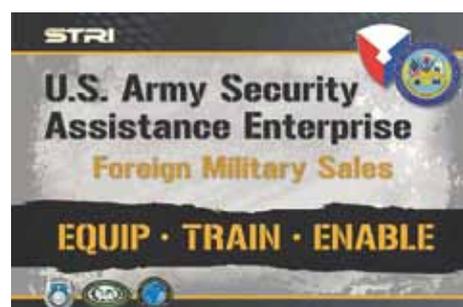
USASAC Public Affairs

The Security Assistance Command provided support at the annual Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 28 through Dec. 1. This year's conference was hosted by the Army and USASAC participated as part of the Army/Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation exhibit.

PEO STRI had the lead for the Army's participation, and in addition to USASAC, the Research Development and Engineering Command, another subordinate command of Army Materiel Command, was also part of the exhibit.

The Army exhibit included demonstrations of various simulators and trainers used by the Army. This year's participation by USASAC's is the first time it has been involved at the conference and its participation came at the request of PEO STRI.

"This conference has more than 20,000 participants, and several thousand of these attendees are from more than 50 different countries," Mark Pye, director of security assistance for PEO STRI, said. "Many of the foreign military at-



tendees expressed interest in acquiring our systems last year, and since USASAC is the primary entry point for U.S. Army materiel and service-related foreign military sales requirements, we felt it would be beneficial for them to have a presence here."

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, USASAC commander, who took command at the end of September, used the event's opening day to learn more about PEO STRI's systems and meet with Dr. James Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI.

"We really appreciated Maj. Gen. Turner attending this year's event. It gave us a chance to show him the systems that are currently being fielded for our international partners, and to discuss how PEO STRI fits into the Army 'total

package' for FMS," Pye said.

The FMS total package includes materiel, spare parts, training, publications, technical documentation, maintenance support and other services that AMC's life cycle management commands and the Army's program executive offices provide to Army units. According to both PEO STRI and USASAC officials, simulators and trainers can help significantly reduce life-cycle training costs for many of the foreign partners who purchase Army systems, just as they reduce costs for Army units.

"It's important that our foreign partners understand up front what they need to sustain and maintain these systems, particularly in the area of training," Pye said.

USASAC representatives from its SOUTHCOM regional directorate, G3/5, Security Assistance Training Management Organization and Command Information/Public Affairs Office also attended. USASAC presented an FMS 101 Briefing for Industry, along with PEO STRI and the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, which provides education, research and support to advance U.S. foreign policy through security assistance and security

cooperation. SATMO provides training to international partner's outside of the U.S. Their training is done through FMS, and they have experience with both live and simulated training. USASAC SOUTHCOM representatives were able to meet with SOUTHCOM combatant command representatives and the SOUTHCOM countries represented at the event. The SOUTHCOM COCOMO hosted a simultaneous symposium during I/ITSEC.

"Our USASAC team engaged in productive side meetings with more than seven SOUTHCOM partnership country representatives while also learning more about the PEO STRI systems," Ramon Rivera, USASAC SOUTHCOM Regional Operations Division chief, said.

Both PEO STRI and USASAC representatives hope that additional benefits will continue to come from this conference.

"We want to ensure we provide our customers with the best information for the 'total package,' and that we are able to ensure their initial 'Letters of Request' (the first formal step in the FMS process) accurately reflect what they need for the acquisition process," Pye said.

Construction begins on missile production facility

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Earth is being moved to make way once again for missile production on Redstone Arsenal.

And while a recent visit to a site in the southeastern edge of the Arsenal revealed heavy machinery being used to move dirt in preparation for the construction of Raytheon's \$75 million, 70,000 square-foot Standard Missile production facility, it's the dirt work that happened prior to the corporation's midsummer ground breaking that will have the most lasting impact on the environment.

The site was home in years past to a government-owned missile manufacturing facility operated by Thiokol. Years after the facility was shut down, it was determined that areas within the site were contaminated with manufacturing pollutants. And with Raytheon eyeing the site for a new manufacturing enterprise, contamination cleanup became a top priority with the Garrison.

"We have many areas – 210 in fact – on Redstone Arsenal where we are working to remediate pollution," said Terry de la Paz, chief of the Installation Restoration Branch, Environmental Management Division of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

"But this area is among the first significant sites we have put back into productive reuse for a mission related to the Department of Defense."

Remedial work in three critical areas at the site began in the fall of 2010. While funding and management for the remedial work is done by the Army, the cleanup oversight is done by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

"We were operating under the federal program until about a year ago," de la Paz said. "But now, following issuance of the renewed Hazardous Waste Permit in September 2010, ADEM is the primary monitoring agency. The state has processes that we are required to follow that don't leave a lot of room for interpretation."

"The state tends to do bigger cleanups and tends to be more conservative, which can be more costly. But over the past year in working with the state we are getting things done faster than ever before."

In the case of the old Thiokol site, economic development was an incentive to maintain its priority with ADEM.

"The state of Alabama stepped out with us to expedite all our work to help the installation and the region grow economically and mission wise," de la Paz said.

"We've known for a long time that this was an area where the Army wanted to



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Barry Hodges of the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Management Division shows off a success story – the cleanup of contaminated soil at the old Thiokol site that has allowed its reuse as the site of a new missile production facility. Construction of Raytheon's Standard Missile production facility is now under way at the site.

build. It's always been a priority. Two or three years ago when we solidified with Raytheon about what they wanted to do, we knew we would have to push hard. These sites have had all sorts of problems with administration and changing regulations. But we've been able to get one to two years of work done within six months thanks to the help of ADEM. They're not going to let us off the hook. But they've been willing to work to get us through the process as fast as possible."

Setting the standard to clean up contaminated sites for potential redevelopment is crucial to the future growth of the Arsenal, said Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

"The efforts of the Directorate of Public Works and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to clean up this site allows the addition of another significant mission in support of the national defense on Redstone," he said.

"Our ability to continually reuse one of our most valuable assets – our land – for current and future missions is critical in sustaining Redstone Arsenal's significance to the Army, the Tennessee Valley and our nation. This site is especially significant because it allows the Arsenal to once again be in the business of missile manufacturing."

During the cleanup process, the state reviewed data reports and remediation plans from Redstone, and conducted on-site inspections. In all cases, the state "puts a lot of effort into making sure we get reviews done in a timely manner," said Steven Cobb, chief of the Governmental

Hazardous Waste Branch in ADEM's Land Division. But the "economic advantages" presented with the old Thiokol site gave it particular priority.

"We wanted to help to ensure the site was available and ready for reuse," he said. "There's a lot of environmental work going on at Redstone. This was a priority because we wanted to make sure the work done in preparation of reusing the site was satisfactorily completed in good time. But our primary task is always to make sure cleanups are done to protect human health and the environment."

All parties involved understood the need to prioritize the old Thiokol site for remediation, said Craig Northridge, a program manager with the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

"The work was expedited based on the intended use of the project and what it means to us," he said.

"The site was important because it involved the reutilization of land for a beneficial purpose for the Army, the Department of Defense and the nation. By making this site useable we will add a contractor owned and operated missile producing facility to the Arsenal, we will bring manufacturing back to this site and we will have a greater pool of explosive operations on the installation that builds synergy with our existing mission base."

The proactive management style of Redstone officials along with the commitment of its remediation contractor – Shaw Corp. – made the job of monitoring the cleanup more manageable.

"We have a very positive and construc-

tive working relationship with the folks at Redstone," Cobb said. "Understand, we may not always agree. But we work together to find solutions to protect human health and the environment. There's a great deal of commitment and coordination that goes back and forth."

In the late 1980s/early 1990s, Redstone Arsenal was among federal properties listed by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as being locations for potential hazardous waste issues. The act set the standards that define hazardous waste and waste management, and directed government agencies to identify all potential hazardous waste sites.

"That's when we started doing a facility assessment with our numbering process to define the sites of potential hazardous waste," de la Paz said. "And we began a corrective action program for hazardous waste."

This corrective action program has resulted in the excavation of soil at multiple sites within the old Thiokol site related to perchlorate, which is used in the manufacturing of rocket fuel, and trichloroethene, a common historical industrial solvent.

"To remediate the perchlorate, we dug up all the contaminated dirt and had it hauled off," Barry Hodges of the Directorate of Public Works said. "We tested soil as we dug until we reached noncontaminated dirt. It grew to be quite larger than we had thought."

The soil was shipped to a special waste landfill for disposal, and the hole has been filled by Raytheon.

With the trichloroethene, "we dug up most of the contaminated dirt, but as with all cleanups, there are some residual pollutants left at about 12 or 13 feet," Hodges said. "We are currently working with ADEM to ensure that these areas will never pose an exposure problem to anyone. We are confident that either additional excavation of those isolated areas or placing land use control restrictions on those specific areas will do that."

Remediating these areas is important to Raytheon because, like any tenant assuming the responsibility for land used by a previous tenant, the company doesn't want to be held libel in the future for pollution they didn't cause.

"Early on, Raytheon voiced some concerns. They worked with us to get more information. We provided them our data and they took their own confirmation samples," de la Paz said. "They wanted to know everything about this site before committing to building their new facility here. They want to ensure that this site is clean from the start because in 50 years, when their lease ends, they don't want to be held responsible for something they didn't cause."

Command invests in civilian leaders of tomorrow

Dec. 7 was a big day for participants in AMCOM's Leader Investment for Tomorrow program.

They graduated in a ceremony held that afternoon in Bob Jones Auditorium.

It was the first year that the LIFT program, led by human resources director Karen Bandera, partnered with the Office of Continuous Improvement, directed by Danita Brooks. As a result, LIFT classes 10 and 11 graduates also received Lean Six Sigma yellow belt certification. This was significant because of the command's emphasis on Lean Six Sigma and learning processes.

"This is the beginning of the contribution that you're going to make to your organization as they move forward," Ronnie Chronister, deputy commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, told the graduates.

He presented certificates to the graduates of Advanced LIFT, LIFT and UpLIFT.

"I thought it was very good, very informative," UpLIFT graduate Tonya Pendergrass, of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, said of the nine-month program.

Here are the graduates:

• **Advanced LIFT Class 5** – Bill Knox, PEO Missiles and Space; Debby Heidt,

SMDC; Jun Ralleca, AMRDEC; Kerry Blankenship, G-4; Luke Martin, G-4; Mario Coronel, AMC; Martin Roggio, USATA; Mike Glazik, IMMC; Scott Ames, LOGSA; Steven Thomas, AMRDEC; and Terri Tramel, NASA.

• **LIFT Class 10** – Barry Anderson, SMDC; Debra Cathey, G-3; Rhonda Childers, G-6; Stacie Clemmons, G-6; Demetria Cruz, EEO; Kelli Curry, CPAC; Amy Delarosa, IMMC; Janice Hoffman, PEO Aviation; Patricia Holt-King, AMRDEC; Lisa Kendrix, Garrison; Reyna Morgan, ACC; Joseph Munson II, SAMD; Julie Norrell, G-4; Phillip Petri, OCI; Scott Peltack, IMMC; Richard Russell, IMMC; Chris Schwan, Legal; Chenita Starks, LAISO; James Thompson, AMRDEC; Tina Theiss, G-3; Mitchell Waldran, AMRDEC and Bob Werka, AMRDEC.

• **LIFT Class 11** – Nicole Barnes, USATA; Mark Barton, G-6; Dennis Brasher, LOGSA; Teresa Burgess, SAMD; Megan Burton, AMRDEC; Steven Clark, IMMC; Erika Curry, IMMC; Herbert Hayes, PEO Missiles and Space; Cary LaBonte, IMMC; Tawnya Laughinghouse, NASA; Amy Lett, ACC; Daniel Marchand, SMDC; Alison Mawhirter, SAMD; John Ogles, G-3; Roy Oshiro, USATA; Paul Quintel, G-3;



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Some of the graduates of LIFT Class 11 include, from left, Dennis Brasher, Teresa Burgess, Erika Curry and Cary LaBonte.

Michelle Sammarco, AMC; Scott Shaw, G-4; Robert Sullivan, IMMC; Marlon Thompson, MDA; Kerrie Washington, LAISO; Craig Williams, AMRDEC; and Gaynell Woods, G-6.

• **UpLIFT Class 9** – Lana Barshinger, PEO Missiles and Space; Tara Batts, G-4; Matthew Bentley, PEO Missiles and Space; Jason Berlin, Garrison Directorate of Emergency Services; Catherine Bush, AMRDEC; Kara Carter-Price, Garrison; Josh Cavanaugh, Command

Group; Sharon Coleman, PEO Missiles and Space; Dhalquistere Eichelberger, LAISO; Faith Dunhan, G-3; Deidre Foster, G-4; Jonathan Glaze, G-6; Natalie Johnson, G-4; Casey Jones, IMMC; Robert Malone, G-3; Ray Mendez, IMMC; Christopher Oberst, IMMC; Tonya Pendergrass, PEO Missiles and Space; Jason Scarborough, SMDC; Kimberly Stram, PEO Missiles and Space; LaToya Turner, LOGSA; and Frances Walsh, IMMC.

• **UpLIFT Class 10** – Annie Brooks, G-6; Sonia Banuchi, PEO Missiles and Space; Lindsey Cowley, IMMC; Becky Davis, IMMC; Masheldia Green, IMMC; Cynthia Hawkins, USATA; Deanna Ivey, AMRDEC; Regina Johnson, PEO Missiles and Space; Carla Landers, Command Group; Nicole Massey, G-1; Dwayne McMichael, USATA; Susan Morgan, Garrison; Ingrid Qualls, G-4; Scottie Smith, G-4; and Jennifer Wargo, IMMC.

Applications are being accepted for the fiscal 2012 Leader Investment for Tomorrow Program, conducted by AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources). The kickoff date is Feb. 23. The contacts are as follows: Advanced LIFT, heidi.collier@us.army.mil, phone 876-6062; LIFT, roger.kitchen1@us.army.mil, 876-6681; and UpLIFT, jamie.candelaria1@us.army.mil, 876-5080.

Operation Christmas Bear delights youngsters



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Tristan Haggard, 14 months, and his mother Arika dance with costumed characters.

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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While Sarah and Lily Manders waited in line to get their teddy bear that read, “My dad is a hero” from Santa, their father, Capt. Jon Manders, commander of the Army National Guard’s 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Company C, flew to Afghanistan.

“It’s weird, because he’s not here,” said Sarah, 14.

“He is a big part of their life,” said mom Christy Manders.

For many of the more than 300 children that turned out for the eighth annual Operation Christmas Bear Saturday, a big part of their life is missing this Christmas. The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition aims to ease a little bit of that pain each year, by hosting the free Christmas party for the children of deployed active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and civilians, as well as area wounded warriors.

“Today’s about the kids,” Max Bennett, president of the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Co-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

On Santa's lap is Dasiya Price, 5, daughter of Tiffany Price.

alition, said. “There’s so much planning put into it, everybody here is the behind the scenes people. When the day happens, it’s our time to fade back and watch the kids. We forget that, when we’re planning this, but when you see the kids believe –

that moment is what the whole thing is about. We do this year after year and get caught up in the logistics, but when you see the kids run up to Santa, it’s all worth it.”

See Bear on page 46



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Luncheon honoree

Emily McFall, Redstone Arsenal's first coordinator for the Survivor Outreach Services program administered by Army Community Service, receives a plaque of special memories from Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton during a luncheon held in her honor Dec. 5 at the Officers and Civilians Club. McFall, widow of Staff Sgt. Tom McFall, has decided to leave the Garrison to pursue a bachelor's degree and to move closer

to her parents in Birmingham. She thanked several people in attendance at the luncheon, including volunteer and veteran Jeff Wishik, for "believing in me when I didn't believe in myself."

Courtesy photo

Soldier support

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army has donated a free airline voucher, obtained with assistance from the Huntsville International Airport Authority, coordinated by Linda Teeples-Manning and AirTran Airways, for

a Soldier to fly home to his family for the holiday. Spc. Cary MacCartney, center, of the Army Materiel Command Band, receives his voucher. From left are Master Sgt. Stephen Spohn, Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn and MacCartney; Kris McBride, AUSA executive vice president; and Jim Rountree, AUSA vice president for Army family programs. The presentation happened at Army Community Service, among AUSA's partners in helping Soldiers and their families in need.



Army names best missile warning crew

By RACHEL L. GRIFFITH and DOTTIE WHITE
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The 1st Space Company has four theatre early missile warning detachments located around the world. These detachments are known as Joint Tactical Ground Stations. For the past few weeks, the Soldiers at these sites, located in Germany, Qatar, Korea and Japan have been put to the test, competing for the title of the Army's Best Missile Warning Crew.

This year, Delta Crew from Charlie Detachment based at Osan Air Base, Korea, took home the title. Led by crew chief Cpl. Daniel Romero, the three-man crew showed excellence in all aspects of their job as JTAGS operators. They are Cpl. Daniel Romero, primary operator Spc. Jonas Knehans and secondary operator Spc. Trenton Huntsinger.

The winning crew was able to beat out 15 other similar-sized crews for the honor of being called the Army's Best Missile Warning Crew, showing they excelled in every aspect of their job.

"The competition has been a tradition for quite a while in JTAGS," Sgt. 1st Class Andrew B. Brown, the training and evaluations noncommissioned officer in charge for JTAGS, said.

"It's important to the crews because it gives them a chance to showcase their knowledge and expertise that they are using on a daily basis. We have four detachments within JTAGS, and it's a friendly competition, but each site is always trying to outdo each other."

The JTAGS mission is one that never rests, with crews on watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The crews work long hours on a daily basis to accomplish their mission, providing early missile warning.

"They were tested on a variety of skills, from physical fitness aspects, to simulated real-world operations designed to test their decision making ability and the crew chief's ability to lead," Brown said.

"We would throw things out there and challenge the crew chiefs to make split-second decisions about what to do. Immediately af-

ter they were finished, we had them give us a variety of complex reports. We definitely up the stress factor in the competition. It really shows who did their homework for this competition."

Brown was part of a three-person evaluation team from Colorado Springs who traveled to all four detachments to oversee the competition. The competition was also overseen by 1st Space Company commander Maj. Christopher Turner and company first sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Collins.

Delta Crew is unique, as their crew leader is a corporal, the lowest of the noncommissioned officer ranks. Most crew chiefs within JTAGS detachments are of the staff sergeant or E-6 rank.

Each member of Delta Crew will receive Army Commendation Medals for their achievements. The detachment will receive a streamer to put on their guidon — the first one for C Detachment.

"I think it's a great honor to recognize excellence, which is what the best crew does," Col. Eric Henderson, 1st Space Brigade commander, said.

"It's important to point out that our adversaries do not take into account 'who' is on watch as it relates to missile warning," Henderson said. "My thought is that every crew needs to be 'best crew' when the lives of our countrymen and our allies and our national interests are at stake."

Romero didn't get to be the crew chief he is on his own. The detachment leadership is in place to help mentor and guide the young Soldiers who come through. C Detachment is no exception. Commanded by Capt. Corey Ruckdeschel and expertly led and run by non-commissioned officer in charge Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Barber, the dedication of the leadership in Korea has not gone unnoticed by senior leaders within the command.

"Charlie detachment, like any other unit has highs and lows," Henderson said. "The current command team in Osan is not one to 'admire a problem,' rather they place emphasis on the operational mission while simultaneously taking care of their Soldiers. It is not

surprising that the detachment fared so well within this competition."

And the excellence of their Soldiers has not gone unrecognized by the detachment leadership, according to Ruckdeschel.

"It's awesome that a crew from JTAGS Korea can represent not only the 1st Space Company, but the Army," Ruckdeschel said. "Korea is a site that rarely has longevity, and to have a crew from our location, who has only been together for four months, prove that dedication and know-how can outweigh longevity and experience is excellent. To have this crew prove themselves as not only the best in the Company, but in the entire Army just shows how dedicated to the success of the mission our Soldiers are. Their win in this competition was about heart, dedication and willingness to learn."

The efforts of these Soldiers is appreciated by their senior enlisted leader on site.

"This crew took a great interest in the competition," Barber said. "They dedicated many hours of their down time to not only prepare for the Best Crew Competition, but to make themselves better JTAGS operators overall. To have them win the title of the Army's Best Missile Warning Crew is a reflection of the effort the Soldiers put into preparing for their mission."

The 1st Space Company is one of five



Photo by Dottie White

The Army's best missile warning crew poses with detachment and brigade leadership. From left are Capt. Corey Ruckdeschel, commander, Charlie detachment 1st Space Company; Spc. Trenton Huntsinger; Spc. Jonas Knehans; Cpl. Daniel Romero; and Col. Eric Henderson, commander, 1st Space Brigade.

companies which comprise the 1st Space Battalion. In turn this is one of three unique battalions that form the Army's only space brigade – the 1st Space Brigade. The overall mission of the brigade and its battalions is to provide space-based capabilities and products to the war fighter on the ground.

SMDC leaders applaud Army intern program

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Today's beginner could be tomorrow's leader.

For the past 10 years, the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command has leveraged the Department of the Army Intern Program to help groom the leaders of tomorrow and help guide them to a brighter future.

"The DA Intern Program has been an overwhelming success at SMDC," Paul Page, SMDC Future Warfare Center, Decision Support Directorate, Studies and Analysis Division chief, said. "An excellent example is the Studies and Analysis Division which has four employees who graduated from the DA Intern

Program and one other who will complete the program in December 2012. These five employees represents approximately 40 percent of the Studies and Analysis Division's work force and are leading studies that enable key Department of Defense, Army and SMDC decisions.

"The USASMD/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center, Decision Support Directorate will continue utilizing the DA Intern Program as it provides an infusion of innovative employees who will continue to advance this command into the 21st century."

One intern in the program spoke of how he enjoys the chance to learn, as well as better himself personally and professionally.

"I applied here because it was an internship in my field," Ivens Jean, an intern with the Decision Support Directorate Models and Simulation Division, said. "It was also a good entry-level position and it was a chance to move from Florida, where I had always been, and see another part of the country.

"I have only been here for about a month but so far it has been a great learning experience, and I look forward to



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Orrin "Bo" Hatch, an intern with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Future Warfare Center, gains experience through the Department of the Army Intern Program.

learning more every day," he added.

Dr. Steve Pierce, FWC Decision Support Directorate director, began bringing in DA interns in 2001, a time at which DoD was focused on work force draw-downs, to build the SMDC FWC work force and expand Studies and Analysis Division core competencies. Pierce indicated that the technical skill sets the interns have brought to SMDC have been beneficial.

"The DA Intern Program provides the necessary training while SMDC is responsible for providing challenging projects and studies," Pierce said.

"Interns are brought in at the GS-07 level and spend two years in a program that exposes them to the online/in-class and on-the-job training needed to develop the appropriate skill sets necessary to execute the functions of key SMDC positions," he continued. "The Army pays the intern's salary during the two-year program with the sponsoring activity picking up the salary responsibilities upon graduation.

"DA interns receive a promotion at the end of year one (to a GS-9) and graduate as GS-11s at the end of year two," Pierce added. "This benefits SMDC in that it provides a training platform for new hires

who, once graduated from the program, produce mid-grade employees that can satisfy critical functions in support of the war fighter."

Pierce emphasized that the goal is to develop motivated, competent government employees for the Army.

"I inform the interns throughout the process that we will have a position for them if they successfully complete the program," he said. "But if they want to pursue another area of work in DoD, I will assist in finding them a position outside the Decision Support Directorate."

Another intern talked about how the work force has helped him as he has become part of the SMDC family.

"The intern program here is nice," intern Orrin "Bo" Hatch said. "I am getting a lot of experience so that is nice. It helped me get my foot in the door, and I am receiving a lot of on-the-job experience, so that is good.

"At the end of the program, I am guaranteed a job, so that is also a bonus," he added. "For someone looking at SMDC and the intern program, it is absolutely a great place to come to. Everyone here is professional, nice and have made my time here an enjoyable experience, and that is very important to me. People are helpful and go out of their way to help the interns."

Page talked about the importance of the intern program at SMDC and its importance to the command.

"The intern program has become very important to SMDC over the last 10 years," Page said. "It has enabled the command to hire against 'hard to fill' slots such as operations research and systems analysts positions. Over the years, it has been continually difficult to fill these vacancies with experienced and qualified candidates with operational analysis backgrounds.

"The intern program has provided the platform to hire and train individuals to conduct the operational studies needed to support the current and future ground war fighter," he continued. "Also, the DA Intern Program has been an instrument used to expand the SMDC core competencies. For example, the Studies and Analysis Division has used the DA Intern Program to expand core competencies including execution of models and simulation, experimental design, statistical analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.

"Finally, the intern program is an excellent way to infuse new talent into an aging government work force," Page added. "This will mitigate potential negative impacts to key mission requirements as large numbers of the current work force reach retirement age."

A former intern who has become a

full-time civil servant, talked about the experiences she gained and how her early days have made her a more well-rounded employee.

"I thought the intern program here was a great experience because I didn't come from a military background so it gave me a chance to incorporate the training along with the job duties to get into my role and position here," Holly Thorne, an intern from September 2008-2010, said. "So far, working here at SMDC has been a great experience. I have learned a lot and it has been very enlightening. For someone thinking about joining the SMDC intern program, I highly recommend it."

Page told how the interns ultimately support the war fighters as they accomplish their mission across the globe.

"The Studies and Analysis Division is focused on determining the military utility of space, missile defense, high altitude, and cyber systems, as well as the associated Concepts of Operation for the current and future ground war fighter," Page said. "Operational analysis is conducted using multiple techniques to include qualitative approaches such as tabletop wargames and map exercises and quantitative analysis that often utilizes complex models and simulation environments.

"Specifically, the Studies and Analysis Division has ensured that all DA interns are trained in analytical and statistical analysis techniques," he continued. "Also, all interns are trained to execute models and simulation environments necessary to support operational analysis requirements. All of these areas are key to supporting the war fighter.

"Additionally, other divisions within the Decision Support Directorate, to include the Models and Simulation and Information and Computational Engineering divisions, are utilizing the DA Intern Program to develop employees who will address their key missions in support of the war fighter," Page added.

A former intern spoke about how the program helped him move from one career field to his current one at SMDC, and how the intern program gave him a unique opportunity to serve this nation.

"The intern program was a great entry-level way for me to get into government service," Steve Toler, an intern from October 2003-2005, said. "I was a high school math teacher and saw it as a great opportunity to join the civil service and start on a career while serving my country.

"The intern program here is a great way for a college student or another interested person to see if government service is for them. I have heard several horror stories from other intern programs but the one here is fantastic and it has been very good to me and to others I have spoken with."



Photo by Judy Wilson

Engineer society

Lt. Col. William Burruss, deputy commander of the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, is thanked by Phil Loftis, president of the Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers. Burruss organized and briefed the society's update on sustaining. Other briefers included Maj. Eric Eckstrom of the Mobile District Redstone Office, Maj. Bryan Tittle of Savannah District Corps of Engineers and Ronald Pena of MEDCOM.

Doing the right thing for this community

Emergency services personnel show commitment on the job

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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It's not every month that police, fire and security personnel get recognized for their commitment to a job that requires working in challenging situations, hazardous conditions and threatening environments.

But in December, as most Americans give thanks for a holiday season filled with joy, family, gifts, music, food and plenty of festivities, they may also want to take a moment to show their appreciation to emergency personnel during the month that has also been designated by the Army as a time to recognize Emergency Services.

"It's important to recognize and applaud the skill sets and the commitment and the passion of those in the emergency services field who are always there to protect the community," Michael Sheehy, director of the Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services, said.

Besides demanding schedules and difficult circumstances that often go along with the job, many of Redstone Arsenal's emergency personnel have stories of sacrifice and dedication to share this year. The April 27 tornadoes in the area tested the commitment of the Arsenal's emergency personnel as they had to give up time with their families to provide services to the Arsenal community.

"Four of our DES personnel lost their houses in the tornado. One of our 911 dispatchers couldn't account for her child in Tuscaloosa for a week. All of our employees stayed at work while everyone else went home and took care of their families," Sheehy said.

"When someone calls 911, they need to know there is somebody capable and committed who is going to respond and take care of the situation. And time and time again, our emergency personnel have shown their ability to do just that."

There are 280 employees who make up the Directorate of Emergency Services. They are divided among three divisions: law enforcement, physical security, and fire and emergency services.

"The DES team represents tremendous experience and talent. It represents boundless potential and it represents the capacity to realize our vision to provide a safe, secure, productive and enjoyable community," Sheehy said.

And he should know. This retired lieute-

nant colonel spent his Army career as a military police officer. He came to Redstone in 2009 to take a civilian position with the Missile Defense Agency as the chief of foreign disclosure and technology transfer. Prior to that position, his last military assignment was in Germany, where he worked on emerging missile defense requirements for theater.

"I worked generally at the two, three and four-star level during the last 10 years in my Army career and at MDA," Sheehy said. "But I came here to the Garrison because I wanted to get back into the type of work I am really passionate about. I am very passionate about the particular contribution these employees in Emergency Services bring to the community.

"What I have fallen in love with and what is at the heart of my passion are the people willing to put themselves at risk to protect others."

Yet, most of Sheehy's work is administrative, keeping him behind a desk and in meetings to work issues and policies that continue the high quality operations of Emergency Services employees.

"A great day in this job is when I get the rare opportunity to get out of the office and spend time with the work force," he said.

The organization's motto – Do the Right Thing, the Right Way, for the Right Reasons – reflects the seven Army values, and "defines who we are and how we go about the service we provide the community," the director said.

The motto also supports the organization's vision to provide a safe, secure, productive and enjoyable community.

"The vision is not hollow. I don't like statements just for statement's sake," Sheehy said. "I do believe in the importance of ensuring we operate from a common frame of reference, and this vision is the broad framework. As I discussed with the DES work force, certainly this vision is no small aspiration. But it is attainable. It is viable. It requires a concerted team effort."

Since taking over as the director of Emergency Services in early 2011, Sheehy has led an Emergency Services work force that strives to be a benchmark "not just for the Army, but also for the region."

To that end, the organization employs a capable, determined and empowered work force that proactively facilitates Emergency Services mission requirements consistent with national strategy and policy; incorporates innovative processes, products and ser-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Directorate of Emergency Services and its leader – Michael Sheehy – conduct business with one motto in mind – “Do the Right Thing, the Right Way, for the Right Reasons.” The Army has designated December as a time to recognize Emergency Services.

vices that enhance operational effectiveness and conserve resources; fosters a values-based work force culture; cultivates internal and external partnerships; enforces leadership and work force accountability; and advances the breadth and depth of force protection expertise across the government and contract work force.

Sheehy hopes to re-establish working relationships with emergency services organizations throughout the region.

"We have existing mutual aid agreements for some services, and we have some joint training. But it's fairly limited in scope," he said. "We are looking to rekindle our partnerships outside the fence."

Early in 2012, Sheehy plans to coordinate a law enforcement orientation program on Redstone for all on-site organizations as well as police forces in Huntsville, Madison and throughout the region.

"There are a lot of new faces in law enforcement in this area," he said. "We want to review with them what DES does, how we're structured, how we operate. That's the first step toward building our partnerships. We want to show them what we have to offer and what we can do to support them. We hope that will lead to other cooperative efforts, such as some regional competitions and charity work that we do together."

Sheehy believes his work force can learn from other emergency services organizations in the area as much as those organizations can learn from Redstone initiatives.

"Area law enforcement leadership is absolutely phenomenal," he said. "And there is a strong will to partner and share resources, and to build on collective capabilities

to serve the boarder community. We have some of the best emergency services provided anywhere in the country."

There are some challenges, however, that Emergency Services must contend with, especially as it relates to budgets and resourcing employees for their mission requirements.

"The administrative personnel management requirements of this job are an hourly challenge. It's very demanding," Sheehy said. "But our work force deserves every single ounce of energy we put into it because our community deserves every single ounce of support we can give them."

The Garrison leadership has provided Emergency Services with what Sheehy considers an "appropriate level of support that we require to meet the needs of the community.

"Redstone Arsenal is evolving and Emergency Services operations have to evolve with it, and we have to evolve within the confines of the new fiscal environment. It's not a challenge we face alone."

The directorate is looking at changes that will lead to a reduction of cost without a reduction in service, security or efficiency. One such change – no longer requiring vehicle decals for Arsenal access – has already occurred. Another change – an automated entry system for Arsenal access – is being considered.

At the end of 2011, another change – the merging of the Army and NASA 911 centers into a consolidated center managed by NASA at building 4312 – will be implemented as a cost savings measure that will also enhance operational readiness and response time for emergency calls.

Sheehy relies on the leadership of police chief Art Riley, fire chief Ragnar Opiniano and physical security chief Kevin Dykema to provide employees with the management support needed to be successful in demanding jobs that require a certain finesse with the public.

"Our work force are leaders within the community," he said. "When people see a badge or a uniformed police officer they know it is a trusted person they can go to for help and guidance.

"Our force is the standard bearer for this community. They are at the spear tip of this community. They have to live to a higher standard as it relates to their profession. They have to set the standard and model the standard we expect the community to support. We have to embody and exemplify a standard that invites confidence and credibility."

Police officer's workday stays unpredictable

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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Officer Regina Bucher sits in her squad car and waits.

While her body is still, her senses are operating full steam ahead, as her eyes scan the horizon and her rearview mirror, mentally calculating the passing cars' speed compared to the posted speed limit and watching for other traffic violations. Her ears remain alert, listening as the radar unit detects the speed of the motorists around her, the tone fluctuating depending on the speed of the vehicle it is reading; the higher the tone, the faster the vehicle. Noting a car that appears to be speeding in a construction zone where workers are present, the radar's frequency screeches higher and higher, verifying the motorist's speed of 54 mph in a 45. Bucher shifts the car into drive and springs into action.

"I've pulled people over for going 59 in a 35, and they're angry at me for stopping them," Bucher said. "People get in their car, and when they're in their car, they don't see other people in other cars. It's just another car. They don't think of other people's lives in that car – there could be children in that van. They don't know. They don't see it as people. They see it as another car in their way. They impersonalize it and they're really reckless driving."

Methodically, Bucher steps out of the vehicle, pressing her fingertips to the rear of the car, leaving her fingerprints in case the perpetrator should decide to flee, instinctively hovers her right hand over her gun, and approaches the driver. Her mind and body are on constant alert throughout the entire traffic stop, checking the vehicle and driver for anything suspicious, like weapons or drugs. As she wraps up the stop, she returns to her vehicle to do it all over again.

"I actually get to talk and meet with a lot of different people every day," Bucher said. "I really like that, even though most of them aren't happy when they meet

me."

While most people think traffic stops when they picture the police presence on Redstone Arsenal, it's more than just speeding tickets for the officers that comprise the post's police force. Variety is the spice of life – officers respond to traffic accidents and building alarms, handle shoplifting at the Exchange, monitor the housing area, and deal with problems at the gate, such as motorists without a driver's license or suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and that's just a handful of calls they may respond to throughout their shift, not including the training the Special Reaction Team, the Arsenal's version of SWAT, does weekly. Anything that can happen outside the gates of Redstone Arsenal can happen inside as well, and officers must respond accordingly.

"We've had folks fight out here, we've had folks pepper sprayed, we've had to draw weapons. Those types of incidents happen out here," Sgt. Chris Cooper, police officer of the year, said.

Chances are if you do meet a Redstone Arsenal officer though, it will be behind the wheel. Typically, Bucher completes around 10 traffic stops a day, which doesn't seem like a lot, but from start to finish can be time consuming. She keeps a watchful eye out for her pet peeves – motorists speeding through construction zones when workers are present or through the gates where the guards work, and vehicles that make rolling stops instead of complete stops – all of which can lead to traffic accidents. The point is not to raise money, meet a quota or ruin people's days, but rather, to make the Arsenal a safer place.

"That's my point. That's what I'm here for. I'm preventing traffic accidents. The point is not so much to catch people, it's to prevent accidents," Bucher said.

"I don't think anybody really enjoys going out and writing people tickets and costing people money, especially at this time of year, but it's a must. It's a necessary evil," Cooper said.

Cooper begins his workday at 5:30



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Sgt. Chris Cooper, police officer of the year, says, "You come to work every day and you don't necessarily know what's going to happen."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Officer Regina Bucher writes a speeding ticket.

a.m., donning the blue uniform with bullet resistant vest, badge, name plate, radio and weapon. Some mornings begin with a briefing, others see the officers going straight to their vehicles to respond to calls.

"When it rains it pours," Cooper said. "We get events started and it tends to pile up real quick."

No matter how their day begins, their mission remains constant, to serve and protect Redstone Arsenal, in whatever capacity that may be. It's that unpredictability that Cooper loves about his job.

"It's just something different," Cooper said. "You come to work every day and you don't necessarily know what's going to happen. That has its level of danger, but it also makes the job more interesting."

One of two female officers on Redstone in what is otherwise a male dominated profession, while at home in Tennessee she is a wife and mother of two; at work Bucher, a member of the Special Reaction Team, is like any other police officer, if not one of the best. Even when a man stepped out of his vehicle and came at her after being pulled over for speeding, Bucher doesn't let the job scare her, it's just part of the profession she was trained for.

"At the time I don't think, I just react," Bucher said. "My only focus is to get him to do what I want to do. I react the way I was trained."

For both Bucher and Cooper, law enforcement seems to almost be in their blood. Both served in the Army as military police, and both chose to work at Redstone Arsenal, as opposed to an outside law enforcement agency, because of their love for the military and familiarity of the job.

"It was one of those things that I was born into," said Cooper, whose grandfather and father were police officers, mother worked for the sheriff's department and uncle was a park ranger. "There's a lot of it in my family. You grow up around those kinds of guys and you hear all the stories and it's something that you admire or desire to be when you're a kid."

While it may not be a path a lot of little girls dream of taking, Bucher doesn't let the stereotypes bother her.

"I don't care. It doesn't affect me," Bucher said. "I don't worry about what people say. They've told me here that, 'you're strange, because you're not a guy, but you're not a girl, you just fit in with the guys.' And I think that's part of being military before. I'm so used to working with men because I've done it my whole life. It doesn't bother me."

Motorists should slow down, refrain from texting

Prefer to not see the flashing lights of the Redstone police in your rearview mirror? Use common sense and take heed of these tips from Sgt. Chris Cooper and officer Regina Bucher:

- Don't speed. Violating the posted speed limit could create potential harm for yourself and those around you. Consider using cruise control if you don't trust your lead foot.
- Whether it's talking or texting – cell phone use is prohibited when driving on Redstone Arsenal. If you need to check email, make a call or send a text, pull over.
- Be especially cautious in construction zones where workers are present and at

the gates; obey the posted reduced speed limits.

- Make a complete stop at stop signs.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. If an emergency vehicle is behind you with flashing lights, move to the right to allow them to pass.
- Move over when approaching an emergency vehicle that is stopped on the side of the road; if it is not possible to move over, reduce speed.
- If you do get pulled over, remain calm and do not step out of your vehicle unless directed by the officer. While it is normal to feel nervous or upset, treat the officer with respect and do as he/she asks.

Special reaction team ready for any threat

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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It is a call of duty they hope will never come, but if it does, the Special Reaction Team is prepared to respond.

“When you think about what’s going in the world and our country today with active shooters and those kinds of things, my officers are on patrol when those types of events are likely to occur, and that provides us the ability to respond in a way which exceeds a normal patrol officer’s capabilities,” said Capt. Robert York, training officer, and SRT and traffic accident investigation supervisor.

“My folks are equipped to deal with a situation like that, better than a standard, normal patrol officer would be. We are here in case we’re ever needed for those types of things. We don’t ever want that to happen. We’re a just in case. We’re last case. Based on our doctrine we are supposed to be a last resort. Usually if an SRT or SWAT team is called out for something, it’s bad. We don’t ever want it to get that way.”

Amidst the 49 police officers that make up Redstone Arsenal’s police force lies a team of elite officers tasked with a unique mission – to protect the Arsenal in the face of extreme danger.

“We’re the Army’s version of a SWAT team,” York said. “By the book we are the installation commander’s tactical response team for any threat to the installation.”

SRT officers respond to barricaded subject and hostage situations, perform warrant executions, search and rescue, as well as providing VIP security for visiting dignitaries. SRT officers have provided security for vice presidents, secretaries of defense and secretaries of the Army. Even though the team has not had an emergency call since York arrived in 1992, its presence is vital to the safety and security of Redstone Arsenal in the event the unthinkable happens.

“Some people might look at what we do and say nothing has ever happened at Redstone, so why do we need a team?” York said. “The problem is what if something does happen and we don’t have a team? Redstone is exclusive federal jurisdiction so only federal law enforcement agencies have authority. There is no other response within four hours of Redstone Arsenal. If we don’t have that capability, then where is it going to come from?”

The officers that comprise the team are first and foremost police officers, but serve in three different roles – as a patrol officer, traffic accident investigator and SRT member. As SRT officers, officers must be both physically fit and undergo intensive training.

“You have to be dedicated and actu-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Special Reaction Team officers, from left, James Kestner, Wade Billings and Regina Bucher practice clearing a room as part of a SRT training exercise.

ally believe in what it is that we’re doing,” York said. “It’s not something that you can just show up for work, get a paycheck and go home. There’s more to it than that. There’s a mental commitment that has to be made because you always have to be prepared for things that can go bad quickly. Luckily we haven’t had to, but we always have to be prepared for that and we have to train for that.”

All officers complete SRT school, similar to a two-week SWAT course, as well as extensive training locally, including weapons training. As schedules allow, the team typically gathers together once a week to practice tactics and techniques.

“We have to train to the point where what we’re doing we can do in our sleep,” York said.

The team also reaches out to outside agencies as well to keep their skills fresh.

“Because we don’t get the call outs that they do a lot of times we’ll train with other agencies – we’ve trained with Huntsville Police Department’s SWAT team in the past – because they get more opportunities to use their skills, so we pick up and we learn from those agencies the lessons learned from them in their activities, and we incorporate that into what we do with our training,” York said.

Officer Regina Bucher chose to be a SRT officer because of the training and the excitement of the job. For Bucher, even though it’s a call she hopes she never will have to respond to, it is what she is trained and ready for if the day ever comes.

“You have to be prepared when something like that happens. Especially the way the world is getting now, it seems like things like that are happening more and more. It’s important to be prepared for it, instead of reacting afterwards,” Bucher said.

Gate guard force protects and serves

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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If you want to thank a veteran for serving his country and you have access to Redstone Arsenal, you're in luck. All you have to do is thank the guard who checks your credentials at any one of this installation's gates. Every guard here is a veteran.

Veterans have priority over non-veteran applicants when guard force positions become available. Since the Tennessee Valley area has many veterans who want to apply for openings on the guard force, all of the guard positions end up being filled by veterans.

"A lot of them like the job because they get a chance to meet a variety of people on a daily basis," Capt. Marcus Clay, guard force operation officer, said. "The other thing is, most guards like their job because it brings them back to a unity – a type of environment they were accustomed to when they were on active duty. There's cohesiveness because everybody that's around them has something in common and that is their service to the country as a Soldier."

Foster Watkins III, a former aviation structural mechanic in the Navy who is a guard here, agreed that what he likes most about his job is meeting the public. He previously worked for the Huntsville Police Department.

"We meet a lot of interesting people and most of the people who come on Redstone Arsenal are friendly. You know, it's a controlled environment. It's not like a hostile environment outside the gates that the other police – HPD, Madison County sheriff's department and Madison – have to deal with. Most of the people are pretty cordial," he said.

He also mentioned the camaraderie of the guard force that comes from being veterans. When times are tough, he said, they all pull together and close in ranks to maintain the safety of the Arsenal.

The guard force's overall mission is to control access to the Arsenal in order to ensure the safety and security of the installation's personnel, resources and mission. This includes not only providing access control with the guards on the perimeter gates, but internal security as well with guards posted at specific organizations on the installation and doing roving patrols to check facilities and vulnerable areas.

There is a vetting and a screening process. The vetting is done by the organizations on the Arsenal – they either put individuals into the system for a visitor badge or send their names in to the Directorate of Emergency Services to go on an access roster, showing that an individual has a need

to be on the installation. Then the guards screen individuals by checking their credentials, validating them against the access list that is updated each day, ensuring that they know where they're going and who they're supposed to be seeing on the Arsenal. They also watch out for anything suspicious and stop individuals who have no reason to enter the installation. Guards stationed in buildings or vulnerable areas have the same basic job as the gate guards.

Random anti-terrorism measures also are the responsibility of the guard force. Guards perform random inspections at the gate. According to access control officer Fred Keith, the first thing the guards are looking for in those inspections is verifying each individual's credentials – making sure the individual has an ID, a driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Then they're looking for any type of weapon, explosives, contraband or any other prohibited items.

"I would say that we've got a very good and very attentive guard force," Keith said. "You know, we get our share of complaints but I'm going to tell you the guys are really doing a good job out there."

More than 50,000 people process through the Arsenal gates on a daily basis. Guards work eight-hour shifts with no scheduled breaks. They have to eat their lunch at the gate and they only have 20 minutes to do it. If something happens while they're eating or if traffic gets heavy, they have to stop eating and go on with their job. They also always have to be on point and alert, ready to take care of any situation that arises.

"They're exposed to all kinds of environmental issues out there too – to heat, cold, wind, rain, exhaust – so they really do a super job given the conditions that they're required to work under," Lt. Harry Duke, guard force shift supervisor, said.

When snow is predicted, many Arsenal workers can look forward to the chance of getting a few unexpected days off. That's not the case for the guard force.

"Guards really don't have a choice. Our operation is 24/7, so come sleet, snow, tornado or hurricane the guard has to be here. We have no substitutions, no not having a person in place that's supposed to be in place. It's just the nature of what we do. When everybody else can go home, that guard will be there," Clay said.

In inclement weather the Redstone senior commander makes a determination whether or not to close the Arsenal. If he closes it, only mission essential personnel are supposed to come in to work. However, Keith explained that if you make it to the gate, the guards will not deny you coming in. He said that's because it's safer to let you go to your building than to put you back



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Gate guards Tiffany Colbert, in background, and Michael Howard process people into the Arsenal at Gate 9.

out on the road going somewhere. The Directorate of Public Works makes sure that the roads on the Arsenal are in good shape, often better than the roads in the communities surrounding it, according to Keith.

Watkins actually enjoys working the gates when the weather gets bad. "Especially at Gate 9, coming in on overtime. Oh man, that's the best time to work. Guys are just constantly relieving each other – rotating with each other, just really pulling together – I like that," he said.

The most challenging aspect of the job, according to Watkins, is learning to be versatile and what he calls "minuteman ready." He never knows when he is going to be called in on standby and he has to be ready for that, but he considers it a rewarding challenge because he looks forward to it. He likes being able to help out by coming in early or doing a double shift.

Clay said one of the biggest challenges for the guard force is that they have to maintain their health and be physically fit to pass the physical agility test each year. The guards are required to take a medical physical, a physical agility test, and maintain their security clearance annually.

Completing all the required training annually is another challenge that comes with the job. Guards often have to work overtime just to do it. Keith explained that this is also a challenge to maintain a budget that is robust enough to hire the right number of people, have them complete the required training, and perform the guard force's mission.

Duke asserted that one of biggest challenges is that the guards have to be on point continuously. "They're not in a job position where they can allow themselves to let their guard down for a minute and their shifts run without a break. There is no break in the program, so they are on a full shift and on point for the entire period. It can be physically as well as mentally exhausting."

Although guards often have to work overtime, Watkins said his family life has

not been affected negatively. He is married to Vanessa Nance Watkins and they have an 8-year-old son, Foster Watkins IV.

"There's 24 hours in a day and normally you're going to be there for 15 or 16, so you've still got a little family time. If not, you have the next day. Sometimes you have to stagger it, especially if it's a special day," he said. "For instance I had to work Thanksgiving, but I had that morning (before 12:45 p.m.) and I was out of here by 9:30 that night so I still got a chance to help my wife put up the Christmas tree. This is one of those jobs where you have to be time conscientious. You have to learn to value time and not waste it."

In addition to his job as a guard, Watkins finds time to preach at St. Mark Baptist Church in Huntsville. He has an associate degree in biblical studies and is working on his bachelor's in theology.

Although the guards get to hear about most people's complaints, they do not always receive the praise they deserve. Keith explained that it is easy to be sitting in a line of traffic and think that the guards ought to be doing something better or faster. Yet, just neglecting to have an ID card out of its holder and ready to hand to the guard can slow the line down. Allotting an extra 15 minutes to get through the gates at peak times and leaving home early enough to get to work on time can help alleviate frustration at the gates.

Clay added that getting people through the gates quickly is not a priority. Speed is not a priority because safety and security is what's important. The guards will follow protocol and try to process people as quickly as possible.

One of the biggest issues at the gates is people who drive up without intending to enter the Arsenal. Some are lost, entering Gate 9 accidentally because they think they are headed to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Despite several areas available for U-turns before arriving at the gates, many people fail to realize where they are headed even though there are lights and warning signs. Once they arrive at the gates, they are on Arsenal property and have to be processed like everyone else. This can cause delays, although the guards usually move these individuals out of the line of traffic.

Keith also cautioned people not to drink and drive, something that the guards see more of during the holidays. "Please monitor your consumption and have a designated driver because this time of year, invariably, the guards' volume of detection of alcohol goes up. We would rather not see anybody in trouble," he said.

He also suggested that people take the opportunity to tell the guards that they are appreciated this holiday season. "While everybody's home these guys aren't, so it's a good time to say thank you," he said.



Gate guard Foster Watkins III

911 Center answers call during emergencies

Consolidating soon with NASA service

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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They receive the calls that everybody dreads.

These are the emergency calls that require immediate response from police, fire or ambulance. The 911 Center is operated by Tyonek, the contractor since 2007. They're the reassuring voice at the other end of the phone line when something's very wrong.

"They're doing a fantastic job over there," Richard Wall, operations officer at the Directorate of Emergency Services, said.

Vicki Brewer is the project manager for the Redstone center.

"Dec. 7 marked our fourth anniversary of going live," Brewer said. "At the end of this year, we will merge with NASA's 911 Center, to form a Joint Center, to better serve the people of Redstone. We will have a consolidated effort to provide timely response and care to those in need. We will not be changing the quality of service, we will be enhancing it.

"We take 911 calls for police, fire and ambulance and provide firefighters and policemen," she said.

It does the same things as the Madison County 911 center, which is larger. It primarily serves the people of Redstone, whether they're the tenants, residents, military or employees.

The dispatchers receive fire alarms, trouble alarms, traffic accidents, traffic stops and more.

"We're the calm voice on the phone or the radio when everything else is chaotic," Brewer said.

When someone on post dials 911, they answer the call and get important information from the caller.

"We're going to ask them what is the location of your emergency; what's going on there, if they say it's a medical call; we're going to ask for their phone number just in case we get disconnected. At that point we're going to be sending help," Brewer said.

Often the caller will get agitated because he or she mistakenly believes the dispatcher is the one who will be going to the scene. The dispatcher stays on the line asking questions so the actual responder will know what the situation holds, what equipment will be needed and more so they'll be better able to help the people requiring assistance. They follow the calls until the situation is resolved and can pursue other resources if



Vicki Brewer

necessary.

"When you do dispatch you have to be prepared for everything because you never know what the next call is going to bring," Brewer said.

The call could be the major fire at a building April 4, which happened on second shift (after 4 p.m.). After the call came in, they dispatched it within 28 seconds "which was phenomenal," Brewer said.

And April 27 brought Alabama's deadly tornadoes which devastated the entire community. The dispatchers were all affected in one way or another by the storms, which created power outages lasting several days. Two had damage to their homes.

"When you work in emergency services you're always affected by something like that because it could be your home, it could be your family's home, it could be somebody you know," Brewer said.

When snow closed the post in January, she and two of her dispatchers were the only ones who could make it in to work. They stayed at the center from that Sunday through Tuesday. Two would work in at least 16-hour shifts while the third slept on the cot in Brewer's office. "And if you can sleep on an Army cot, you are tired," she said.

The center is fully staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The nine-member staff includes Brewer and nine full-time dispatchers; and Brewer will dispatch too if needed. All are highly trained. The center operates three eight-hour shifts per day, so there are always two people per shift each day. The operation is year-round, including holidays. "The police, fire and ambulance



Photo by Skip Vaughn

David Taylor and Tammy Stewart work their shift as dispatchers at the 911 Center.

don't get to sleep on holidays," Brewer said, "so neither do we."

Brewer, Tammy Stewart and Karen Mueller were the ones who worked through the snowstorm. The other dispatchers include Kelly Duffie, Brandy Bray, Justin Woodard, Kirstie Young, Lisa James and David Taylor.

"When you work in this kind of work, every day has a purpose," Brewer said. "Every day there is somebody we can help in one way or the other."

Stewart is one of the original four-year members. After the tornadoes, she couldn't get into her house because of flooding, but fortunately her home wasn't damaged.

"I love it," Stewart said of her job. "I've been dispatching for quite some time. And I enjoy providing things for units that respond – doing the grunt work, I call it. And I like the people that I dispatch. I also like providing information, helping the caller, because people call 911 for a reason."

Emergency services by the numbers

280: Members of the Directorate of Emergency Services

90: Guards on the gates

48: Firefighters

3: Fire inspectors

49: Police officers

313-6422: Police dispatch phone number

911: Emergencies

Team aims for best in physical security

Installation safety assured with entry control, patrols

By KARI HAWKINS
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Safety on Redstone Arsenal has never seemed so precious.

As crime escalates outside the gate in Huntsville, Madison and other neighboring communities, the Arsenal becomes more like an oasis of security and safety thanks to the efforts of the Directorate of Emergency Services, and the civilians and veterans who live and work on the installation.

But while most understand the missions of the Law Enforcement, and Fire and Emergency Services divisions of the Directorate of Emergency Services, there's a third entity within the organization known as the Physical Security Division that is essential to the security and safety of employees entering and leaving post, and working in its buildings.

"Our mission is to ensure that the environment in which the Redstone Arsenal community lives, works and trains is a safe and secure environment," physical security chief Kevin Dykema said.

"We pride ourselves on how low our crime rate is here. Controlling access to the installation is one way we reduce crime on the installation."

The directorate's Physical Security Division includes about 160 civil security guards and specialists who guard the gates (also called access control points), provide security for tenants requiring controlled access, provide guards for tenant facilities and inspect buildings for security reasons.

"We ensure that all Arsenal assets are appropriately protected," Dykema said. "We ensure that the security requirements directed by the Army are adhered to on this installation."

That security begins at the gates to Redstone, where physical security guards check badges of those entering the post, and prohibit the entrance of non-authorized people onto the Arsenal.

"We process 40,000 people through those gates every day," Dykema said, referring to Gates 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10. "We have 100 percent of hands-on assessment of ID cards that pass through. We also do random vehicle inspections with a random number that changes daily."

It takes seven to eight seconds per car to check for an authorized badge. During that brief exchange, the gate guards become the face of Redstone Arsenal to the entrant.

"Our guards are directed to be polite,



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Physical security chief Kevin Dykema, left, and police chief Art Riley lead organizations – Physical Security and Law Enforcement – that work closely together to provide a high standard of security and safety for all Arsenal tenants and employees.

professional and courteous," Dykema said. "But they also must ensure to assess the identity of the person entering the gate so that everyone who comes on post is authorized to be here."

Security continues at tenant facilities and throughout the installation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Physical security also monitors road and weather conditions throughout the Arsenal.

"We provide roving patrols to tenant organizations. We provide security and monitor security throughout the Arsenal. When there is a law enforcement issue, the police will respond," Dykema said.

Physical security also provides inspectors who check security programs for various activities and programs on post. They provide security patrols as requested by the Garrison for special circumstances and conduct security assessments for new commanders of the installation's various organizations.

Because of the Arsenal's research, development, testing and engineering missions, Dykema said, there are "security challenges on a daily basis. The types of missions here require an enhanced security posture."

Dykema and the physical security management team work particularly close with the law enforcement management team. In fact, Dykema's office is adjacent to the office of police chief Art Riley in the Directorate of Emergency Services facility on Gray Road. The arrangement allows for frequent and direct communication between the two divisions.

"Police officers and security officers are always available to react to whatever happens on the Arsenal," Dykema said. "We work hand-in-hand. For example, at a gate, if a non-authorized person tries to come through, we will do a random inspection of their vehicle. If we discover a violation – such as drugs in their vehicle or an expired driver's license – then we call in a police officer to take it from there."

Dykema has been the physical security chief since 2009. Prior to that, he served as an Army military police officer for 23 years and then, as a civilian, as the contractor's program manager for the then-contracted gate guards at Redstone.

"Last year, we transitioned the gate guards to Department of the Army guards. It's a veterans preference hiring.

Now, 100 percent of our guards have a veterans status," Dykema said.

Both security guards and police officers report to the DES facility prior to the start of their shift to collect their weapon, and to receive a daily briefing and get any special instructions for their shift.

"They are required to project a positive and professional image while on duty at their assignments," Dykema said.

"While police officers enforce the law, security officers enforce security requirements, respond to alarms and perform security checks."

But even following the best practices in providing security doesn't totally insulate the Arsenal from crime or security issues. "When you have a work force this size, there is good and bad. You just have to deal with each issue as it comes and get to the bottom of it," Dykema said.

"All of our security officers take great pride in what they are doing."

Anyone with questions or concerns related to the security and safety of Redstone Arsenal, should contact Dykema at 876-6815 or kevin.dykema@us.army.mil.

Fire prevention

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Firefighters Doug Jones, left, and Clay Doss check the hose settings for a fire truck at the Vincent Drive Fire Station. Fire and Emergency Services personnel work daily to ensure readiness for when a fire call comes into one of the four fire stations on post. Besides fire station 2 on Vincent Drive, fire station 1 is on Rideout Road near the intersection of Martin Road, fire station 3 is south on Patton Road and fire station 4 is at the airfield.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

NASA security

NASA Protection Services officers Justin Tow, left, and Ryan Jordan attend the holiday Lighting of the Rockets on Dec. 1 at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Redstone has procedure for weather emergencies

*Know who to call
for post updates*

By **TERRI STOVER**
For the Rocket

You get emails from emergency operations centers on post about it, interruptions of programs on the TV and radio about it, and folks talking about it in the next cubicle. What is it? The weather. And we've had lots of it in 2011.

There are more than 36,000 employees at Redstone Arsenal, many of whom are affected by inclement weather while driving, walking outside or getting children to and from school. When bad weather hits, workers will be notified, but not everyone will understand what the notifications mean.

The following is a breakdown of the inclement weather notification plan that most of Redstone uses to inform the work force about the status of the post. This information is derived from the Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Manual and the Redstone Arsenal Regulation 690-2, Appendix G.

If the installation is closed or there is a delayed opening due to inclement weather prior to the beginning of the workday, the Directorate of Emergency Services, Garrison commander and/or the Installation Emergency Operations Center will contact the AMCOM/Garrison Public

Affairs Office. The public affairs office will contact various media to request that they announce post closures or delays. Also the PAO will contact all the other organization's PAOs so they can share these decisions through their organization's information channels.

Redstone can never fully close due to some of the missions here, and the number of people who live on post. However, if it is announced that the post is closed prior to the beginning of the workday, non-emergency employees will be granted excused absence for the number of hours they were scheduled.

It is within the administrative discretion of each commander or director to close all or part of an activity and administratively excuse employees without charge to leave. It is strongly advised to know how and from whom you will receive your notices. Does your organization or office use an email blast, or a phone calling tree, and will the notification come from your immediate supervisor or someone else? Make sure you share your information with the appropriate people in your organization so that you will receive the most current notifications.

Sometimes the notification will be a delayed arrival. If a decision is made to delay the opening of the installation un-

Cut this information card out and keep it in your wallet or purse for quick access to the latest information regarding inclement weather plans for Redstone Arsenal.

<p>For Inclement Weather call: 877-863-1462 (Toll free)</p> <p>Check online: www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/ArsenalStatus.asp</p> <p>Local radio/TV stations will carry up-to-date news</p> <p>Social Media: www.facebook.com/TeamRedstone www.twitter.com/TeamRedstone</p>	<p>For Accountability: My supervisors phone #s: _____</p> <p>Other information I need to know from my command/office: _____</p> <p>My building # is: _____</p>
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here

til a designated hour or to delay arrival times for employees for a specific amount of time, employees reporting for duty will be excused for the specified time of delay. So if the announcement is a two-hour delay and you normally report for duty at 7:30 a.m., then you can arrive at work by 9:30 without being charged leave. The safety of Redstone employees are the first priority of all the commanders and directors, so taking that extra time to arrive at work safely is strongly advised.

If inclement weather should result in a decision to release employees from duty early, before the regular close of business, only those employees on duty at the time an early dismissal is announced are entitled to the excused absence. Employees who are already on approved leave when early dismissal is announced are not entitled to the excused absence.

The Garrison IEOC is considering using a zone schedule to release employees in the event of early dismissal from work due to bad weather. A zone schedule has been used in the past at Redstone with the egress of employees and was effective in a safe and swift process. At the time of this writing, the updated zone schedule was not available. However, the network of emergency operations centers across post will have the most current schedule and will assist in notifying employees quickly with this information should the need arise to implement it.

If all employees attempt to leave post at the same time, gridlock and other traffic problems may occur, and may place numerous people in danger. The bulk of the work force on Redstone works along the Martin Road corridor. Releasing all of the highly populated buildings at once

may create more hazardous conditions than the inclement weather. With a zone schedule for early dismissal, clear and concise announcements would be given in a timely manner so that employees could quickly and safely leave post.

Because the zone schedule will utilize building numbers and street names, be aware of your building number and/or the street name where your building is located. Knowing this information will assist you in knowing which zone your office falls under.

During inclement weather conditions, supervisors are encouraged to have a liberal leave policy. Check with your supervisors to see what policies your organization has in place for these circumstances.

This article does not include all possible situations or personnel leave policies which may occur. Questions regarding excused absence and leave should be directed to your servicing employee relations specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Accompanying this article is a card you can cut out and place in your purse or wallet, or keep at home and in your desk. The information on one side includes the ways you can get updates on the status of the post, including a toll free number, the Redstone Arsenal website, and Facebook and Twitter sites – all are updated regularly during inclement weather events. The other side has room for you to include your supervisor's phone number, or others you may have to call with notifications and/or accountability. Plus, there is a line to include your building number which will assist you with the zone schedule for a safe transition off post due to bad weather.

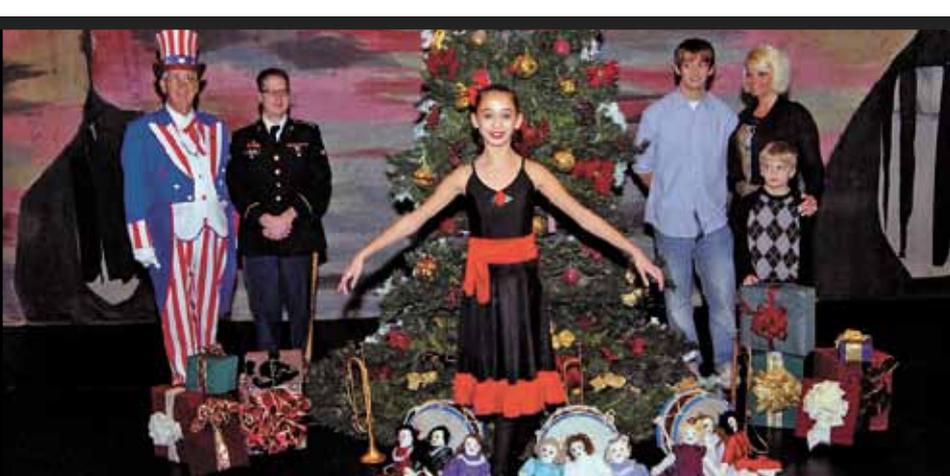


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nutcracker performance

The Huntsville Ballet Company gave a free performance of "The Nutcracker" to military personnel Thursday night at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Dave Carney, dressed like Uncle Sam, introduced the color guard, the national anthem and the Army Materiel Command Band. The AMC Four Star Jazz Orchestra performed Christmas music for a half-hour prior to the ballet. The AMC Brass Quintet performed Christmas music in the lobby for about a half hour before the orchestra performed on stage. From left are Carney, AMC Jazz Orchestra bass player Spc. Ben Melvin, 12-year-old Miranda Worley, who danced with the Spanish Corps in the Nutcracker and is the daughter of Maj. J.B. and Piper Worley; and Army family Peggy Rhoden with her sons David, 17, and Joey, 8.

Holiday decorating invites fire hazards

Fire inspector shares advice

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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The dark side of Christmas is just one bow or holiday decoration away.

House fires erupting from wrapping paper, garland and other holiday trappings are far too often part of the Christmas season in communities throughout the nation. At Redstone Arsenal, firefighters hope this season's local newspaper headlines don't include reports of holiday house fires.

"Half of home heating fires happen in December, January and February," said Robert Johnson, a fire prevention inspector with Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of Emergency Services.

"So, winter is already a house fire season. Adding all the decorating that goes along with the holidays makes house fires during the Christmas season some of the worst of the year."

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year fires occurring during the holiday season kill more than 400 people, injure 1,650 more and cause more than \$990 million in damage. And according to the National Fire Protection Association, one out of every 18 fires during the Christmas season has a fatality, compared with a yearlong average of one death for every 141 house fires.

While holiday decorations are, in general, dangerous when placed too close to heat sources, there are three common holiday mistakes that often lead to fires. And the first involves that sentinel of the holidays – the Christmas tree.

"I can't say this enough: Natural cut Christmas trees that are not soaking up water anymore should be removed from the house, no exceptions," Johnson said.

"The most dangerous time for Christmas trees in the home is during the 12 days after Christmas. A dry Christmas tree is one of the most dangerous things you can have in your house."

Fresh cut Christmas trees drink a lot of water, which should be replenished on a daily basis. But once that tree stops drinking water – i.e., the tree stand stays filled with water day after day – then the tree is drying up and becoming an extremely active fire hazard.

"Good moisture in the tree generally means it's not combustible," Johnson said. "But when it stops drinking water, it can go up like a blow torch in a matter of seconds."

Nearly 33 million American homes

decorate with a natural tree during the holidays, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Annually, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 250 structure fires caused by Christmas trees, resulting in an estimated 14 deaths, 26 injuries and more than \$13.8 million in property damage. Nearly half of those were caused by electrical problems, such as shorts in electrical lights, while one in four results from a heat source placed too close to the tree.

In an online video clip provided by the Building and Fire Research Laboratory of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, it took three seconds to fully ignite a dry Scotch pine. At five seconds, the fire extends up beyond the tree and black smoke with searing gases streaks across the ceiling. Within 40 seconds, the entire room erupts in flames and toxic smoke engulfs the room.

Next, a test was conducted with a freshly cut green Scotch pine placed in a tree stand with at least 7.6 liters of water that was maintained daily. Fire safety engineers could not light the tree with a match or an electric current. When an open flame using a propane torch was applied, the tree's branches ignited briefly, but self-extinguished when the researchers removed the torch from the branches.

Johnson suggests bringing a live Christmas tree into the house as late into the holiday season as possible. The fresh cut tree should have needles that are green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the trunk should be sticky to the touch. If needles fall off the tree when bounced, then it has been cut too long and has dried out.

Before placing a fresh cut tree in a tree stand, cut off 1 to 2 inches from the base of the trunk. The tree should be placed in a tree stand with water, and the water should be replenished daily. A fresh cut tree should be placed at least 3 feet away from heat sources, such as a fireplace or heating vent, because they dry out trees. The tree should not block any exits. Use lights that carry the label of an independent testing laboratory, replace any strands of lights that are worn or broken, and do not connect more than three stands of mini-string sets together.

But most importantly, the tree should be removed as soon as it stops drinking water, generally two weeks after it's brought into the home.

"When it stops drinking, it stops getting moisture. It dries quickly and becomes combustible, and then it burns

with much veracity," Johnson said.

Christmas lights and indoor heating contribute to a live tree's condition. And leaving Christmas lights on unattended or overnight is inviting disaster, he said.

The second most common mistake during the holiday season involves the use of candles. National Fire Protection Association statistics show that more than half of all candle fires start because candles have been placed too close to things that can catch fire. Of U.S. candle fires, two out of five begin in the bedroom.

"Most everybody uses candles at Christmas time," Johnson said. "And there is a safe way to use them as long as they are in a sturdy holder that won't tip over, and they are placed on uncluttered surfaces and at least 12 inches from things that can burn. And never leave candles unattended."

When using candles in the bedroom, they should be extinguished before going to sleep.

"People are relying on their smoke detectors to wake them up if there is a problem. But that doesn't always happen, especially when those detectors are placed too far from the bedrooms," Johnson said.

And the third most common mistake is holiday decorations placed too close to heat sources. Holiday decorations were involved in an estimated 150 house fires per year from 2005-09, causing an estimated eight deaths and 14 injuries each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"Almost half of all holiday fires are caused by wreaths, trees and other combustible decorations," Johnson said.

"If you use the decorations inside, make sure they are approved for indoor use and that they are flame resistant or flame retardant."

Decorations should be fire resistant and kept away from candles. Do not

hang light strands that are cracked or have loose bulb connections, and never connect more than three light strands together.

Other fire hazards during the holiday season and throughout the year include unattended cooking, dirty chimneys, unchecked heating systems, and space heaters, Johnson said.

"Certified technicians should check heating systems because this is the time of year when they really get taxed," he said. "And I urge people to not use space heaters. They account for one-third of all home heating fires and for four out of five deaths in a home fire."

For Arsenal residents, Johnson also said they need to ensure to use gas stoves properly.

"Unlike an electric oven, a gas oven's bottom drawer is not a food warmer or a storage area," he said. "It is the oven's grill and should be used that way."

No matter what the season, Johnson urged that all homes have smoke detectors – with one on each level of the home, one in each bedroom and one outside each sleeping area. In addition, smoke alarms should be interconnected throughout the home, and tested monthly.

"Two-thirds of fatal fires have one thing in common – there was no working smoke detector inside the home," he said. "Smoke detectors definitely save lives."

When smoke alarms fail, it is usually due to batteries that are missing, disconnected or dead. Almost one-quarter of smoke alarm failures are due to dead batteries, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Sadly, most fire victims are either over the age of 65 or younger than 13, Johnson said.

"Older people get confused and might not be able to get out of the home quickly enough," he said. "Young people also get confused and scared, and don't know what to do. That's why it is important to practice safety drills."



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

To your health

Santa arrived by golf cart at Fox Army Health Center's Dec. 5 tree lighting ceremony, where he handed out candy canes and helped light the tree.



Helping Hands

Army family gives back at local rescue mission

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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On Monday nights, Col. Anthony Potts dons a new uniform, a red apron and disposable gloves, and takes his call to service beyond his commitment to the Soldier – he serves his fellow man.

“I’ve been blessed to go to the theaters of operation, and I think it’s easy for us sometimes to understand this is where we’re helping in that capacity, we have a mission,” said Potts, project manager for aviation systems, Program Executive Office for Aviation. “But we serve a nation. My oath says foreign and domestic. And so this really becomes, if you really want to serve your fellow man, are you willing to come out here and really serve your fellow man? Are you willing to put on the gloves and serve the food, and serve them drinks, take their drinks to their table and wipe their tables for them, and really show them it’s more than just lip service?”

We do want to serve, and we do appreciate them. The freedom that we fight for

every day belongs to them as much as it belongs to every other American citizen.”

For the past year, Potts, his wife Jennifer and daughter Cynthia have joined together on Monday nights at the Downtown Rescue Mission, where the city’s 1,500 homeless and others in need can come for a hot meal three times a day, seven days a week. While busy schedules have sometimes kept them away, for the past month, just in time for the holiday season, the family has recommitted themselves to be there from 4 to 6 p.m. every Monday to serve dinner to those less fortunate than them.

“For us, it’s a ministry opportunity, it’s a mission opportunity,” said Jennifer, who works in the Utility Helicopters Project Office. “The Bible says that you can preach the word to a poor man as much as you want, but can you meet his basic needs?”

It was Cynthia that came to her dad



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cynthia Potts and her father, Col. Anthony Potts, project manager for aviation systems, PEO Aviation, serve dinner each Monday night to the needy in the community at the Downtown Rescue Mission.

with a desire to give back to the community in some way a little more than a year ago. After some research, Jennifer found the Downtown Rescue Mission, with its hands-on service, to be a perfect fit for

the Bob Jones High School senior.

“I just like to help people and I wanted a more concrete way to give back,” Cynthia said.

Once Cynthia began volunteering, Jennifer and the colonel began to pitch in too, making Monday nights a time of service for the Potts family.

“For us, this is probably one day of the week that we’re guaranteed to have time together to do something as a family,” Jennifer said. “For us, that’s an opportunity to grow. It’s a common experience that we have. We’re able to go and reach back and say here’s what we’re doing as an Army family. This is an outreach of the Army as well.”

Even though some Monday nights Potts could change out of his uniform and blend in with the rest of the volunteers in his civilian clothes, he deliberately chooses not to.

“There’s some great Americans here,”

See Family on page 40

AMC reductions announced to meet new fiscal reality

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

The Secretary of Defense order to reduce the civilian work force will decrease the Army Materiel Command's civilian work force by approximately 1,685 positions. Some 1,440 of the positions will be eliminated by Sept. 30 and the remaining reductions will occur in fiscal 2013.

"The Army and AMC are operating in a challenging fiscal environment. Tough choices have to be made, but we are making them in a thoughtful and deliberate manner that best supports AMC and the Army missions," William Marriott, AMC's deputy chief of staff for personnel, said.

This action to reduce civilian on-board strength is to meet funded targets established by the Secretary of Defense and reflected in the President's budget. The reductions will bring the total number of AMC civilian employees to just over 67,000 command-wide.

After the Army announced Aug. 4 that it will reduce the size of its civilian employee work force by more than 8,700 people by Sept. 30, 2012, AMC leaders began conducting an analysis to consolidate functions and reduce AMC capabilities, while minimizing the impact in supporting the total Army.

Decisions for cuts were made by conducting capability assessments and not arbitrarily cutting from each subordinate command. Commanders have been given

the responsibility of determining where the cuts can best be made and continue to meet objectives.

AMC and its major subordinate command civilian position reductions to be completed by the end of fiscal 2012 are as follows: Headquarters, AMC, 72; Army Contracting Command, 29; Aviation and Missile Command, 272; Army Sustainment Command, 88; Chemical Materials Agency, 49; Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command, 132; Joint Munitions Command, 77; Logistics Support Activity, 9; Research Development and Engineering Command, 459; and TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, 212. In addition, JMC will eliminate 41 over-hire

positions in fiscal 2012 and RDECOM will eliminate another 286 spaces in fiscal 2013, for an AMC total of 1,685 positions.

"We will not lose track of the concept that this is not about 'positions' or 'slots,' but about people. Every effort will be made to provide assistance to affected employees to ease their transition while still meeting the Secretary's intent," Marriott said.

AMC relied on voluntary departures, Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment and attrition to achieve the personnel reductions. AMC also reduced current hiring actions in order to reach its goal; subsequently some of the aforementioned reductions have already occurred.

Future civilian leaders receive career advice

By **BECKY JERNIGAN**
TACL marketing chair

How do you define leadership? Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders held its quarterly meeting Nov. 30 to ask two leaders that question. The leaders were AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister and AMCOM G-8 division chief Marian Guidry.

When asked to define leadership, Chronister said he thinks of two words – trust and credibility.

"Do you trust me as your leader and do I have credibility?" he said. "A key trait of leadership is teaching."

Chronister serves as a mentor and encourages all those in leadership positions to do the same. "Give the gift forward, pay it back" is necessary to build strong leaders, he said.

TACL offers a Shadowing Program which pairs civilian leaders with TACL

members. The leader provides a model for leadership excellence and the TACL member gains insight into his or her future role. The TACL Shadowing Program is accepting applications through Dec. 21 which are available on the TACL AKO site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/296968>.

Chronister elaborated on the struggles Redstone Arsenal faces since it is not a typical Army installation because it is composed primarily of civilians. In order to fulfill its mission to support the Soldier, civilians must get closer to the Soldier to understand how better to support him or her. Chronister suggests that TACL members "get face time with our customer – the Soldier." TACL provides such "face time" through staff rides to Army depots and other Army bases. Fort Campbell, Ky., is one such destination planned for fiscal 2012.

Chronister also shared his "secret" to

dealing with adversity. He says "sometimes you have to get seasoned" and "a lot of positive can come from adversity." During adverse situations, he encourages TACL members to "do the right things, be confident of your abilities, build relationships, be empathetic, minimize issues and do what is best for the command."

Being able to adapt is another method to deal with adversity. "If you can't adapt, you will become irrelevant," Chronister said.

He encouraged TACL members to "find balance in your life." In order to become good leaders, they must do this. He urged them to "spend time with your family, get involved with your community and church, devote time for personal interests as well as dedicate time for work. Holidays are a great time to spend time with your family so be sure and take time off."

Guidry shared her formula for becoming an effective leader. First, always "be responsible and accountable," she said. "Focus on team building and continue to improve your interpersonal skills."

Be sure to be "tolerant of ambiguity" because there may not be one correct answer or the person you are dealing with does not know the correct answer. "Know your strengths and weaknesses" and "continue to develop by becoming a life learner," Guidry said. One of the most important things you can do is "learn the organizational structure – this makes you a better employee." This also helps you understand the importance of what you are doing. "Find a way to deal with the chaos and stress it (leadership) will cause. It will come. Rise above it because you are going places." Finally, "remember to stay focused on the goal,"

Guidry said.

She reminded Interns (and those in other developmental positions) in the audience that they have a "unique opportunity" and be sure to "enjoy the experience." Few employers invest as many resources for employee development so take every advantage. During rotational assignments, "ask to see job descriptions as well as mission and functions to better acquaint you with the organization," Guidry advised. Interns should "diplomatically challenge the status quo." Remember to respect the experience and dedication of those in your organization while suggesting improvements to processes. All interns should network and "start a collection of business cards." Always remember to "share your experience and help others to achieve success."

Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders is an organization of civilian employees in developmental positions such as interns, fellows and Student Career Experience Program participants. TACL's mission is to be instrumental in preparing civilians in developmental positions to be the next generation of civilian leaders to better support the Soldier. This mission is accomplished by supplementing the civilian's formal training plan by providing professional developmental opportunities and business management exposure through promoting leadership development, providing career and professional development opportunities and teaching Army values, culture and mission.

TACL can be reached at the following: email, reds-tacl@conus.army.mil; AKO site, <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/296968>; and FaceBook, <https://www.facebook.com/TACL.RSA>.

Photo by KC Bertling

Farewell gift

Sgt. Maj. John Mattie, G3 sergeant major at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents the Soldier's Creed to Command Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Reynolds of Fort Greely, Alaska, garrison command sergeant major, at the 2011 Army Family Action Plan Conference. A framed Soldier's Creed was signed by the 2011 Team Fort Greely AFAP Conference delegates as a farewell gift to Reynolds. This was Fort Greely's first AFAP conference hosted as a joint effort by the garrison and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense).



Employees union president determined to reach goals

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Abner Merriweather has already changed the face of the American Association of Government Employees Local 1858. Now he wants to change the union's footprint.

Merriweather was elected AFGE Local 1858's president in April, defeating incumbent Don Eiermann. The result was confirmed in a rerun election held Oct. 7 by AFGE national 5th District in Atlanta.

He became the local's first minority president in its 53-year history.

"Firstly, it's a great opportunity to serve as president," Merriweather, elected to a two-year term, said. "It is my in-

tent to work close with management to address real, serious work force issues such as promotions, awards and career advancement. Those are issues we face on a daily basis.

"Telework is on the agenda – to allow folks to telework at a minimum one day per week (from home). That's the union goal. And one of the other issues is to combine NASA AFGE Local for the nonprofessional unit with this union. Another goal is to build a coalition between this union and other unions at Redstone and address work force issues collectively. Another goal is to build a base-wide partnership with the 18 bargaining unit commands. Of those



Abner Merriweather

18 bargaining units, I represent approximately 9,000 bargaining unit employees."

Merriweather, an electrical engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, would like to see diversity in the Senior Executive Service at Redstone.

"My goal is to work with the command to produce a diversified SES work force. That's extremely important. Right now the glass ceiling is at GS-13 level for minorities," he said.

The Demopolis native has worked at AMRDEC for 28 years. His 49th birthday will be New Year's Day.

He earned a bachelor's degree in elec-

trical engineering in December 1986 from Tuskegee University. He was a co-op student at AMRDEC from 1983-85. Merriweather is married and has a grown son.

His spare time is limited but his hobbies include shooting pool. He and his wife, Louise, enjoy going to J. Alexander's seafood/steak restaurant in Nashville at least once a month. "They have the best prime ribs," he said. A churchgoer, he drives a bus monthly to transport Alabama A&M University students to the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

"I've got a long way ahead of me. It's a challenge, but I'm fit for the challenge," Merriweather said of his union goals. "And nothing is going to deter me from the goals I have set before me. I am determined."

Health center provides around-the-clock help

Advice nurses on call after regular hours

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer
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Even when the lights are out and the doors are locked, Fox Army Health Center is there for its patients.

After hours, the Advice Nurse provides access to care for patients that need to be seen when Fox is closed. All patients have to do is call 955-8888 or

1-800-223-9531.

Patients that call after hours will go over their symptoms with the advice nurse, who will recommend the appropriate course of action, whether it be home treatment and education or referring them to a nearby network urgent care or emergency room. No matter where a patient is, the advice nurse can provide them with the closest location for treatment.

The 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week access to care not only provides patients with peace of mind when troubling symptoms crop up, but also gives them authorization to be seen at a medical fa-

cility other than Fox.

"No matter where you are, even if you're out of town on vacation, whatever the case may be, and you need to go to a medical treatment facility, you must call this line and talk to the advice nurse, so you can get an authorization," Barbara Williford, chief of the clinical support division, said. "You must have preauthorization before you go. You can't just go to urgent care; however you may go to the emergency room for life threatening injuries."

Active duty personnel are required to call their primary care provider within 24

hours of an emergency room visit. In case of emergency, patients should proceed immediately to the nearest emergency room; preauthorization is not required. However, if a patient is seen at an emergency room for a non-emergency and does not receive preauthorization, they will be charged for that visit, and need to speak with Fox's health benefits adviser.

When calling the advice nurse, he or she will give the patient the authorization to see an outside medical facility, as well as inform Fox to alert that patient's primary care doctor, to aid in patient care continuity.

Family

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Potts said. "I wear my uniform because there's so many veterans that come through here, and they find a bond with the uniform, just some great Americans who have served their country. They're down on their luck. They've hit some hard times in life. It is such an opportunity to give a little back for those things that we've been blessed with."

For the Potts family, those blessings are multiplied by their interactions with the men and women they serve at the Downtown Rescue Mission each Monday night.

"For me, the big take away is there's so many people that think they're going to go do something and they're going to bless somebody else. But you never know what you're going to get back," Jennifer said. "We get so much more. The people here are incredible people, most of which



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jennifer Potts, who works in the Utility Helicopters Project Office, carries a tray of food at the Downtown Rescue Mission, where she and her family serve dinner each Monday night.

just got dealt a rough hand. And a lot of us aren't that far from that rough hand."

Living by the words of Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," for Cynthia, the Downtown Rescue Mission is her Jerusalem, and just the beginning of her mission of ministry. Having also served those less fortunate than her in Mississippi, her Judea, where she worked as a roofer on mission trips, she now has her sights set on her Samaria – Africa.

"We are very blessed. We have a nice home, nice things, and we recognize that there are people that don't have what we have. We don't deserve half the things we have, so we might as well help give what we do have to others that need it," Cynthia said.

Potts made a deal with his daughter that if she trained for, ran and completed the Army Ten-Miler in Washington D.C., which included training three to four days a week, and running a 5K and 10K to help her prepare for the race, he would pay her way to Africa. She finished the race this October in one hour and 47 minutes. She leaves for Uganda in June.

"The fundamental blessing that I think most of us miss is that we were born in America," Potts said. "None of us got to pick that. And just by virtue of that blessing in general, you're the top 10 percent of all the people in the world. That's a huge blessing that most of us take for granted. We could've been born someplace else. We could be suffering a lot of hardship on a day-to-day basis. You just want to continue to try and give back."

Potts and his wife will also embark on their own "Samaria" journey, traveling to Honduras this February for a week of mission work.

"Get out of your comfort zone. You never know what will surprise you on the other end," Jennifer said.

Those surprises will continue as the Potts family serves the poor and needy in their own community at the Downtown Rescue Mission, where they hope to become a fixture on Monday nights.

"For me the biggest challenge is I wish I could be here more," Jennifer said.

Award recognizes savings through value engineering



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

From left are Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, VE honoree James Shames and Carol Tarquine, wife of the late Robert Tarquine.

The 16th annual Robert B. Tarquine Value Engineering Achievement Award was presented Dec. 7 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

This year's recipient is James Shames, chief of the Airframe Support Engineering Branch. He has played the primary leadership role in the success of the Maintenance Engineering Division's Value Engineering Program. He provides engineering support for depot production of aircraft and supervisory oversight of liaison engineers located with combat aviation brigades and other activities.

Under Shames' guidance, these liaison engineers have generated \$80 million in validated VE savings. As a result of his leadership and encouragement, MED Airframes Support Branch has completed significant

airworthiness engineering tasks that generated \$68.5 million in validate savings for the government.

The award, named after the late Robert Tarquine, is presented annually by the Command VE Office to a key individual for outstanding achievements in value engineering. Tarquine was a key participant and contributor to the early success of the command VE programs; and his leadership and expertise had a positive impact on Team Redstone.

Previous recipients of this award have included Carol Tarquine, wife of the late Robert Tarquine; Jean Grotophorst, Army TACMS-Bat Project Office; Robert Yanulavich, Army TACMS-Bat Project Office; Sylvia Budd, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Corpus Christi Army Depot

Maintenance; Joel Ellis, THAAD Project Office; Jamie Martin, Lower Tier Project Office; Richard Spence, Short Range Air Defense; Clayton Vance, Aviation Engineering Directorate; Larry Easterwood, director/supervisor of the Manufacturing and Product Assurance Directorate in the THAAD Project Office; Roland "Jack" Stewart, Resource Management Directorate at Letterkenny Army Depot; Julie Smith, THAAD Project Office; Beverly Humphrey, Robotic Systems Joint Project Office; and Robin Bonham, Aviation Engineering Directorate.

The Value Engineering Office is under the Industrial Operations Division, Engineering Directorate, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. *(VE Office release)*

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:

Turkey shoot

Outdoor Recreation's turkey shoot is Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3 per shot, shells provided. Children can participate with adult supervision. For more information, call 876-4868.

Holiday parties

Book your holiday party at the Weeden Mountain Grill and your golf event with the Links at Redstone. Now is the time to book your holiday parties and golf tournaments for the coming year. For more information, call 883-7977.

Youth appreciation

FMWR Partnership/EDGE Program and Redstone Lanes present Youth Ap-

preciation Day, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. There will be free bowling, free food and drinks and door prizes. For more information, call Redstone Lanes 876-6634 or FMWR Partnership/EDGE Program 842-3202.

Auto Skills open house

Auto Skills Center's annual open house, brought to you by Woody Anderson Ford, is today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the cen-

ter, building 3617 on Entac Circle. Safety classes will be offered every hour on the hour and free winter vehicle inspections. For more information, call 955-7727.

New Year's Eve dinner/dance

A New Year's Eve dinner and dance will be held Dec. 31 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person. For tickets call 830-2582 or 830-2591.

Win or Lose

Weight-loss contestants lighten up statewide



There's no excuse for keeping those unwanted pounds after the holidays.

FMWR Sports & Fitness Centers will serve as Scale Back Alabama weigh-in sites for Team Redstone members. Scale Back Alabama is a statewide weight-loss contest which started in January 2007.

The 10-week contest is designed to encourage Alabamians to lose weight, to exercise and to have fun while doing so. Last year's campaign drew more than 33,000 people in almost every county with a cu-

mulative reported weight loss of 143,309 pounds.

"It's a fun, team weight-loss program," Phylissa Shannon, assistant sports and fitness director, said. "Team members encourage, support and motivate each other. People tend to be more successful in reaching their weight-loss goals when they're held accountable. They don't want to let their teammates down, so they'll push harder in their workouts or think twice about eating something that's not so healthy for them. This program

is a great way to start living a healthier lifestyle."

Redstone's registration and team weigh-in will be held Jan. 23-25; and the weigh-out week is April 8-12.

"There are four-person teams," Shannon said. "And the whole team has to weigh-in at the same facility. And they have to weigh-in and weigh-out at the same location."

An informational meeting is scheduled Jan. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at Pagano Gym. For more information, call Shannon at 313-6094.

Louisiana State picked to win national title

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks finished the college football season at 502-162 for 76 percent.

Here are my bowl game predictions:

Wyoming vs. Temple – **Wyoming**

Utah State vs. Ohio – **Utah State**

La.-Lafayette vs. San Diego State –

San Diego St.

Marshall vs. FIU – **Marshall**

TCU vs. Louisiana Tech – **TCU**

Boise St. vs. Arizona St. – **Boise St.**

Southern Miss vs. Nevada – **So. Miss**

Missouri vs. North Carolina – **UNC**

Western Michigan vs. Purdue – **Purdue**

Louisville vs. N.C. State – **Louisville**

Air Force vs. Toledo – **Toledo**

California vs. Texas – **Texas**

Florida State vs. Notre Dame – **FSU**

Baylor vs. Washington – **Baylor**

BYU vs. Tulsa – **BYU**

Rutgers vs. Iowa State – **Rutgers**

Wake Forest vs. Miss St. – **Miss St.**

Oklahoma vs. Iowa – **Oklahoma**

Texas A&M vs. Northwestern – **Texas**

A&M

Georgia Tech vs. Utah – **Utah**

UCLA vs. Illinois – **UCLA**

Cincinnati vs. Vanderbilt – **Vandy**

Virginia vs. Auburn – **Auburn**

Houston vs. Penn State – **Houston**

South Carolina vs. Nebraska – **SC**

Ohio State vs. Florida – **Florida**

Michigan St. vs. Georgia – **Georgia**

Arkansas vs. Kansas St. – **Arkansas**

SMU vs. Pittsburgh – **Pittsburgh**

Northern Illinois vs. Arkansas St. –

Ark. St.

Oregon vs. Wisconsin – **Oregon**

Oklahoma St. vs. Stanford – **Stanford**

Michigan vs. Virginia Tech – **Michigan**

Clemson vs. West Virginia – **Clemson**

Louisiana St. vs. Alabama – **LSU**

Small directorate has big contracting mission

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

Army Contracting Command

Procuring everything from paperclips to facilities for Army Contracting Command elements worldwide, the command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations, Logistics and Commandant Services tentacles of support extend to every corner of the globe.

The directorate, designated as the G-4, has the mission of providing policy and solutions in regard to the command's supply and logistical programs, facilities and installation support and headquarters commandant services. Covering the command's more than 114 locations is no easy task for the 18-member staff. Moreover, the G-4 is a dual hatted staff that provides support to both the Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command.

"I think of things like dedication, professionalism and determination when I think about the personnel in the G-4. We tasked them to do something just short of impossible and they accomplished that and more. Think about what we asked them to do. Move the two headquarters and oh by the way, we can't stop the mission. Team

members like the G-4 make it easier to accomplish the mission," Carol Lowman, executive director of Army Contracting Command, said.

"We're a small, efficient and effective multi-functional organization that does big business," G-4 director Stephanie Lopez said. "We continue to strive to provide seamless support and critical capability to the Army Contracting Command and its subordinate commands around the world. I am proud to be part of the G-4 team that focuses on exceptional customer service and providing logistical solutions."

Big business equates to providing oversight for nearly \$725 million – \$200 million in real property; \$133 million in sustainment, restoration and modernization and \$392 million in eight military construction projects – in facilities and \$11 million in logistics supply support and property accountability.

Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, the staff is divided into four divisions: Logistics Support and Services; Installations and Environmental; Logistics Policy, Plans and Compliance; and the Office of the Commandant.

While all the G-4's missions are important, none was more visible as its effort to move the ACC and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters' staffs from Fort Belvoir, Va., to Redstone.

"Moving two general officer level headquarters while they are supporting two areas of operations was a major accomplishment," Lopez said. "It was a busy time for everyone. After months of preparation and planning, I can say that the G-4 team accomplished something phenomenal. It was an amazing feat when you stop and consider that many individuals at ACC and ECC embraced the move. Even more impressive is how individuals accepted the changes and challenges throughout the command while never missing a beat in supporting the day-to-day operations. At the end of the day it is all about providing world class customer support and that is exactly what G-4 does. It is 18 fantastic individuals and one super team."

For Lopez and her crew, the move from Fort Belvoir to Huntsville was the opening act. It will be a couple of years before they can close the show when the command moves into its permanent facilities.



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Monica Robinson and G-4 director Stephanie Lopez discuss planning documents at the Army Contracting Command.

Ordnance disposal mission in Iraq ends

By **DEBRA VALINE**

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Nearly nine years after the Army requested ordnance support, Huntsville's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, Engineering and Support Center, ended its munitions disposal mission in Iraq.

The Coalition Munitions Disposal mission was completed Nov. 12, at the direction of the Army. CMD stood up Nov. 21, 2008, replacing the Coalition Munitions Clearance mission that had mobile teams conducting ordnance clearance and disposal

missions all over Iraq.

"The CMD mission was a static operation, in that all munitions were delivered to a centralized disposal point at forward operating base Hammer where the actual disposal occurred," Bill Sargent, chief of the International Operations Division, said. "Complete demobilization from the site was completed Nov. 12; however, the last demolition shot was executed Oct. 24."

Preliminary numbers show 3,731 tons of unserviceable ammunition, 479 tons of enemy remnants of war and 214 tons of munitions belonging to the United Kingdom

were destroyed, totaling more than 4,400 tons combined.

Also destroyed in the demo shots were weapons, other sensitive items, expired drugs, etc. Munitions disposed of included artillery projectiles, mines, grenades, rockets, small arms ammunition, some bombs, detonation cord, etc.

"The majority of the munitions and other items disposed of were sent to us by the U.S. Army," Sargent said. "We also destroyed some explosive items for the U.S. Air Force. When the British army pulled out of Iraq, their excess ammunition also was sent to FOB Hammer where it was destroyed."

The munitions disposal mission started in July 2003 as the Captured Enemy Ammunition Disposal Program. The focus of the CEA mission was the securing of six major captured Iraqi ammunition depots and the disposal of ammunition not being retained for the future Iraqi army. The CEA mission became CMC and the Depot Operations Program in February 2006. CMC was tasked with the subsurface clearance of previously destroyed ammunition sites in Iraq with a focus on denying Improvised Explosive Device capable materiel to a rising insurgency. The Depot Operations Program was tasked with initially standing up and operating two ammunition depots for the newly formed Iraqi army. One depot was later closed by the Iraqi army with the

other becoming Bayji National Depot.

Under the CMC Program, mobile contractor teams moved from site to site, clearing collapsed bunkers and uncovering buried munitions. When the ammunition sites that were a concern under CMC had been cleared and the depot turned over to the Iraqi army for their own control and operation, the mission was changed from a mobile mission to the CMD effort with a centralized collection point for unserviceable U.S. munitions disposal.

During the five years of the CMC program, more than 346,000 tons of explosive remnants of war were destroyed at 51 clearance sites, denying the enemy from using these hazardous materials for IED that would have caused untold loss of life and property, said Col. Rock Donahue, former director, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Engineers (C7), at the change of mission ceremony.

At the height of the program, 18 mobile teams were operating in Iraq to support the CMC mission, and local national labor and subcontractors were hired at each of the 51 clearance sites.

"The toll on these honorable men and women performing this inherently dangerous mission was high: 43 contractor personnel and an untold number of local nationals lost their lives denying the enemy ammunition, ordnance and cache sites," Donahue said.

Library canines

Therapy dogs Taka, left, and Miss Sophie Grey, both Reading Education Assistance Dogs, pose with Katie Lee on Dec. 3 at the Post Library. The canines delighted the library patrons, including children and adults, and patiently listened to many happy readers. Patrons received a special holiday picture "pawtographed" by both dogs.

Courtesy photo



Powers of attorney useful in legal matters

By WENDY DIGENNARO

Legal assistant

A power of attorney is a written authorization to represent or act on another's behalf in private affairs, business or some other legal matter. The person authorizing the other to act is the principal, of the power, and the one authorized to act is the agent.

Powers of attorney are routinely granted to allow the agent to take care of a variety of transactions for the principal, such as executing a stock power, handling a tax audit or maintaining a safe-deposit box. Powers of attorney can be written to be either general (full) or limited to special circumstances. A power of attorney generally is terminated when the principal dies or becomes

incompetent, but the principal can revoke the power of attorney at any time. To better understand a power of attorney and its purpose, it is helpful to classify a power of attorney within one of three categories: general, springing, or limited or special.

A general power of attorney is a broad power of attorney document that gives the agent power to handle all matters permitted by law on behalf of the principal. This power will include the right to act for the principal in all matters. A general power of attorney can be a useful tool to manage the financial affairs of the principal; however it can also be abused by the agent. Depending on your personal situation, there are other useful alternatives to a power of attorney

which include setting up automatic payments or bill pay from a checking account.

Alternatively, one can grant a springing power of attorney to an agent to conduct one's affairs should the principal suffer incapacitation or mental incompetence. A springing power of attorney is like a general power of attorney that lies dormant until a future event causes the springing power of attorney to "spring to life." Specifically, a springing power of attorney is only activated if the principal is incapacitated or incompetent. If the principal is incapacitated, an agent typically must obtain a sworn affidavit from the principal's treating physician or medical provider stating that the principal is, in fact, incapacitated or incompetent before

utilizing the springing power of attorney.

A limited or special power of attorney is an instrument that grants limited or special authority to carry out the principal's specified affairs. This particular power of attorney allows the principal to narrow the focus to specific powers such as: buying or selling a specific parcel of real estate, maintaining the health and welfare of a minor child while the principal is absent due to business or leisure travel, or accepting prescriptions from the pharmacy.

For more information or assistance regarding powers of attorney, visit the Legal Assistance Office, under the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, at building 111 on Goss Road. Or call 876-9005 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 daily for lunch).

Huntsville Center awards \$210M energy contract

By DEBRA VALINE

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Six small businesses from across the U.S. have been awarded a Multiple Award Task Order Contract with a program-based capacity of \$210 million to support energy and cost reduction projects by the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville.

Under the contract awarded this year, the six small businesses are being awarded task orders to perform general design/build services in support of energy or cost reduction

projects. Specific work to be performed is defined at the task order level.

JRS-ECC Inc. of Schertz, Texas; LA Group JV, Denver, Colo.; Williams Electric Company Inc., Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Koontz Electrical Company Inc., Morrilton, Ark.; SEI Group Inc, Huntsville; and Core Engineering and Construction Inc., Winter Park, Fla., will share the contract over the five-year duration of the contract. Each contract includes a base year and four one-year optional years.

To date, six task orders have been awarded totaling \$9,101,368.26. Work being performed includes replace windows at Fort Belvoir, Va.; foam insulation at Fort Bliss, Texas; lighting retrofits, door and window retrofits, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning retro-commissioning and controls updates at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; replace steam plants with HVAC/Geothermal at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Okla.; lighting and lighting control upgrade at the Defense Logistics

Agency, New Cumberland, Pa.; and pool heating and boiler upgrades at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

As part of the competitive task order award process, contractors conveyed estimated amounts for cost savings and submitted applicable calculations or cost saving methods. Since the first awards under the MATOC were just awarded in September, performance has not yet gotten under way. It will likely be a while before the savings information becomes available.

Bear

continued from page 14

For Lyndee, 6, and Haidin Shook, 4, it's a magical moment that they wait for all year.

"It comes December and they're like, when's Operation Christmas Bear?" said mom Sarah Shook, whose husband, Sgt. Derek Shook was away at Guard for the weekend. "They know Christmas equals Operation Christmas Bear. It's the familiarity of the Army, the uniforms, getting to see Santa and the clowns, they just love it."

Escorted by Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle, Santa arrived by fire truck to the

Cahaba Shrine Temple, kicking off the afternoon's festivities, which included pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, electric trains, T-shirt painting, face painting, music, dancing, press on tattoos, inflatables, a magician, food and more.

"I think it's awesome," said Sarah Mullinax, whose husband Billy, Army retired, sustained a brain injury in 2003 during his first tour to Iraq. "It makes you realize that people haven't forgotten about you and

your children, even during the Christmas holiday. It's very nice to be able to come out here with your family and still be respected."

Three months of planning and more than 200 volunteers helped make the event a success. While it's something volunteers look forward to all year, they all wait for

a time when their outreach is no longer needed.

"We're all looking for the day we don't have to do this," Bennett said. "We're looking for the time that there's nobody deployed and everybody's home with their family for Christmas."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Operation Christmas Bear volunteer Jackson Coffey, 9, paints the face of his father Darryl.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Painting T-shirts are 2nd Lt. Kris and Leslie Davis and their daughters Sydney, 5, and Alexis, 13.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mrs. Claus reads to Katie Ward, 4, daughter of David and Lisa Ward.

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. For more information, call 842-2964.

Protestant women

You are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel as they meet for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. Choose from three sessions: morning from 9:30-11:30, lunch time from 11:30-12:30 and evening at 6. Some child care is available at the morning session, upon registration with Youth Services.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. “We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us,” a prepared release said. “Let’s try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area.” For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

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 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. 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.

Men’s ministry

Men’s Ministry, “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.

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.

Administrative professionals

Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 17th annual Seminar and Education Forum, with keynote speaker Ron Woods, on Feb. 6 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The topic is “My job would be easy if it weren’t for other people!” For more information, call Alpha McRae 313-1957 and Gala Horry 842-8389.

Trade association

The North Alabama International Trade Association will hold its annual meeting Jan. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at The Westin at Bridge Street. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command. For more information, call 532-3505.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. The scheduled speaker is Will Greene, noted author, lecturer, tour guide and executive director of the Pamplin Historical Park, Petersburg, Va. He will speak on “Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign.” Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 539-5287.

POW advocates

Rolling Thunder is not a motorcycle club, but many members do use motorcycles as a tool in its mission. Members of Rolling Thunder include veterans and non-veterans. The Rolling Thunder mission statement is as follows: “Rolling Thunder Inc.’s major function is to publicize the POW-MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War/Missing in Action. We are committed to helping American veterans from all wars. Rolling Thunder Inc. is a non-profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA issue.” Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at VFW Post 2702, located at 2900 Memorial Parkway (southeast corner of Sparkman Drive and Memorial Parkway at Highway 72 East). Interested parties are welcome. For more information, call Butch Cross 714-9293, Hal Swanson 527-6217 and Ernie Marone 759-3639.

Civilian leadership summit

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will hold its inaugural Department of the Army Civilian Leadership Summit on Jan. 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Rocket Announcements

This free event will be followed by a Leader Social for all guest speakers and attendees from 4-5 p.m. Those interested in attending can register in the Training Information Program. Log into TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

Space society

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, the local chapter of the National Space Society, will hold its January program Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library downtown. HAL5 will have its Membership and Strategic Planning Meeting. The event is free and open to the public. A social will follow at IHOP Restaurant off University Drive. For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

Women’s connection

Huntsville Christian Women’s Connection will hold a luncheon Jan. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The feature is Joy Sims’ “Enchanting Designs,” showing how to create floral arrangements. Local musician Elaine Tibbs Rice will perform. Katrina Dunkin, a spokesperson for domestic violence awareness, writer and motivational speaker, will discuss “Finding Peace and Forgiveness During the Storms of Life.” Free childcare for 6 and younger off-site. Reservations for lunch or child care are due by Jan. 2. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339. HCWC is an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, www.stonecroftministries.org, a support ministry for all community women and military wives.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army 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>. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

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 courses? Need a proctor for your exams? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764 for an appointment. They can proctor exams for most colleges. Proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders).

Ride needed

Julie Jordan, a badge checker in building 5303, works 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and does not drive because of her disability. She lives off Airport Road and is willing to pay. No handicap accessible equipment will be required. If interested call 604-8433.

Community assistance

Each year the Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club distributes money to a variety of requesting nonprofit organizations. “Thanks to all of our enthusiastic and supportive members who contribute their time and talent to make each fund-raising event a huge success,” a prepared release said. Several fund-raising events are being planned this year to continue the club’s humanitarian efforts to benefit the military and civilian communities. Applications for the RSACWC community assistance grants are now being accepted. Forms are available at the RSACWC website at www.rsacwc.org (click on community assistance) and will be used to collect the same information from each requesting organization. By doing this, it will reduce the influence of such things as professionally prepared advertising, writing styles, supporters and the amount of information the club receives. All requests must conform to the RSACWC Community Assistance Request Form. Send to rsacwc-communityassistance@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of the grant request is Jan. 28. All requests must be postmarked no later than the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered.

Breast cancer campaign

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness and Education, Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity is teaming up with Yoplait for the 2011 “Save Lids to Save Lives” campaign. Through Thursday, drop off your pink

Rocket Announcements

“SLSL” Yoplait lids in the Pink Collection Box located in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the courtyard). For each lid collected, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research. Join in on the fight to end breast cancer.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their family members prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year. Last year's center was a success, with more than 3,900 returns prepared which resulted in over \$3 million in refunds. The center is now accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2011 tax season. Scheduling will be flexible and volunteers are needed to assist with tax preparation. No prior experience is necessary as comprehensive training will be provided. This is an opportunity for the community to give back to servicemembers, retirees and their families. To volunteer or for more information, call Rachael Yeoman 876-9007 or email rachael.yeoman@conus.army.mil.

Holiday gala

The annual 100 Black Men of America-Greater Huntsville Chapter's annual Holiday Gala is Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. the Von Braun Center's North Hall. The theme is “Preparing Our Youth Today for Leadership Tomorrow,” and the program will reflect the organization's emphasis on mentorship and its commitment to growing and developing community youth. The evening will begin with a reception at 6, and the program will begin at 7 and continue with dining and entertainment through midnight. Tickets are \$75 per person and \$600 for reserved tables for eight. For more information, call Kenneth Anderson 679-4241, James Matthewson 714-8921 or Freeda McDowell at the 100 BMOA-GHC business office 536-8050 where credit card purchases can be processed.

Thrift shop grants

The Thrift Shop will be taking applications for 2012 grants until Feb. 29. These grants are open to all non-profit groups (no individuals please) that impact the Redstone community. For more information, call Lisa Loew 604-8777 or email lloew3@gmail.com.

Army museum

The National Museum of the United States Army, scheduled to open at Fort Belvoir, Va., in 2015 will be the nation's only museum to present the complete Army's history since 1775. Its immersive exhibits, Soldier artifacts and venues will tell the stories of selfless service and personal sacrifices

of the 30 million Americans who have worn the Army uniform. For more information, call 1-800-506-2672 or visit www.armyhistory.org. The 2011 Army Commemorative Coins, benefiting the museum's construction, will no longer be sold by the U.S. Mint after Friday. The \$5 gold coin, silver dollar, and clad half-dollar made available to the public early this year celebrate the Army's storied history. All three coins can be ordered at www.usmint.gov/catalog or by calling 1-800 USA-MINT (872-6468). The pricing of the coins includes a surcharge – \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each clad coin – which is authorized to be paid to The Army Historical Foundation to help finance the museum.

Instructors wanted

On behalf of the FMWR Directorate, the Army NAF Contracting Office, Atlantic Region South, will be soliciting for a concession contractor to provide the following instructions within Child Youth and School Services: drum line, guitar, piano, drivers education class and SAT/ACT Prep classes. Interested personnel should have at least three years of verifiable teaching/instructional experience. If you are interested in an opportunity to provide these services on a concession contract basis, call Karvelis Lee, SKIESUnlimited program manager, 690-6235.

Merit awards

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is accepting applications for merit awards. These financial awards are available to graduating high school seniors, college students and spouses who are U.S. military and DoD civilian family members whose primary residence is located within the Redstone Arsenal community and who meet the eligibility requirements. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. Information and applications regarding the merit award program are available online. For more information and to download the application, visit the women's club website at www.rsacwc.org or contact Teresa Lee, the Merit Award chair, at www.rsacwcmeritawards@gmail.com or 830-0562. The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Commissary news

Here is the Commissary's holiday schedule: Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 19; closing at 4 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25-26; reopening Dec. 27; and closed Jan. 1.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is accepting seasonal consignments with a limit of three Christmas items per day. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-

6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. 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 the month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. Through this Thursday, all holiday items that are Thrift Shop property will be 50 percent off. The shop will close Dec. 20 and reopen Jan. 3.

Student apprentices

The Defense Department initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980 to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student/mentor relationships during the summer. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens, with a Social Security card, and at least 16 years old by the beginning of the program June 4, 2012. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Possible career placement areas at Redstone include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The application deadline is Feb. 24. In addition to your application, you are required to submit copies of your transcripts and teacher recommendations by March 2. If students are unsuccessful in receiving application information from high school senior counselors or college placement services, call Angela Jefferson 842-8981 or Vivian Whitaker 313-3198 at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center or review application information at <http://www.gwseap.net> or <http://www.usaeop.com>.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to aid ASMC members or their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. The 2012 application deadline is Feb. 29. For more information call Lindsey Harper 876-8361, Michelle Cobb 842-0228 or Judy Smith 876-6163.

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Pamela Donald 513-8290 or email at pdonald@seniorview.com.

Logistics course

Alabama A&M University will conduct onsite registration for its logistics course Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road. Since recently evolving into a full-fledged major, the logistics and supply chain management program at A&M is expected to increase significantly, with

up to half of the courses being offered online, according to Dr. Amin Sarkar, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs. For more information about the program in logistics and supply chain management or onsite registration, call Bonnie Banks, interim chair of A&M's Department of Accounting and Logistics & Supply Chain Management, at 372-4783 or email bonnie.banks@aamu.edu. Interested persons may also visit <http://www.aamu.edu/business>.

Dog ball

Greater Huntsville Humane Society's “Dog Ball” will be held Feb. 10 at 5:45 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, South Hall 2. All proceeds benefit the humane society. For tickets call 881-8081 or visit the humane society at 2812 Johnson Road, Huntsville.

Special education law

The Autism Resource Foundation will sponsor a seminar, titled “Wright's Law: Special Education Law and Advocacy,” March 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Chan Auditorium, Administrative Sciences Building, University of Alabama-Huntsville. Preregistration is required. For more information, call 975-1579 or visit www.theautismresourcefoundation.org/wrightslaw.

Christmas trees

Anyone with access to Redstone Arsenal is authorized to cut trees on a self-serve basis in the old storage yard area on Warehouse Road, which is west of building 7427. Trees cannot be cut for commercial or unauthorized use, only for personal use in your home. The gate entering the area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. The tree cutting area is completely surrounded with a chain link fence. Vehicle travel will be limited to the one road entering the gate and the two turnaround roads. Any further travel will be on foot, so work boots or protective footwear is strongly suggested. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees can be cut now through Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way or access roads. For more information and a location map, call Outdoor Recreation, building 5132, at 876-4868 or the installation forester's office 313-3258.

New Year's Eve ball

The 2011 Centennial Committee of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will present the New Year's Eve Ball from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Davidson Center for Exploration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The formal-attire event will include a premium cash bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a midnight champagne toast. Tickets are \$45. For tickets call Glenn Harbin 529-0662.

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Combined fund organization

Any federation, charitable organization or combination thereof wishing to be selected as the principal combined fund organization must submit a timely application to the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign in accordance with the Office of Personnel Management's regulations. The primary responsibility of the PCFO is to support the federal government's CFC Board of Directors in managing a comprehensive local workplace fund-raising campaign while ensuring the fiscal integrity, accountability and transparency of the process in accordance with 5CFR, Part 950. The selected federation and/or charitable organization selected to serve as PCFO will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LFCC. This agreement will be a multi-year contract. More information may be downloaded from <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil> and also the Office of Personnel Management's website www.opm.gov/cfc. Deadline for receipt of applications is Jan. 17. All interested parties may contact Donna Johnson, LFCC chairperson, AMSAM-CFC, building 3708, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5795, by phone at 876-9143 or email donna.c.johnson@us.army.mil.

Weekly deal

The Redstone Deal of the Week will be launched in January. It is a special online deal Redstone Rocket readers can receive via e-mail featuring special discounts on merchandise and services from various local businesses. The minimum discount for the merchandise or service featured on the Redstone Deal will be 50 percent. The Redstone Deal of the Week will be available to anyone signing up at www.tnvalleydeals.com/redstone

Candles and carols

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church, 207 East Washington St. in downtown Athens, will hold "Candles and Carols" on Sunday at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call choirmaster Ruth Moyers at the church office 232-3541.

Ballroom dance classes

FMWR is offering a free class, with no obligation, to all with little or no dance experience. The class, "Introduction to Ballroom Dancing," will be held Jan. 12 from 7:30-9 p.m. at building 3155. There will be demonstrations of the types of dances, a handout to include the "Dancing Like the Stars 2012" schedule of classes, Q&A and a mini-lesson. Light refreshments during the break will

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be provided. Registration will remain open through Jan. 11. Call 876-4531 to register or for more information.

Swing dancing

The first course of the "Dancing Like the Stars 2012" program to be offered by FMWR will be six Thursdays of Swing, Jan. 19 through Feb. 23, from 7:30-9 p.m. at building

3155. No experience necessary. Singles will be paired up with a partner before classes begin. Tuition is \$66 per couple for beginners and \$55 per couple for reviewers who have taken this course previously at Redstone and feel they do not need the first class. Registration will remain open through Jan. 18. For registration information, or for a schedule of classes to be taught in 2012, call 876-4531.



Courtesy photo

Runway run

Redstone Test Center commander Col. Steve Kihara kicked off the first ever Runway Run sponsored Dec. 2 by Aviation Flight Test Directorate at Redstone's Army Airfield. Highlights of the day ranged from Rudolph's Runway 5K for runners of all ages to the Taxiway Trot for runners 10 and under. Employees and their families enjoyed a holiday meal which included turkey, ham and all the holiday trimmings.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Christmas carol

Fantasy Playhouse presented "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 2-4 and 8-11 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Among the cast members were these players connected with Redstone Arsenal. On the right are Scott Gardner, who played Mr. Danbury the baker; and his daughters Abigail, 16, and Theresa, 13. Scott Gardner, retired military, works at the Missile Defense Agency. Front left is 10 year old Nicholas Tortora, 10, son of Col. Nello Tortora, commander of the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville. Back row left is veteran Paul Buxton, who played the ghost of Jacob Marley.

