

Redstone Rocket

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Providing home for survivor families

Survivor Outreach Services serves families of fallen Soldiers

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Emily McFall's life has led her to this moment.

Standing among friends, supporters, well-wishers, and Army and community leaders, McFall could smile knowing she had completed a major milestone in a new Army initiative at Redstone Arsenal.

McFall is the Arsenal's coordinator of Survivor Outreach Services, known popularly as SOS. It is a program focused on providing a safe and homey haven for the Gold Star families of fallen Soldiers, and offering them the support, counseling and encouragement to continue on after their devastating loss.

On Thursday, McFall welcomed the community to the Arsenal's new SOS facility, adjacent to Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Taking on the role of hostess, she showed off a place that features a sitting area, children's play area, a multipurpose area for gatherings and an administrative office. Everywhere they looked, visitors saw the personal touches that McFall has added to make the facility a home away from home, a place for fun and relaxation, a place to both play and seek comfort.

Comfy couches are snug in one area of the room. Scenes from Shel Silverstein's well-known book "The Giving Tree" painted on the wall shelter the children's play area. There are plenty of tables and chairs for doing family projects – scrapbooking and crafts – as well as a flat-screen television for those family members preferring video entertainment. Scattered on the walls are sayings of comfort and hope – such as "Remember to cherish each moment because this is what memories are made of" and "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

"It's come a long way. It's a good place for our survivors to come to and meet each other," McFall said. "We wanted to give them a safe place where they can come and talk about their Soldier, their families and themselves. We want them



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Emily McFall, coordinator for Redstone Arsenal's Survivor Outreach Services, puts the pictures of fallen Soldiers in frames to be hung in the new facility's Hall of Remembrance. The SOS facility officially opened for services to the families of fallen Soldiers, also known as Gold Star families, during a ribbon cutting Thursday.

to feel at home here, whether they want to talk about the past or their future."

This time last year, the SOS facility at Redstone was a dream in the making. Across the Army, Installation Management Command commander Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch was calling for garrisons to stand up facilities in support of fallen Soldier survivors as required by the 2008 guidance mandating an Armywide SOS program designed to provide dedicated and comprehensive support to survivors of deceased Soldiers from all military branches. The program was established under the Army Family Action Plan.

In a short time, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation and its Army Community Service tapped the right person with the passion and knowledge to see the Arsenal's SOS through fruition – and that person was McFall. When Lynch visited Redstone's Garrison last

February, he met with McFall and other family survivors. Work on Redstone's SOS facility began shortly after that. While McFall laid the foundation of the Arsenal's SOS program, and worked to locate and reach out to family members, construction workers converted ACS warehouse space into the new SOS facility. During the fall of 2010, McFall began coordinating new SOS events and activities while also ordering furniture and decorating the new SOS home.

So, with the official opening of the Arsenal's SOS, McFall has seen the program come into its own moment as she herself has found her place to give back.

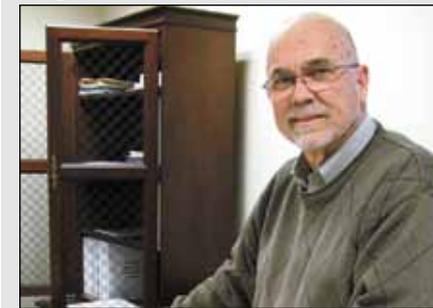
In SOS circles, McFall is unique. While most SOS programs are coordinated by professional counselors, McFall's credentials are found in the sacrifices she has made along her own personal life journey.

See Survivor on page 13

HAIL AND FAREWELL

As one of the longest serving public affairs officers in the Army, Bill Congo is known for his work in preparing Soldiers and civilians for the media spotlight. He retired in December.

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POST PROFILE

When she was a college intern at Redstone, Lisha Adams never envisioned that she would one day join the Senior Executive Service.

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AROUND TOWN

A new organization will serve homeless veterans year-round. Of the approximately 400 homeless in the Tennessee Valley, more than half are estimated to be veterans.

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WIN OR LOSE

Redstone's basketball season will be longer than usual because many of the troops are leaving for Fort Lee, Va., this summer.

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RocketViews

What are your plans for 2011?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Stacy Hull

Garrison Directorate of Public Works
“My plans are to spend more time with family (mainly mom and sister). With the loss of my father, I think it’s important to spend more time with them.”



Ricky Adams

Qinetiq North America
“To continue working regularly, of course, full time. Graduating with my master’s in May (in aerospace engineering from UAH). And hopefully starting to try for a second kid – which is a

big deal of course. And starting the doctorate program possibly as well after my master’s. That can fill up my year pretty quick.”



Sgt. Corrin Corbett

AMC Band
“Work toward promotion. And get to know the city of Huntsville because we’re new to the area (since just arrived from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.)”



Pfc. Jonathan Monaghan

Marine Corps Detachment
“Just graduate in February and go back to college to finish up my associates in diesel mechanics (at North Central Kansas Technical College).”

Letters to the Editor

Don't overlook important tax credit

Last year, we met and discussed my participation as the Alabama representative on the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. As part of the TAP outreach and public education program, I would appreciate your assistance in providing your readers information that could be critical to their personal financial health.

I am currently assigned to Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense’s Lower Tier Project Office, but this is a personal volunteer program as a concerned citizen taxpayer, and is not part of my official DoD duties. My volunteer time is charged annual leave, and does not interfere with my official duties.

Every penny counts in today’s economy, yet many working people are overlooking an important tax credit that could put anywhere between \$2 to more than \$5,600 into their pockets. The Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, is a financial boost for working people hit by hard economic times.

Many people will qualify for EITC for the first time this year because their income declined, their marital status changed or they added children to their families. Bigger

families with three or more children get an extra boost with a larger credit this year. IRS estimates four of five eligible workers get their EITC. We want to raise that number to five out of five. However, workers can get their EITC only if they file federal income tax returns — even if they are not otherwise required to file — and specifically claim the credit.

Anyone with earnings under \$48,362 from wages, self-employment or farming in 2010, should see if they qualify. They earned it. Now they just need to file and claim it. Area residents can find more information at www.irs.gov, keyword: EITC. IRS’s online EITC Assistant can help determine their eligibility and compute the amount of their credit.

Taxpayers also can get local no-cost help computing and claiming their EITC. Residents can locate a volunteer assistance site by calling the IRS at 1-800-906-9887.

To help accurately determine their EITC eligibility and prepare their returns, individuals should bring:

- Photo proof of identification
- Social Security cards for themselves,

their spouse and dependents or Social Security number verification letters issued by the Social Security Administration

- Birth dates for all persons listed on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Copies of last year’s federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit of their refunds
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Amounts paid for day care, if applicable and the day care provider’s identifying number.

To electronically file their returns and get the fastest refunds, both spouses must be present to sign joint returns.

EITC has been making the lives of working people a little easier for 36 years. Today, more than ever, hard-working individuals and families can use a little extra help.

Herb Hayes

Alabama TAP representative

Army addressing family action issues

As the assistant chief of staff for installation management, I have an important responsibility to oversee the Army Family Action Plan process, which is a program that enables Soldiers, civilians and family members to communicate quality of life issues to Army leaders. Information provided through this process allows leaders the opportunity to affect changes that will lead to a more satisfied and resilient Army community.

Every month subject matter experts from across the Army meet to analyze recommendations submitted through the AFAP process to determine if they are achievable. These recommendations will

then be presented at the next annual General Officer Steering Committee in January. I have promised to regularly communicate our progress throughout the process. This month we reviewed recommendations related to employment and family support.

Issue number 617 recommends providing greater visibility of qualified wounded warrior job applicants to federal hiring officials. The Civilian Human Resource Agency has made much progress with this issue. One accomplishment is their partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to integrate the use of their Veteran Resume Inventory (Vet-Success.gov) into Army recruitment business processes. Additionally, CHRA has developed:

- The Civilian Personnel Online (CPOL) Wounded Warrior webpage.
- The Wounded Warrior Referral Process.



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Quote of the Week

‘Energy is the essence of life. Every day you decide how you’re going to use it by knowing what you want and what it takes to reach that goal, and by maintaining focus.’

Oprah Winfrey

See Issues on page 3

RedstoneRocket

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Email: skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

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Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins

Reporters: Amy Tolson, Pamela Ramey

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Pfc. Alexander Burningham

Job: 89 Alpha (ammunition stock control specialist), Bravo Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion. (Left Jan. 5 to attend Airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga.)

Where do you call home?
Salt Lake City, Utah

What do you like about your job?

The training. The camaraderie. Friendships that are formed.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my wife (Emaleigh). Play sports. Train (to progress my career). That's about all the spare time I've had.

What are your goals?

Become an officer. Have children. Finish college. Retire after 30 years.

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

Jump out of an airplane. It's going to happen, too. I like adrenaline rushes.



Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Dec. 30 through Jan. 5:

Jan. 4: A contractor reported that her jacket, valued at \$300, was stolen from the Dining Facility.

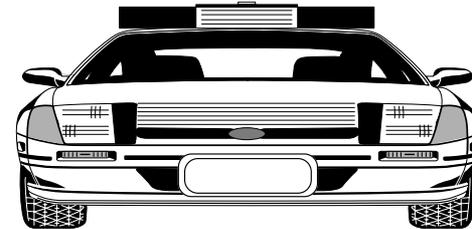
Jan. 4: When a contractor was stopped at Gate 10 during a random inspection, a pistol was found inside his vehicle. He received a violation notice, and the gun was confiscated.

Jan. 4: A Soldier was arrested by Winston County Police for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police

and processed back to his Fort Hood, Texas, unit.

Traffic accidents reported: three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 5 speeding, 1 possession of weapon.



Probation revoked for repeat DUI offender

Roger Dale Lamb appeared Thursday before U.S. District Judge Harwell C. Davis in downtown Huntsville for his probation revocation hearing. Davis subsequently revoked Lamb's probation and sentenced him to 12 months confinement.

Last June 15, Lamb appeared before Davis for driving under the influence while on Redstone Arsenal. He pleaded guilty to this offense and Davis sentenced him to 10 days of imprisonment, an \$1,100 fine, and two years probation during which time he was to complete Drug and Alcohol Intensive Counseling and Aftercare Service Program and DUI school.

Among the standard conditions of

probation is the term that Lamb not violate any state or federal laws while on probation.

On Oct. 21, Lamb was arrested for driving under the influence, improper lane change, operating a vehicle without insurance, and driving with a suspended license.

Davis heard evidence regarding the new offenses and found that the circumstances surrounding the new arrest constituted a probation violation. Davis therefore revoked Lamb's probation and sentenced him to one year confinement. Lamb was immediately remanded to the custody of the U.S. marshals to begin his sentence of incarceration. (*Office of the Staff Judge Advocate release*)

Correction

In the Jan. 5 issue of the *Redstone Rocket*, Gen. Peter Chiarelli was incorrectly identified. His position is vice chief of staff of the Army.

Issues

continued from page 2

- The Wounded Warrior and spouse web-based resume inventory.
- A briefing that explains how to direct-hire wounded warriors. This briefing is now included in the mandatory New Supervisor's Training Course.

Department of Defense state liaisons and the Army have also made progress on issue number 524, which recommends granting unemployment compensation to military spouses that leave their jobs when accompanying servicemembers on a permanent change of station move. To date, 38 states provide unemployment compensation while the District of Columbia and Maryland evaluate eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Ohio and Tennessee have active legislation in progress to provide unemployment compensation. Outreach efforts are being focused on the remaining states to solicit their support for these dedicated military spouses and their families.

Issue number 556 is a recommendation to eliminate the financial inequities in the

DoD Child Care Fee Policy due to a limited number of Total Family Income categories. Work on this issue resulted in the addition of three new categories and an expanded fee range in each category. We are on track to achieve our school year 2012-13 goal of reaching an Armywide single fee in each TFI category, which will result in more consistency and predictability for families as they move from post to post.

Issue number 639 recommends that Advanced Individual Training Soldiers who require Exceptional Family Member services and have received an overseas assignment remain at their current installation until notification of EFM service availability and command sponsorship is granted by the overseas travel approval authority. As a result of this recommendation, a rapid revision to Army Regulation 608-75, which governs the Army Exceptional Family Member Program, is in the process of being published. The revision directs that all Soldiers with EFMs will remain at their current installation pending notification of EFM service availability and command sponsorship from the overseas command.

Although we have made progress with

some issues, we still have work to do on others. This month we will continue to analyze the attainability of the following issues:

- Authorizing 100 percent of the death gratuity to any person designated as a beneficiary by a Department of the Army civilian killed in a military contingency operation (regardless of their relationship). Currently the law only recognizes spouses, children, parents or siblings as eligible survivors (issue number 634).
- Establishing a centralized Department of Defense leave donation bank for civilian employees (issue number 615).
- Aligning compensatory hours with standard overtime rates for Army civilians (issue number 649).
- Standardizing and enforcing the Total Army Sponsorship Program by providing trained and available sponsors equipped with the information and referral resources needed for Soldiers and families during times of transition (issue number 609).
- Accounting for the unborn children of pre-existing pregnancies when calculating the transitional benefits for family members of military personnel who were separated and discharged due to domestic abuse (issue

number 625).

- Coordinating with U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service for approval of DoD-administered fingerprinting and physical examinations (issue number 515).

- Providing EFMP enrollment eligibility for Reserve Component Soldiers (issue number 650).

- Conducting a holistic review of Family Readiness Group fund-raising in the Active and Reserve Components (issue number 652).

The Army is working the issues, but the Army Family Action Plan is your program. I encourage you to learn more about the AFAP process and follow the progress on issues that are currently being worked. I invite you to visit the Army OneSource website at www.mymilitaryonesource.com and select the Family Programs and Services menu to activate the AFAP active issue search feature. Once there, you can search by keyword or issue number. You can also search by subject area, demographic group or geographical area to see what we are doing to improve the quality of life for Soldiers, civilians and families.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Installation Management
Command commander

Health center kicks off year of wellness

Outdoor fitness area dedicated at Fox

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

With a slice of the scissors, Fox Army Health Center kicked off fitness in 2011 with a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 4 where the guests of honor were a fitness trail, exercise equipment, basketball court and volleyball pit.

“I’m not a big fan of New Year’s resolutions, I usually try to make goals,” Fox commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson told the crowd of community leaders and staff, as well as Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, commander of the Southern Regional Medical Command. “This event is a great start to the new year to enhance goals involving health promotion and fitness.”

The ribbon cutting celebrated the completion of the outdoor fitness area at Fox, which includes a fitness trail with exercise equipment, basketball court and volleyball pit, all designed to help the Redstone community reach their wellness resolutions in the new year. The volleyball pit, originally designed to be a combative pit, but due to the changing Soldier population due to BRAC, was repurposed to a volleyball pit. The outdoor fitness area is available for the entire Redstone community to use 24/7.

“It provides the resources to facilitate the promotion of a healthy work force as well as a healthy community,” Johnson said of the area. “The track, basketball court and equipment in this outdoor setting offer a break from the usual indoor setting of a gymnasium.”

The break from the usual gym setting is what impressed Carvalho, who encouraged Fox staff to pulse their day, by focusing on their work for 90 minutes at a time, and then taking a short break to either get fresh air, work out or meditate. The process, which will be easy for staffers to do with the new outdoor fitness area, increases productivity and well-being, according to Carvalho.

“Fox has an excellent gym. I have not seen any other MTF that has that,” Carvalho said. “But they didn’t stop there. This allows you to get out and breathe the fresh air all seasons of the year. I’m hopeful that this poster child of ours, Fox Army Health Center, will take the next step and follow the idea of pulsing one’s day... I challenge you to take the next step. This doesn’t have to be something you only use in the morning or late afternoon.”

Not only is it available at all hours of the day, but the fitness equipment located along the trail is also easy to use, which staffers demonstrated to Carvalho after the ribbon cutting, making it the perfect place for people regardless of their fitness knowledge.

“Personally, I like the fact that the equipment is easy to use and I don’t have to worry about re-configuring each piece of equipment,” Johnson said. “There are no weights to switch out. No one is watching to see how much weight I’m attempting to use in my workout. In my humble opinion, the equipment in this setting is perfect for the workout novice or someone who is just a bit self-conscious about working out in a gym and navigating all the intimidating workout stations.”

While Fox continues to undergo extensive renovations, funding for the outdoor fitness area was not part of any construction funding, but rather, made possible through third party collections and financial rewards associated with Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey scores.

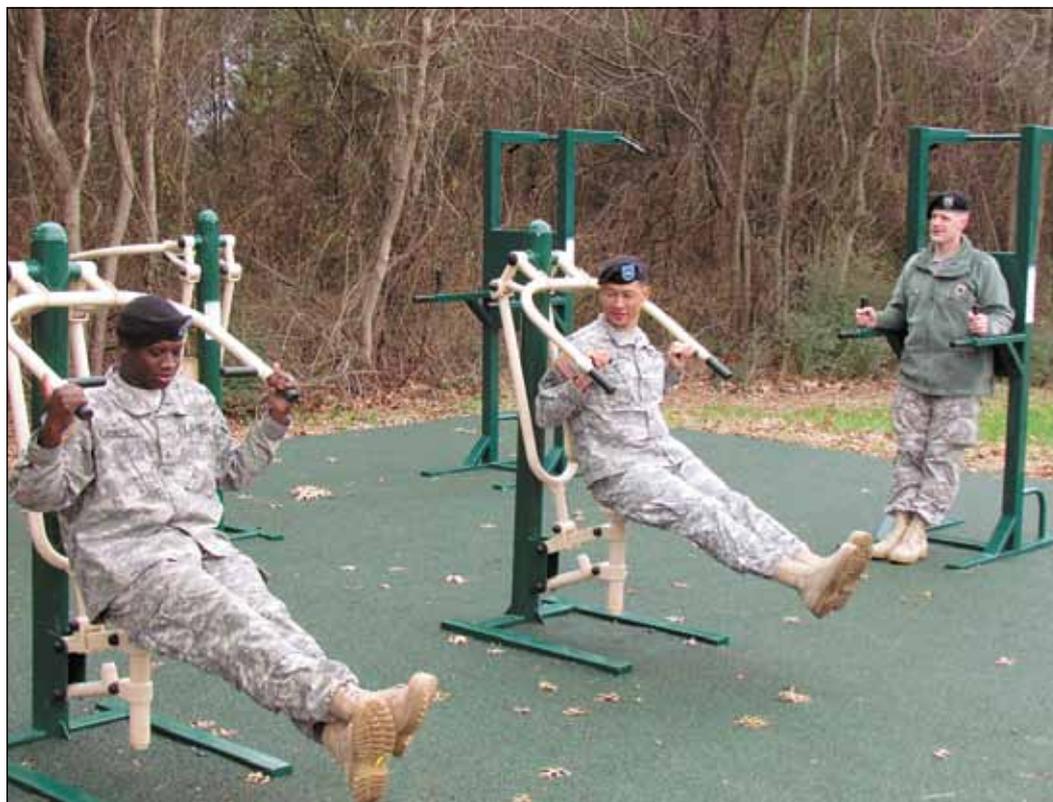


Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Fox Army Health Center staffers demonstrate the use of their new fitness equipment to Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho (center), commander of the Southern Regional Medical Command.



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Fox Army Health Center staffers cut the ribbon celebrating the completion of the fitness trail with exercise equipment, basketball court and volleyball pit.

Shed extra pounds with Scale Back Alabama

Redstone workers urged to sign up

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Make the resolution stick and the pounds come off with Scale Back Alabama 2011.

For the second year in a row FMWR Sports and Fitness will serve as a weigh-in site for the statewide program designed to make the state a little skinnier in the new year by asking all participants to drop 10 pounds over the course of the 10-week program.

"It's very attainable," Gaylene Wilson, director of sports and fitness, said. "It's a healthy way to lose weight."

Participants are asked to form groups of four and weigh in at any of the FMWR fitness centers Jan. 18-21, and weigh out April 9-15. Lunch and learns, as well as weekly e-mails and fitness classes will keep participants motivated during the 10 weeks. Throughout February, Red Zone Fitness, a fitness class, will be offered at the Redstone Fitness Center from 9-10 a.m. every Saturday, the perfect opportunity for participants to burn off some extra calories.

"It's just a good time of year," said Wilson, who hopes to up last year's participation of 62 teams to 70 this year. "We all know January is the busiest month of the year. A lot of people spend the first week thinking and the second week doing. This gives people time. They've had a

couple of weeks to work on it. Normally with New Year's resolutions, people have fallen off the wagon by mid-February. This will take them through mid-April."

Aside from the health benefits, prizes will also be awarded to teams that lose the most weight, as well as the team with the best name. Any team that completes the challenge with all four members dropping 10 pounds will be entered into the statewide grand prize drawing for three cash prizes totaling from \$250-\$1,000 for each team member. Individuals that complete the challenge will also be entered into the statewide drawing for one of 50 achievement prizes of \$100 each.

But for teams on the Arsenal, the purpose of the challenge isn't just about the numbers on the scale and the cash in the bank, it's also about how the program will affect the lives of those participating both during and after the 10-week period.

"Yes we want weight loss, but we also want people to look and feel great," Wilson said.

New this year, participants will be able to weigh in weekly to keep track of their progress.

"That way they can see where they're at and know what they need to do to get there," Wilson said. "This should keep them motivated and give them something to be accountable for."

An informational meeting on Scale Back Alabama will be held Jan. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at Redstone Fitness Center. Weigh-ins will begin the following



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Additional fitness classes, as well as weekly e-mails and lunch and learns will keep participants in Scale Back Alabama motivated in the weight loss challenge.

week, Jan. 24-28 at any of the FMWR fitness centers. Team members must weigh in at the same fitness center. At the conclusion of the 10 weeks, teams must weigh out at the same location they weighed in.

All teams must consist of four, and only four members. Teams must begin and end the contest with the same individuals and cannot be on more than one team. The program is not open to those

who are pregnant, under 18, or individuals that have had a weight loss surgical procedure within the last year. To register, call Phylissa Shannon at 313-6094 or Wilson at 842-2574.

Fox Army Health Center will also serve as a weigh-in location. For more information on weigh-in times, call 955-8888, ext. 1026. For more information on Scale Back Alabama, visit www.scalebackalabama.com.

Senate delays action on insourcing reform

By **MATTHEW WEIGELT**

Government Computer News

WASHINGTON — Senate leaders have decided not to vote on its omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal 2011, but a number of the important programs will probably come up again in other legislative packages, according to one expert.

The Senate leadership's decision Dec. 16 on the spending legislation means that many programs have been delayed for multiple budget years under the continuing resolution. Some program may even be locked into a set of priorities that have not kept up with the pace of constantly changing technology world, said Trey Hodgkins, senior vice president for national security and procurement policy at TechAmerica, an industry advocacy organization.

The bill included funding for programs, including \$22 million for the electronic government fund, a \$14 million increase from fiscal 2010, and \$36.8 million for the Federal Citizens Services Fund, which would have been a slight increase from \$36.5

million.

It also included a two-year freeze on federal civilian salaries that the Obama administration had requested and that the House had already passed.

The bill also included a section on insourcing, expanding the range of government work that would have to be brought back into the federal agencies. Officials would have had to report to the Office of Management and Budget on what they've done to convert jobs that were outsourced to contractors, according to the bill. The work considered for insourcing would not have to be inherently governmental functions, jobs that only federal employees can do. The proposal would have given agency officials the authority to take back jobs that contractors are able to do or that "should not otherwise be reserved for performance by federal employees."

Despite halting the bill, insourcing provisions like these aren't going away, Hodgkins said.

"We expect to see the insourcing language again. That one has become perennial," Hodgkins said.

He was disappointed in the language because it circumvented the Obama administration's policy letter on insourcing, which should be released soon. He said the bill would have upended the administration's policy and removed discretion about creating an appropriately balanced multi-sector work force.

Dan Gordon, administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, said agencies' attempts to balance the ratio of contractor to federal employees doesn't require massive insourcing of work, but more building the institutional knowledge of government officials to maintain control of the functions.

As agencies rely more heavily on their IT infrastructures for operations, cybersecurity will remain an important issue. Many proponents of cybersecurity are still in place in the Senate, and despite the leadership changes in the House, it will still be a priority, Hodgkins said. Still, the next Congress will have to start all over again on setting comprehensive cybersecurity policy.

Applause accompanies 'Don't Ask' repeal signing



White House photo by Chuck Kennedy

President Barack Obama signs a repeal act in Washington, D.C., Dec. 22 officially overturning the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law that he said required gay servicemembers to serve in secrecy and isolation.

By **KAREN PARRISH**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A jubilant audience greeted an exhilarant president Dec. 22 as Barack Obama signed the act that, when implemented, will allow gay Americans to serve openly in the nation's military for the first time.

Those attending the signing chanted "Yes, we can! Yes, we can!" as the commander in chief took the stage.

"Yes, we did," he said, and was interrupted by a shouted, "Thank you, Mr. President!"

"You're welcome," he responded, to cheers and laughter. "This is a good day.

"I am just overwhelmed. This is a very good day. And I want to thank all of you, especially the people on this stage, but each and every one of you who (has) been working so hard on this, members of my staff who worked so hard on this," he said. "I couldn't be prouder."

Obama then recounted a story from, as he said, "66 years ago, in the dense, snow-covered forests of Western Europe."

Allied forces were beating back a massive assault in what would become known as the Battle of the Bulge, he said.

"And in the final days of fighting, a regiment in the 80th Division of (Gen. George) Patton's 3rd Army came under fire," the president said. "The men were traveling along a narrow trail. They were exposed, and they were vulnerable. Hundreds of Soldiers were cut down by the enemy. And during the fire-fight, a private named Lloyd Corwin tumbled 40 feet down the deep side of a ravine and, dazed and trapped, he was as good as dead."

One Soldier, a friend of Corwin's, turned back, Obama said.

"There were shells landing around him amid smoke and chaos and the screams of wounded men," he said. "This Soldier, this friend, scaled down the icy slope, risking his own life to bring Private Corwin to safer ground."

Corwin credited that friend, Andy Lee, with saving his life, knowing he would never have made it out alone, Obama said.

Four decades later the men were reunited, Obama said, and Corwin learned the friend who had saved his life was gay. He hadn't known, the president noted, and didn't much care. His friend had kept him alive, and made it possible for him to come home and start a family and live the rest of his life.

"He knew that valor and sacrifice are no more limited by sexual orientation than they are by race or by gender or by religion or by creed, that what made it possible for him to survive the battlefields of Europe is the reason that we are here today," the commander in chief said.

Obama said he was proud to sign a law bringing "don't ask, don't tell" to an end.

"This law I'm about to sign will strengthen our national security and uphold the ideals that our fighting men and women risk their lives to defend," he said. "No longer will our country be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans who are forced to leave the military, regardless of their skills, no matter their bravery or their zeal, no matter their years of exemplary performance, because they happen to be gay.

"No longer will tens of thousands of Americans in uniform be asked to live a lie, or look over their shoulder, in order to serve the country that they love," he continued. "As (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) Admiral Mike Mullen has said, our people sacrifice a lot for their country, including their lives. None of them should have to sacrifice their integrity as well."

Many people "fought long and hard to reach this day," the president said. "I want to thank the Democrats and Republicans who put conviction ahead of politics to get this done together."

Obama went on to list other members of Congress and military leaders who

See Repeal on page 16

Chief views tornado damaged Fort Leonard Wood



Photo by Sgt. Heather Denby

Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. observes damage caused to military housing from a tornado that struck Dec. 31. More than 100 families were affected by the storm.

Casey offers support, praise to families

By **EMILY ATHENS**

Army News Service

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Just four days after the New Year's Eve tornado struck Fort Leonard Wood, Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. visited the installation to view the extensive damage, speak with the many families who lost their homes and give hope to the community as it begins its intense phase of reconstruction.

"I don't remember an Army installation getting hit by a natural disaster of this magnitude," Casey said. "As I went around today I was just amazed at the resilience of our Soldiers and families and amazed at the teamwork, not only on the installation, but from local communities."

After visiting several areas on post, assessing the damage and discussing pre-plans for recovery operations, Casey's main goal remained evident — the ongoing safety and support to Soldiers and families.

"We're all very lucky that there were no fatalities or serious injuries here, and I'm very thankful for that. Every one of the families I've talked to today said they had been very well-cared for," he said.

With Army Community Service, the USO, numerous installation agencies and countless volunteers trickling in from as far away as Wisconsin, efforts are being

made to ensure swift and continuous progress.

"I wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else when the tornado hit because of the tremendous support we've continued to receive from this community and beyond," said Louise Brennan, spouse of Capt. Nathan Kaminski, who lost their home and gave a tour of its remains to Casey on Jan. 4.

Community members echoed these sentiments and further recognized the efforts being made nationally, lending a helping hand from way beyond the gates of Fort Leonard Wood.

"It's very good to know that at the highest level, people are concerned. I'm getting phone calls from people at the headquarters level saying, 'What can I do to help?' So to have them reach back to us, to have General Casey come and see what's happening on the ground is great," said Lynn Morgan, Fort Leonard Wood ACS director.

"Having General Casey here shows he's dedicated to helping us," added Ryan Cooper, 13, son of a servicemember.

"I didn't expect this much help. It's great to see everybody pulling together, (at) all levels of the Army. It's great to see their care," said Shannon Wade, family member.

Casey made it clear that teamwork and resilience are key attributes members of the Army family have.

"Thank you to the local community for the great outpouring support here. It's a great team here at Fort Leonard Wood, and we're going to get this place put back together as quickly as we can," Casey said.

Longtime spokesman retires with big plans

Interests after leaving office include drag racing, poker

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

As one of the longest serving public affairs officers in the Army, Bill Congo is known for his work in preparing Soldiers and civilians for the media spotlight.

But while they shined in front of a camera or at a speaker's podium, Congo made it a point to keep his behind-the-scenes work at a low profile.

Congo preferred that low profile so much, in fact, that he wasn't much for putting awards and recognition plaques up on the walls of his office at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

With 42 years and eight months of civilian service, Congo is retiring with plenty of those types of mementoes. Though he appreciates every one of them, he didn't really like showing them off – except for one.

In 2004, the National Space Club-Huntsville recognized Congo by presenting him with their annual media award. The source of the award made it special.

"I was recognized by the community. That meant a lot to me," he said.

The media award, established in 1988, is given to an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to public knowledge and understanding of astronautics and its impact on the nation and mankind. With the award, Congo joined a select group that includes Miles O'Brien of CNN, Lon Raines of *SpaceNews* and Star Wars producer George Lucas of LucasFilms Ltd.

These days, Congo has his awards and other mementoes packed up in boxes and stored at home. He cleaned out his office in the last days of 2010, retiring from a career that spanned 12 general officers at SMDC/ARSTRAT and countless others he supported. It's been both a challenging and rewarding career for Congo.

"I've enjoyed every day. It's great coming to work with a fantastic staff and fantastic leadership," he

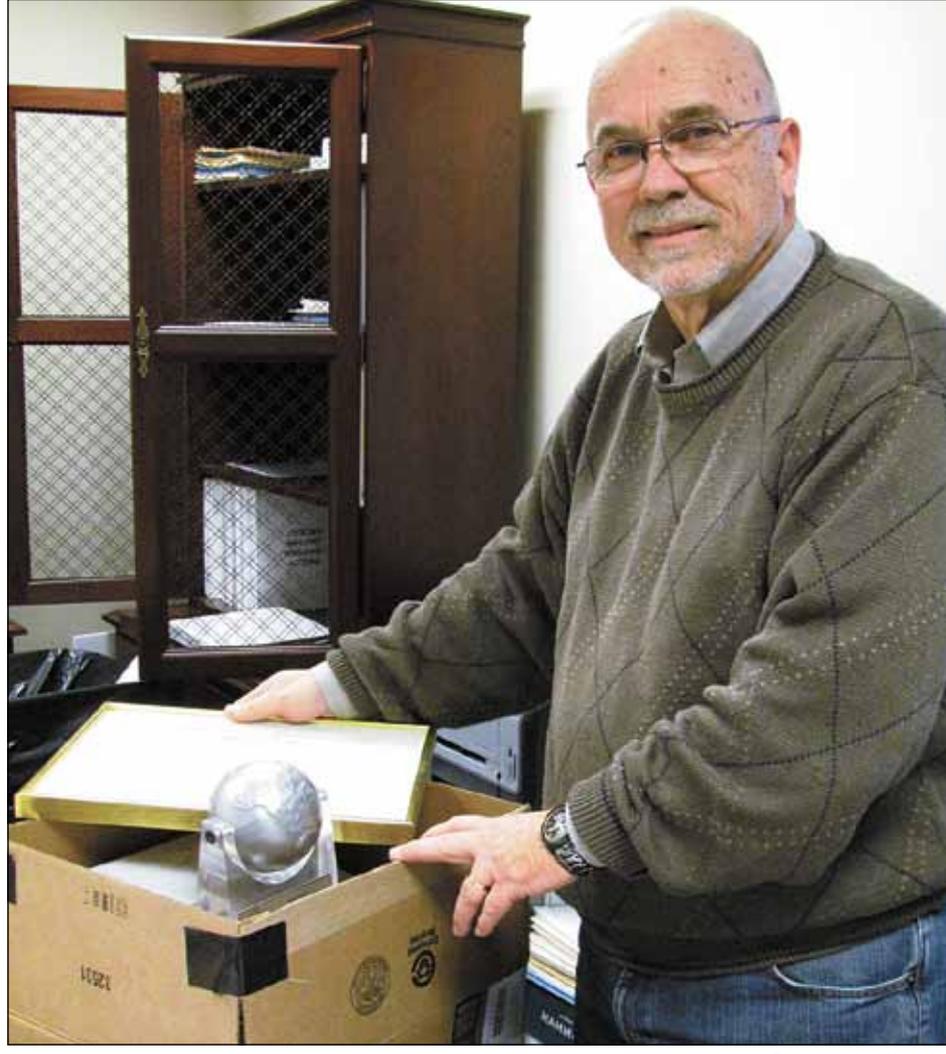


Photo by Kari Hawkins

Bill Congo packs up his awards, including a globe statue that is a media award given to him by the National Space Club-Huntsville in recognition of his contributions to astronautics, during one of his last days as the director of public affairs at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Congo retired at the end of December after 42 years and eight months of civilian service.

said. "I have really had fun at my job and I really hate to retire. But we all sooner or later must retire. And I think it's time for me.

"I promised myself and my wife that in my mid-60s, I would retire so we can go off and spend the next stage of life doing other things. My wife and I just love the area here. The people here are wonderful. I am really looking forward to retirement here. This is God's country."

Although he will be giving up "coming to work," Congo does plan to stay busy. Two years ago, he was elected to the board of directors of

the Audi Club of North Alabama, and now plans to spend time building up that group. He is also a drag racer, and plans to spend more time racing and working in the garage on his race car. He wants to travel with his wife to see his son and two daughters, and the grandchildren. And then there is his interest in being a poker player on a competitive level.

"I really have a desire to see how good or how bad I am at playing poker," he said. "With drag racing, well it's a fantastic sport. It's a sport for all ages, whether 15 or 50,

and for people from all walks of life and all education levels. It's a surprising sport."

Congo's civilian career began in Laurel, Miss., when he was hired as administrative support for the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 83rd Field Artillery. That job led to a recruiting position and his first association with public affairs activities.

"I provided support for a two-star general. I helped write speeches and I traveled with him some," Congo said. "One thing led to another and a public affairs position came up in July 1973, and I applied for it."

That decision led him down a career path that included public affairs stints with the Army Reserve headquarters in Birmingham, the Anniston Army Depot, the Army Materiel Command in Washington, D.C., and, in 1986, the Strategic Defense Command, which was the predecessor for SMDC. Along the way, he obtained a degree in communications from American University in D.C., and began a master's program that he hopes to finish in retirement. He also took an executive course in public affairs at Harvard University.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan made his famous Star Wars speech, announcing his plan to develop a missile defense system that would make nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete" by building a "shield that could protect us from nuclear missiles just as a roof protects a family from the rain." As that program launched, so, too, did the work of SMDC and the opportunities for public affairs professionals.

"I thought it was the coolest thing a person could be engaged in with public affairs," said Congo, who served in the capacity as director of public affairs for SMDC, and later also for ARSTRAT. "I loved doing Star Wars types of projects. I really enjoyed that."

In the 1990s, Congo oversaw both of SMDC's public and congressional affairs activities from D.C. In 1996, he moved to Redstone with SMDC's public affairs organization.

"This was a great opportunity and I never looked back," Congo said.

Congo has worked for 12 general

See Congo on page 19

Newly renovated Firehouse Pub reopens this month

By PAMELA RAMEY

Staff writer

pamela.ramey@theredstonerocket.com

After months of renovations, a Redstone landmark is soon to be open and ready for business once again.

Firehouse Pub, appropriately named after Redstone's first firehouse, has been closed since last May. During that time, major upgrades have been made to the facility's HVAC and sprinkler systems, restrooms and seating areas.

The reopening is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 21.

The lounge has been redesigned to provide more seating — including leather couches — and to provide more cooler space, as well as a new beer dispensing system that offers more than 12 different beers on tap. Part of the redesign included the removal of the smoking area in the old pool room. Smoking is now permitted outside only.

The upstairs area now houses the Skybar — a spacious 2,100-square foot room for conferences, private parties and other events. The Skybar includes a wall-

mounted screen, projector, easel, white board, wireless microphones, podium, two 42-inch HD televisions, conference call capability, Wi-Fi, a coffee bar, and catering available through the Officers and Civilians Club.

Entertainment options at the new and improved pub will include dart boards, pool tables, big-screen televisions, and a variety of entertainment — including an open mic night, DJ, ladies night, live bands, trivia nights, a full juke box and more.

The pub will still serve food, as it did before, including short order items and the popular “cook your own” hamburgers and hot dogs menu feature.

“I guarantee you will not recognize anything in the place except the bartender, Bill Lang,” Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper said in an e-mail. “MWR and our DPW have done an outstanding job reimagining the Firehouse Pub.”

Firehouse Pub is located at building 114 on Hankins Road. Its scheduled hours are 3-8 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Courtesy photo

Scout family

William Breeden, son of Harry and Mary Breeden, recently followed in his four uncles' footsteps when he earned his Eagle Rank in Boy Scouts of America. His mother works at Army Community Service. From left, in the front row, are Jerome Becker and Harry Breeden. In the back row are William Becker, Dr. Kenneth Becker, William Breeden, Robert Becker and Mary Breeden.

Army extends care for Gold Star families



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, center, thanks Emily McFall and others who made the Survivor Outreach Services facility a reality following the facility's ribbon cutting ceremony. With Hamilton are, from left, Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates of the Aviation and Missile Command, SOS coordinator Emily McFall, Army Community Service division chief Sue Paddock and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation director Derrick Gould. McFall gave pieces of the gold ribbon to the Gold Star families who attended the event.

Survivor facility dedicated to help in coping with loss

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

On a sunny, crisp winter day, Redstone Arsenal's newest three-star general reached out to families who daily live the meaning behind the Army's values of courage, selfless service and sacrifice.

He wasn't an official participant in the Thursday ribbon cutting ceremony for the Arsenal's new Survivor Outreach Services facility. But Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, the newly appointed commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and his wife Diane made sure to be present when the ribbon was cut to officially open the SOS facility adjacent to Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road.

Formica made the rounds through the crowd's survivor families – known as Gold Star families – expressing his condolences, asking questions about fallen Soldiers and learning about the family

members who have sacrificed so much for the Army.

"We are so glad you are here," he told Annette and Charlie Hall, the parents of fallen Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall. "We are sorry for your loss. Part of our message is we don't want to forget. Our challenge is living up to that after 10 years of war."

Formica was among several Army and community dignitaries – including Madison Mayor Paul Finley, Association of the U.S. Army Redstone-Huntsville chapter president Steve Taylor and Congressman Robert Aderholt's district field representative Daniel Tidwell – present at the SOS ribbon cutting.

But dignitaries took a back seat to those who the ribbon cutting truly represented – the families of fallen Soldiers.

"We are here for you," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said. "We are here to remember the sacrifice of your loved ones and the sacrifice you endure every day as you forge ahead in life. We are here to declare very publicly that we remember, that we will never forget, that we will always claim you as a member of the military family and we

See Care on page 22

'I'll be home soon. Just stay strong.'

E-mail message gives widow hope for future happiness

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Nearly four years ago, Tiffany Little lost her Soldier husband.

A lot has happened since then – she's given birth to their daughter Kylee, moved to Alabama to be close to her dad and other family members, learned how to live as a single mom and joined a support group known as My Soldier, My Fallen Hero, first located at Bicentennial Chapel and now a part of the Survivor Outreach Services program. Along the way, she has found ways to manage the emotions that come with the sudden loss of a beloved husband.

During those tumultuous years, Little put her own personal desires on hold.

Now, those desires – many which center around having a whole family – have resurfaced. She has begun dating again, and has found someone special who may be part of her future.

But, it hasn't been easy.

"Dating is kind of awful. A lot of guys can't handle the widow part. They guilt you about it. They think they have to compete instead of helping you honor (your Soldier)," Little said.

"You are trying to invest time in relationships and continue your life. But that can kind of destroy you all over again. When you are a widow who has lost your husband in such a brutal way, it's like going through it all over again when things fall apart. Guys can't handle this hero that was in your life. They don't understand that they can be a hero, too, by wanting to be a part of our lives and going through this with us."

These days, Little is dating a good friend who actually introduced her to her husband back in 2006 when they all lived in Columbus, Ga. Though from Massachusetts, Spc. Kyle Little was serving at Fort Benning at the time. He had already deployed once to Iraq and was preparing for a second deployment within the year.

"We all went bowling together," Little recalled. "We had a friendship over six or seven months that developed into more. We became the very best of friends very quickly. He had his drama, I had my own and we would share a lot together. While all our friends were partying, we would share and talk."

An argument that threatened their friendship led the couple to realize their relationship was going to a deeper level.

"He told me 'I don't want to lose you.' I was floored. I didn't think he thought of me that way," Little said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Tiffany Little holds onto the hope of her daughter, Kylee, as she lives with the emotions that go along with being a surviving widow of a fallen Soldier. Little is thankful for the support she has received from Survivor Outreach Services, her support group My Soldier, My Fallen Hero, and SOS coordinator Emily McFall.

During the 2006 holidays, Little went with her future husband to visit his family. When they returned, Kyle Little

shipped to the National Training Center in California for training in preparation

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Survivor

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A former Soldier herself, McFall was married to a Soldier – Staff Sgt. Thomas McFall. The couple was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., where McFall was raising their three children while her husband was deployed in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (one of two Stryker Brigade Combat Teams). On May 28, 2007, McFall's journey took a turn into loss and sorrow when her 36-year-old husband died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his position during a dismounted patrol. At the time of his death, McFall's husband was serving under Lynch's command.

As she raises their children on her own, McFall finds comfort in providing love and support to other family members of fallen Soldiers. She welcomes visitors to a place where her own husband's picture is among other Soldiers whose framed photos grace the Hall of Remembrance that leads into the Arsenal's SOS facility. She spends her part-time work days making sure visitors get the support they need.

"This is a place where our family members can come to be together and talk one-on-one. They can come here knowing they are not alone, and knowing they can share their feelings and emotions without having to justify them," McFall said.

"They can come here knowing that their feelings are real. Just because a month or two or more have passed, doesn't mean their pain is any less. We understand here that you never get over it, you just get through it."

There are big plans for the SOS facility. SOS reaches out well beyond the Redstone and Huntsville communities to include families in the following 11 North Alabama counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Limestone, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan, Cullman, Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb. Within that area, SOS has identified the loss of 87 fallen Soldiers affecting about 185 family members.

Now, the SOS facility is the regular Monday morning meeting place for the My Soldier, My Fallen Hero widow support group. Plans are to add sibling and parent support groups. There are various activities, including scrapbooking gatherings where family members can build scrapbook pages with the pictures of their Sol-

dier, and pizza parties and social gatherings for families. There is space for children to play and hang out (including a playground still under construction) while parents get free services provided by ACS, such as financial, legal and family counseling.

During the weekend of Feb. 4-6, SOS will be bringing the TAPS Survivor Seminar and its sister program of Good Grief Camp for children to Redstone. The program will attract survivor families from throughout the Southeast. Both the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Sergeants Major Association are sponsors of the program.

And that's just the beginning for McFall and Redstone Arsenal SOS.

"This is all about making friends and finding your support group after you've lost your Soldier," McFall said. "It's about making connections with people who have gone through the same things you've gone through, and with people who can help your life go forward. This is about having a place where you can really relax, have a cup of coffee, share your story and renew your life."

For more information or to make donations to the program, call 842-8375 or e-mail emily.mcfall@us.army.mil.



Courtesy photo

Executive staffer

Southern Convention Services Inc., in Madison, announces the addition of Bob Manning to its executive staff in the capacity of controller. He will assume responsibility for managing and directing all financial functions of SCS, including the development of systems to analyze job and segment profitability. He will also be responsible for management of cash flow, capital allocation, risk management, as well as help implement best practice systems and processes into SCS.

PostProfile

Adams takes helm of materiel management center

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

When she was a college intern at Redstone, Lisha Adams never envisioned that she would one day join the Senior Executive Service.

Adams reached the pinnacle of her 28-year career effective Jan. 2 when she became the executive director of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, an SES position. Her 28 years at Redstone have included 20 in logistics and eight in operations; and she worked at the center about 10 years ago.

She served as the principal deputy for AMCOM G-3 (Operations) before taking the reins of a center which has more than 1,600 workers and a worldwide mission of supporting aviation and missile readiness for the Soldier.

"I'm excited about it," Adams said. "I think I am prepared with the background I have and know the

importance of this organization in supporting the war fighter."

She and her husband, Tony, who recently retired, have a 14-year-old daughter, Bridget, who is a freshman at Grissom High School. She also has a stepson and stepdaughter-in-law.

Adams was introduced as the center's director Jan. 4 by Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, in a filled Bob Jones Auditorium.

"I can tell you today that Lisha Adams is the right person for this job," Rogers said. He cited her background, expertise and strategic vision.

He presented the Commander's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service to the center's deputy director Bill Andrews for his "extraordinary work" as the acting director for the last 8-9 months.

"The materiel management center," said Rogers, "is truly the life's blood of what we do."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lisha Adams addresses members of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center on Jan. 4 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Gates reveals budget efficiencies, reinvestment possibilities

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has found \$154 billion in efficiencies over the next five years and will be able to invest \$70 billion of that saved money in more deserving accounts, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Jan. 6.

The secretary announced the savings and reinvesting of the efficiencies during a Pentagon news conference.

Gates emphasized that the nation is at war and faces a range of future security threats.

“It is important to not repeat the mistakes of the past by making drastic and ill-conceived cuts to the overall defense budget,” he said. “At the same time, it is imperative for this department to eliminate wasteful, excessive and unneeded spending.”

Gates said he wants every dollar invested in defense spent in the smartest manner. The efficiencies continue a process to reshape and re-balance the defense budget that has already saved the nation \$300 billion, he noted.

The secretary announced efficiencies in modernization accounts. He said he agrees with the Navy and Marine Corps recommendation to cancel the expeditionary fighting vehicle program, which already has consumed \$3 billion to develop and would require another \$12 billion to build.

Gates said he also will restructure the F-35 joint strike fighter program. The Air Force and Navy variants of the fighter are on schedule, but the short take-off and landing variant is experiencing significant testing problems.

“As a result, I am placing the STOVL variant on the equivalent of a two-year probation,” Gates said. “If we cannot fix this variant during this time frame and get it back on track in terms of performance, cost and schedule, then I believe it should be canceled.”

The secretary said he also wants changes to the military’s Tricare medical program, noting that fees

have not risen since the program was introduced in 1995. He said he will propose modest increases to fees for working-age military retirees.

These changes also will be part of the fiscal 2012 budget request. The Army will cancel procurement of the SLAMRAAM surface-to-air-missile and the non-line-of-sight launch system.

The efficiencies will change the way the department uses information technology, consolidating hundreds of information technology centers to save more than \$1 billion a year, Gates said.

“At the same time,” he added. “I am not satisfied with the progress we have made in this area since August, and expect to make a follow-on announcement with a specific plan of action by next month.”

The efficiencies will cut the number of contractors. “Overall, we will cut the size of the staff support contractor cadre by 10 percent per year for three years and realize nearly \$6 billion in total savings,” the secretary said.

A third efficiency will trim the size of the defense work force and place more in areas with the most pressing need, he said. This should yield \$4 billion in savings, he added.

Gates also said he’s initiating changes in the defense intelligence apparatus, and will eliminate or downgrade general and flag officer positions. He will also eliminate or downgrade 200 senior executive positions.

The efficiencies will eliminate the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Network Intelligence and Information, the Business Transformation Agency and the U.S. Joint Forces Command, Gates said, though roughly 50 percent of Joint Forces Command will survive and be assigned to other organizations.

In April, Gates instructed the services to find at least \$100 billion over five years in overhead savings that they could keep and shift to higher-priority programs.

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Repeal

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worked to bring about the policy's repeal, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Mullen.

"Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the men and women in this room, who have worn the uniform of the United States armed services," he said to audience applause. "I want to thank all the patriots who are here today, all of them who were forced to hang up their uniforms as a result of 'don't ask, don't tell,' but who never stopped fighting for this country, and who rallied and who marched and fought for change. I want to thank everyone here who stood with them in that fight. Because of these efforts, in the coming days, we will begin the process laid out by this law."

While open service will only fully occur after a certification process and a further 60-day period, Obama said, he believes the military is ready for the change.

The president quoted what one special operations war fighter said during the Pentagon's review, calling it "one of my favorites."

Quoting the uniformed man in question, Obama said, "'We have a gay guy in the unit. He's big. He's mean. He kills lots of bad guys. No one cared that he was gay.' And I think that sums up, perfectly, the situation."

Throughout the history of the United States, Obama said, gay Americans have served in the military.

"(They) fought just as hard, gave just as much to protect this nation and the ideals for which it stands," the president said. "There can be little doubt there were gay Soldiers who fought for American independence, who consecrated the ground at Gettysburg, who manned the trenches along the Western Front, who stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima. Their names are etched into the walls of our memorials. Their headstones dot the grounds at Arlington."

Obama named those present at the ceremony who had been discharged under "don't ask, don't tell."

"Distinguished officers like former Navy commander Zoe Dunning," he said, "Marines like Eric Alva, one of the first Americans to be injured in Iraq. Leaders like Captain Jonathan Hopkins, who led a platoon into northern Iraq during the initial invasion, quelling an ethnic riot, earning a Bronze Star with valor.

"He was ... discharged only to receive e-mails and letters from his Sol-

diers saying they had known he was gay all along, and thought that he was the best commander they ever had," the president said.

According to White House officials, Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva was the first American wounded in the war in Iraq. March 21, 2003, he was traveling in Iraq in a convoy to Basra with his battalion when he stepped on a landmine, breaking his right arm and damaging his leg so badly that it needed to be amputated. Alva was awarded a Purple Heart and received a medical discharge from the military. He has been working with the Human Rights Campaign to speak out against the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Also according to administration officials, Navy Cmdr. Zoe Dunning is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. In January 1993, while a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve, she publicly came out as a lesbian at a political rally outside the gates of California's Moffett Field.

Dunning won her subsequent two-and-a-half year legal battle to remain in the Navy Reserve. The Navy promoted her twice and awarded her the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal since her coming out. She retired in June 2007 and holds the distinction of serving her country as an openly gay member of the U.S. military for more than 13 years.

There are many similar stories, Obama said, and they "only underscore the importance of enlisting the service of all who are willing to fight for this country.

"That's why I hope those Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who have been discharged under this discriminatory policy will seek to reenlist once the repeal is implemented," he said to cheers and applause. "That is why I say to all Americans, gay or straight, who want nothing more than to defend this country in uniform: your country needs you, your country wants you, and we will be honored to welcome you into the ranks of the finest military the world has ever known."

On a visit to Afghanistan a few weeks ago, Obama said, he encountered a young woman in uniform among a crowd of other servicemembers.

"And she pulled me into a hug, and she whispered in my ear, 'Get 'don't ask, don't tell' done,'" he said. "And I said to her, 'I promise you I will.'"

As Obama prepared to sign, an audience member shouted, "Thank you, Mr. President!"

"You're welcome!" he said.

Ranger School graduates first Army vet tech

By TRACY A. BAILEY

75th Ranger Regiment

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For the first time in the history of the Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., an Army veterinarian technician earned the elite Ranger Tab.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Klagenberg, the regimental veterinarian technician for the 75th Ranger Regiment, graduated Nov. 12 from the Army Ranger Course.

“All in all, Ranger School didn’t feel too physically demanding. It was just a 61-day suck-fest,” said Klagenberg. “Once you embrace that suck and understand that the men to your left and right are in the same boat, it’s a lot easier.”

Sixty-one days of minimal sleep, very little food, and rugged terrain is designed to induce the most amount of stress upon a Ranger candidate in the least amount of time. Once this condition is set, then the Ranger candidate must perform and be rated successful by Ranger instructors conducting various missions under simulated combat conditions.

“One of the hardest things to do was to try and motivate a platoon of Rangers to move quickly to our next objective,” Klagenberg said. “Especially when they



Courtesy photo

Maj. Justin Schlanser, former regimental veterinarian, 75th Ranger Regiment, pins Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Klagenberg's hard-earned Ranger Tab on him at a graduation ceremony Nov. 12 at Fort Benning, Ga.

are starved, have only slept for just a few hours over the last three or four days, and every part of their bodies are sore.”

Even though Ranger School is a “suck-fest,” there is an upside to attending this course.

“The best part was the mountaineering portion up on Mount Yona,” Klagenberg said. “The views were amazing and the adrenaline rush was crazy.”

Graduating Ranger School is not the only first for Klagenberg. He is also the first vet medical tech to serve with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

“The Ranger veterinarian at the time presented me with the opportunity to join the regiment,” Klagenberg said. “It doesn’t get any better than the 75th Ranger Regiment.”

Klagenberg was recruited by then-regimental veterinarian, Maj. Justin Schlanser, for his experience and technical skills to be a mentor and subject matter expert for the dog handlers and future technicians at the battalions.

“Sergeant First Class Klagenberg truly required no on-the-job training and hit the ground running and ready,” Schlanser said. “He knew the standards and traditions of the unit he was getting into and never wanted anything but to meet those standards.”

Klagenberg obtained his Expert Field Medical Badge within a month of his arrival at the regiment, and volunteered for the Army Ranger Course.

“It is truly remarkable to see an AMEDD NCO at this stage and level in his career,” Schlanser said. “This is another one of his traits. He is willing

to humble himself to attain greatness, which is something all great leaders do.”

Klagenberg, a native of Natalia, Texas, has been with the regiment for about a year and his job is to take care of the regiment’s military working dogs.

“I ensure that our dogs are healthy and ready for the next training cycle or the next deployment,” Klagenberg said. “Vaccinations, blood work and physicals must be up-to-date, much like any Ranger, before our dogs can deploy.”

In addition, Klagenberg tends to minor sick call issues, conducts inspections and monitors the dogs’ living conditions to ensure they are properly housed and fed.

Klagenberg’s duties and responsibilities also include ensuring the dog handlers and medics are tactically and technically proficient in canine first responder skills.

“The strength of the regiment is individual Rangers like Sergeant First Class Klagenberg, who even though they have what may seem to be a less ‘tactical’ position, prove through their accomplishments that they are the best the Army has to offer,” Schlanser said. “As every Ranger in the 75th Ranger Regiment is selected and assessed so too are the canines and only the best are chosen to serve.”

Research lab takes educational outreach to Vegas

By MERV BROKKE
AMRDEC Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Thousands of people recently paid a visit to the southern part of Nevada not to try their luck at games of chance or to take in the entertainment or to sample the many dining establishments but to learn more about their profession — education — and participate in an annual event aimed at helping them prepare future generations for their chosen careers.

Educators from across the country spent three days in Las Vegas in early December touring the exhibits and listening to experts in the field of education during the Association for Career and Technical Education's annual Convention and Career Tech Expo.

Tommy Harris, exhibits manager for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, took



Photo by Maj. Johnpaul Arnold

Tommy Harris, right, exhibits manager for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, describes the Raven unmanned aircraft system during the Association for Career and Technical Education's annual Convention and Career Tech Expo.

part in the demonstrations and displays to give the educators a "hands-on" experience of the high-tech Army and inform

them of the numerous career opportunities for their students upon graduation.

"The Army's participation in the Association for Career and Technical Education event was led by the U.S. Army Accessions Command and was a great opportunity for the different commands to engage an audience of approximately 5,000 educators teaching students in grades K through 14," Harris said.

According to its website, www.acteonline.org, the Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE's membership numbers more than 29,000 career and technical educators, administrators and counselors, and others involved in career and technical education programs at all levels of education.

Harris showcased the Army's Raven unmanned aircraft system, highlighted the other work done by AMRDEC's scientists and engineers, and discussed building the AMRDEC future workforce through educational outreach.

"The venue provided an opportunity to build relationships, to inform educational leaders about the Army's wide range of civilian employment opportunities, and the many leadership and education initiatives aimed at students of all ages," Harris said.

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the nation's largest not-for-profit education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. Founded in 1926, ACTE has more than 27,000 members including teachers, counselors and administrators at the middle school, high school and postsecondary levels.

Instructor reenlists to reach 20-year goal

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

This is the last year at Redstone for the 59th

Ordnance Brigade, destined for Fort Lee, Va., but there's business as usual right now.

Staff Sgt. Ian Crawley, of HHC 59th, reenlisted Jan. 4 for another eight years. He has 12 years now, so this will put him at 20.

"This is the last one. It's been a goal to complete at least 20 years," Crawley said. He also needs more time to finish his warrant officer packet.

"I like being in the military," he said. "I like serving the country. I had a break in service. It was a bittersweet year out."

Crawley, 33, from Orem, Utah, arrived at Redstone in July 2008 and is an instructor in the Munitions Training Department on the Standard Automated Ammunition Management System-Modernized. He will leave by June for Fort Carson, Colo.

"To accomplish my goals as an NCO or possible warrant officer, I need to reenlist," he said prior to the reenlistment ceremony in front of brigade headquarters building 3300.

He and his wife, Aubrey, have a son, McKay, 13, and daughter, Moira, 8.

The reenlistment marked a 2011 first



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Capt. Eugene Irby III, commander of Bravo Company, administers the oath of reenlistment to Staff Sgt. Ian Crawley.

for the 59th Ordnance Brigade.

"It's the first one of the new year," Sgt. 1st Class Felicia Lane, brigade career counselor, said. "It's the first one for the brigade in 2011."

Congo

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officers at SMDC/ARSTRAT (with the newly appointed Lt. Gen. Richard Formica being the last by just a few days) and countless others during his career.

“Working for generals is different in a sense that you always have to be on your game,” Congo said. “It’s been a lot of fun. I’ve really enjoyed it. Once in awhile you will mess up. But there is a real sense of serving your country.”

Excluding Formica, who he didn’t get a chance to know with his retirement looming in the general’s first days in command, Congo said his two favorite SMDC commanders personally were Lt. Gen. Robert Hammond, who served from 1988-90, and Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, who retired in December.

“I was promoted to a GS-15 under General Hammond, and that was very nice,” he said. “With General Campbell, he and his wife are just down-to-earth human beings that really care for everybody. I can’t think of anybody I would look up to more than General Campbell and General Hammond. For me, personally, those two gentlemen impacted my life in a positive manner with their leadership and caring.”

During his career, Congo participated in significant changes in the way the Army approaches the public affairs function.

“In the early ‘70s, the military, because of Vietnam, was kind of shy about talking to news media,” he said. “It has evolved over the years and today we see a change to a military that is extremely proactive about getting the message out, and the news media is very much a part of that.”

Of course, there have been tremendous changes in technology, with Congo going from using a manual typewriter to today’s computers. Communications technology and social media have revolutionized the public affairs profession.

“Today, we have social media, Facebook, Twitter, websites. We are out there on the worldwide web. Everything is technology driven, and we can get our message out there in a nanosecond,” Congo said.

The key lesson he learned in his career was “you can never be too ready, you can never be too prepared.” The best public affairs professionals, he said, are inquisitive, articulate, writers, speakers, anticipators and managers of stress. They have to be able to manage publication dead-

lines, leadership requirements, media relations, editorial considerations, communication challenges, employee relations and special events, most often all at the same time.

In his 20-plus years as a supervisor, Congo has hired about 25 professionals for his public affairs staff.

“One of the best things about being a supervisor is being able to hire people,” Congo said. “It gives you a real sense of accomplishment to be able to hire good people, and watch them grow and mature. Public Affairs is a small organization, and you get to know each other really well. I’ve been told one of the best things I’ve done is hiring great people. We have a great staff here. I will miss them.”

The SMDC/ARSTRAT public affairs staff of seven ranges in age from the mid-20s to the mid-60s, with three staffers in Colorado Springs, Colo. The staff is an “exceptional mix” of new ideas and experience, he said.

“I have always encouraged training, both formal and informal,” Congo said. “As a manager, it gives you a real good sense of accomplishment to see these employees go off and learn, and bring back to the office what they have learned and apply it. When people go off to training, everyone in the office should benefit from it.”

Working as a civilian for the federal government, particularly for the military, is a rewarding career that offers opportunities in a number of fields worth exploring, he said.

“I would truly encourage college graduates and people of all types of educational experience to put in for a job with the government,” Congo said. “Public service is a very honorable way of going through life. It is a great opportunity.”

And that’s what it’s been for Congo. All his federal employment opportunities – and especially SMDC/ARSTRAT – have made Congo’s longtime public affairs career interesting, diverse and challenging.

“It’s about missile defense, space and lasers. It’s about supporting the war fighter with the best technology. It’s never the same stuff every day,” he said.

“It takes awhile to learn it. You work with engineers and scientists, with astronauts and people who are experienced in missile defense. You have to know what to do to help engineers tell their stories in a way that people who read newspapers and watch TV can understand it. There is a very wide range of skills that you have to learn and manage. You have to be on your toes. And you have to do all of that 24/7. It’s not one of those professions that everyone can do.”

New organization serves homeless veterans

Hundreds of ex-servicemembers roam Tennessee Valley streets

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Neal Wheelis was just 17 when he vowed to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and joined the Coast Guard. Today he is homeless.

It was the adventures promised by the 95-footers and chase boats of the Coast Guard in the 1970s that attracted Wheelis to the military, and his love for country that led him to drop out of his Jacksonville, Fla., high school and join Sept. 11, 1977. Before he knew it, the young man was living the life, serving in Hawaii, Alaska and California, making \$433 a month and learning his "yes sirs" and "no ma'ams."

"I loved it," Wheelis said of his time in the Coast Guard. "I wanted to do something to help people."

More than 30 years later, the 50-year-old who once helped rescue a man whose mast had snapped on his boat is now the one in need of help.

Homelessness, as classified by the U.S. Code, includes persons who lack a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence," those in shelters "designed to provide temporary living accommodations," as well as those that are living in "a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings."

The 2009 U.S. Department of Urban and Rural Development Annual Homeless Assessment to Congress, released in June, estimated there are 6,080 homeless persons living in Alabama, up from 5,387 in 2008, 2,167 of whom are unsheltered.

"The contributing factors to homelessness could be family discord, underemployment, unemployment, poor money management skills, alcohol and drug abuse and mental illness," said Willie J. Fields, coordinator of homeless programs for the Birmingham VA. "Often people are dealing with a combination of all of those things. Everybody that becomes homeless is not necessarily a substance abuser."

On any given night in America, an estimated 107,000 veterans may be going to sleep without a home, according to Veteran Affairs' annual CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) report, with an estimated 721 of those residing in Alabama. Of the approximately 400 homeless in the Tennessee Valley, more than half are estimated to be veterans.

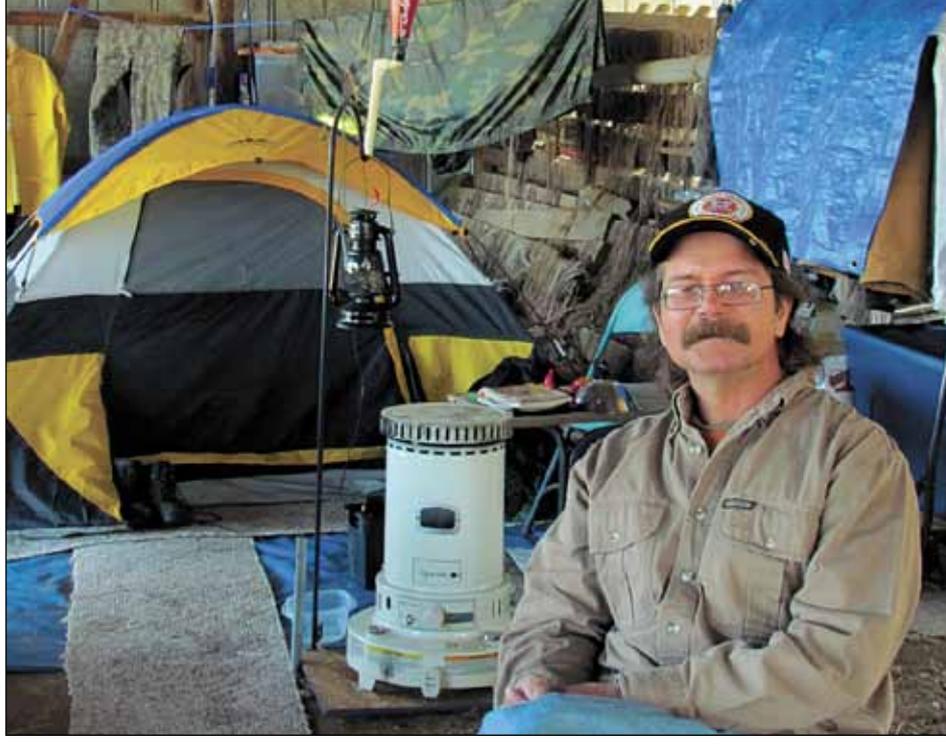


Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Neal Wheelis, 50, enjoys a chilly December morning in the barn of Donnie Jones in Grant, where he has been given permission to pitch his tent. Wheelis, who has been homeless for the past 10 years, served in the Coast Guard from 1977-81.

"No matter where I've settled down, you always run across a vet," said Wheelis, who has spent the past decade homeless. "You swap stories and compare this, that and the other. We stick together."

Wheelis' story is not so different from other vets he has met in his time on the streets. After serving with the Coast Guard, he went back to civilian life, living with his dad and working a steady job. After his company was downsized and he found himself unemployed, Wheelis cashed in his 401K and set off on what was to be a great camping trip. Denied access to Canada due to too much ammo and the fact that he was carrying a pistol in his vehicle, his hopes of making it to Alaska were dashed. When his Jeep broke down, Wheelis did the one thing he could think of - he started wandering. As he would lean against guardrails for a break from his uncharted journey, he discovered that people would stop and offer him handouts. One handout led to another, and by the time Wheelis' money ran out he had already adapted to the homeless life.

"It gets easy to adjust to the lifestyle," said Wheelis, who was often surprised by the generosity of others, including one man who gave him the jacket off his back. "You'd be amazed at how many people there are out there."

In his 10 years of living off the land, his feet have taken him to places like Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, D.C. and Florida, where the handouts have been relatively easy to find, but life on the streets not always. He's endured torrential rains in Florida, the kind that flooded his tent no matter how many tarps he had, and left his clothes moldy and filled with mildew long after the clouds rolled away; been forced to swallow his pride and ask managers for keys to public restrooms in Washington, D.C.; and has learned the survival tips of the streets, such as finding air ducts that blow hot air out at laundromats to sleep near, a prime piece of real estate for the homeless. Now 50, Wheelis is ready for a change.

"You kind of just put things off," he said of the homeless lifestyle. "I need to start doing something. I'm 50 years old, it's like come on."

For homeless veterans looking for a helping hand, there are places in the Tennessee Valley to turn for help. Shelters such as the Downtown Rescue Mission and Salvation Army provide those on the streets with shelter when needed, as well as opportunities for food and classes and programs to help them get back on their feet. First Stop, a daytime program, gives the homeless case management services, as well as

transportation and referrals services, and access to a phone and mailing address for those seeking employment.

At the Downtown Rescue Mission, individuals are given food to eat, a hot shower and place to sleep and even do laundry, according to Dr. Kerry Walker, who manages men's services for the mission. Individuals are allowed to stay at the mission for up to 15 days a month, unless they provide documentation that they are actively searching for a job, or temperatures at night dip below 40 degrees. In 2010 the mission slept a total of 67,329 within their walls. Walker estimates between 20 and 30 percent of those were veterans.

"You always have more you can do," Walker said. "We know that there's a significant number that don't come to the shelter for some reason or another."

Veterans in the Tennessee Valley have benefited from a respite designed just for them for the past four years at Operation Stand Down Huntsville, which gives them a chance to receive a hot meal, medical care, legal assistance, employment information, haircuts, showers and much more over the course of three days in November. Part of a national organization that holds stand downs across the country, the idea originated from the military term "stand down" which allows combative Soldiers the opportunity to rest and recuperate from battlefields in a safe and secure location.

"We do it in the same token," said Darrell Delaine, chairman of Operation Stand Down Huntsville, which was held at Joe Davis Stadium Nov. 12-14. "We bring the veterans off the street and then tell them to just stand down. We try to provide a secure location, food and a place to sleep."

For some veterans, asking for help may be the biggest challenge of all. Operation Stand Down provides them with the chance to be with other individuals coming from a similar background, providing a camaraderie they may not get at the average homeless shelter.

"The biggest thing is swallowing their pride and asking for help," said Shannon Young, who is working with a new organization that will reach out specifically to homeless veterans in North Alabama. "They have to stand up and say, 'I supported our country, I fought for us and now I need somebody to help me.' It's a really hard pill to swallow."

Former Garrison commander and retired Col. John Olshefski, now Huntsville District 3 city councilman, spoke at the opening ceremony for the 2010 Stand

Veterans

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Down, and was amazed at the number of veterans living in the Huntsville area.

"I was taken aback by the number," Olshefski said. "That's 50 too many. I struggled with one. There's too many here that we can help."

Seeing veterans homeless in a community that is so military-centric is mind boggling for Donnie Jones, who has dedicated the past four years of his life to homeless veterans through his work as entertainment and media relations for Operation Stand Down Huntsville.

"They can build the weapons that these people operate, but when they come home broken they can't help them?" Jones said. "I don't understand why the community has turned such a blind eye to homeless people. Don't think that they're a bum. Don't think they have no value. Everybody's got a story."

"What it comes down to is we're all about our veterans," Olshefski said of the Huntsville community. "Veterans are on hard times. If we got one off the street, then we've hit a home run. It's something we need to do here in this town."

In the spirit of his work with Operation Stand Down, Jones is launching a new organization, Operation Stand UP! Tennessee Valley, which will serve homeless veterans year-round, as opposed to only three days out of the year. For Jones, who spends much of his free time throughout the year with the homeless veterans he has met through Operation Stand Down, offering legal advice, taking individuals to doctors appointments and job interviews, as well as providing sleeping bags, food, clothing and other necessities when needed, he is simply taking his passion for veterans to the next level, and inviting the entire community to get involved.

"These are people that were once entrusted with billions of dollars of equipment, they were in charge of other people," Jones said. "I want people to look at homeless veterans in a different light, change the perception. These are people that still have something to offer their country and I'm just trying to provide a voice for them. I want to be their advocate."

Journalistic curiosity drew WAAY 31 reporter Ross Sather to the 2010 Operation Stand Down, but it is thanks to the more than 50 veterans he met while on assignment that has him involved with Operation Stand UP! today as co-chair of the organization with Jones.

"Seeing is believing," said Sather, who was in awe at the numbers that were fed, clothed and given shelter at the event. "These are men and women who so

bravely took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, and who knew what could possibly come with that. They're coming back and somehow slipping through the cracks. Some end up on the streets. I don't think anyone wants their son or daughter to go through that."

To ensure that ceases to happen, Operation Stand UP! aims to help homeless veterans find work and housing, and provide them with the tools needed to re-establish themselves. As an outreach provided exclusively for veterans, the organization will be able to meet the unique needs of the homeless veteran population.

"If they've been on the streets 10 to 15 years, you have to give them the tools so that they aren't setting up to fail," said Young, who will help coordinate volunteers for Operation Stand UP!. "You have to teach them how to manage a home again, how to manage bills and groceries and finances."

The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is currently seeking advisers from the community to go that extra mile and help the organization develop their plan of action and make the connections possible to put the plan into place.

"My long-term goal is ending homelessness," Jones said. "It's a lofty goal and people are going to laugh at me."

The Department of Veterans Affairs itself has made the commitment to end homelessness among veterans within the next five years, a task they are accomplishing through a variety of resources and programs that both respond to and work to prevent homelessness, like a National Call Center that allows for vets that are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, to call in for counseling.

"I think it is a realistic goal," Pete Dougherty, director, VA Office of Homeless Programs in Washington, D.C., said of the VA's commitment to end homelessness, fueled largely by the leadership of retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, secretary of Veterans Affairs. "That does not mean that there literally won't be a person who becomes homeless. We will have the capabilities of making sure any veteran who is homeless will have an appropriate place to stay and appropriate health care services to resolve the problem. In the past if every vet who needed assistance was coming to us, we wouldn't be able to do that."

As part of the VA's work, an outreach worker from the Birmingham VA travels regularly to hospitals and shelters in the Huntsville area to locate homeless veterans in need of help. Through a collaboration with HUD and the VA, veterans are also given the opportunity to participate in the HUD and VA Sup-

ported Housing Program, which gives them vouchers to Section 8 housing where VA case management treatment services are close by, allowing veterans to receive both housing and the treatment they need at the same time. Currently, 35 of those vouchers have been issued in the Huntsville area, according to Fields, with an anticipated 35 to 40 still needed.

Prevention has also become paramount to the VA in their efforts. To keep veterans from ending up on the streets in the first place, the VA specifically plans to increase the number of housing options for veterans, provide more support services to increase the possibility of employment and independent living, as well as improving access to VA mental health, substance abuse and support services.

"For us, homelessness among veterans has really been the deterioration of my social network, of my service network if you will," Dougherty said. "It's a deterioration of my job and the deterioration of my health. And generally speaking we weren't seeing you until it was a deterioration of your health. What we're now trying to do is look at this from the standpoint of what can we do to keep your social network intact, to keep your employment intact, to keep your immediate family intact and to make sure that health problems that you're having that contribute to homelessness are addressed earlier on. It's sort of what we did 15 years ago, when we went from a hospital-based system to a health care system. Now, most of our services are really preventative health care to keep me well and keep me healthy."

Ending homelessness among veterans is a task that is proving to not be impossible. The number of homeless vets has dropped from 250,000 in 2004 to 107,000 in 2009, and approximately 4,500 access points exist across the country as places for homeless veterans, or veterans in need, to turn to for help, according to John Driscoll, president and CEO of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, which serves as the resource and technical assistance center for homeless veteran service providers across the country. Of the 2,100 providers listed on the coalition's website, none are located in the Huntsville area.

Sitting on a bench at the Madison County Veterans Memorial site in downtown Huntsville, Sather marveled at the hundreds of thousands of dollars going into the project, which will cost approximately \$3 million once it is complete, and what could change for homeless vets if the community put even just a fraction of an effort into their cause.

"Not to take anything away from those who have died serving their country, or those who have served and are now living successful lives, but to also give to those

who also served, and for whatever reason didn't have that chance," Sather said.

Challenging both himself and others to not just talk the talk, but walk the walk as well when it comes to helping homeless vets, Jones doesn't have to look far in his own life to find ways he has changed a homeless vet's life.

It was a simple question that stopped Jones in his tracks. "Where can I put my tent up?"

It wasn't the first time Jones had seen the man with his bike, laden with 200 pounds of belongings, such as a tent, sleeping bag, clothes, boots, water, canned goods, cooking gear and hygiene products, on his drive from his home in Grant to Huntsville. The steamy June sun and concern for the man gave Jones enough pause to get him to pull over and ask the seemingly homeless traveler if he needed help, but the response he received was not what he was expecting - it wasn't a plea for money, food, alcohol or tobacco, but rather, a plea for safety and rest. As Jones would come to realize, the man beneath the dirt, sweat and grime of the streets was Wheelis, a veteran that had served his country from 1977-81.

"Just because they're homeless doesn't mean they don't have the same honor and integrity that made them put on the uniform," Jones said. "It's just covered with poverty."

Jones gave Wheelis more than just directions on where to put his tent up, but gave him an entire barn located on his property in Grant, where Wheelis' tent has proudly sat since June. In exchange for using Jones' home to bathe, use the restroom and share meals, Wheelis serves as the handyman for the 11 acres, fixing lawn mowers and weed eaters, doing yard work, sewing and helping out Jones' mother and her friends when needed.

"I like putting stuff together and taking it apart," Wheelis said.

As the winter chill has set in, the invitation has been extended for Wheelis to stay inside Jones' home. But for the man who has spent the past decade living off the land, the pitched tent inside the barn remains his preferred home, where he can go about his daily business, waking between 4 and 5 every morning to feed the cats, make the coffee, and listen to the news on NPR. Highlights of his days include listening to "A Prairie Home Companion" and "Car Talk" as well as the Star Trek novels Jones says he reads "voraciously." In the new year, he plans to search for a job, and to volunteer with Jones' new organization, as well as others that help the homeless.

"I've been given so much I don't mind volunteering and giving back," Wheelis said.

Budget

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They have done so. In addition, defense agencies have found \$54 billion in possible efficiencies.

Air Force leaders have proposed efficiencies that will total \$34 billion over five years. The Army has proposed \$29 billion in savings, and the Navy looks to savings of \$35 billion over five years.

Of the \$100 billion in savings, the services will use about \$28 billion to deal with higher-than-expected operating expenses. These costs include health care, pay and housing allowances, sustainment of weapons systems, depot maintenance, base support and flight hours and other training.

“Frankly, using the savings in this way was not my original intent or preference,” Gates said, “but we have little choice but to deal with these so-called ‘must-pay’ bills — and better to confront them honestly now than through raid-

ing investment accounts later.”

But this still leaves the services with \$70 billion to reinvest in higher priority systems. In the Air Force, this will mean the service can buy more Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles and enable the service to move this capability from the war budget to the base budget. It will also allow the service to increase procurement of the evolved expendable launch vehicle and to modernize radars aboard the F-15 Eagle to keep the fighter jet flying and fighting longer.

The Air Force also will be able to invest in development of a long-range, nuclear-capable bomber.

The Army will invest in Soldiers by improving suicide-prevention and substance-abuse counseling. The service will also modernize its battle fleets of Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Stryker wheeled vehicles. The service also will accelerate fielding of the newest tactical communications network and will invest in more unmanned aerial vehicles and a new unmanned helicopter.

The Navy will accelerate procurement of electronic jamming gear and fund refurbish-

ment of Marine Corps equipment. The service is also looking to develop a new generation of sea-borne unmanned strike and surveillance aircraft, and to buy more F-18 Super Hornets. The Navy also will be able to buy more ships, including a destroyer, a littoral combat ship and fleet oilers.

Gates stressed the need to make cuts carefully and judiciously.

“To maintain the kind of military needed for America’s leadership role requires not only adequate levels of funding, but also fundamentally changing the way our defense establishment spends money and does business,” Gates said. “That is why it is so important to follow through on the program of reform and overhead reduction.

“This department simply cannot risk continuing down the same path — where our investment priorities, bureaucratic habits and lax attitude towards costs are increasingly divorced from the real threats of today, the growing perils of tomorrow and the nation’s grim financial outlook,” he added.

Care

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acknowledge our eternal responsibility to care for our families.”

Through the history of the military, families of fallen servicemembers have banded together, providing each other support and assistance through trying times. The Army, too, has been there for families, providing assistance through its Army Community Service.

But in 2008, the Army officially mandated the establishment of Survivor Outreach Services as an outgrowth of the Army Family Action Plan. While ACS programs provide support to all Army families, SOS is focused specifically on the unique issues facing the families of fallen Soldiers.

“The initiative to develop and resource Survivor Outreach Services within the Army Community Service organization has swept across our Army,” Hamilton said. “This is the right thing to do. It is just the beginning of the work we need to do as we strive every day to improve the delivery of these vital services.”

Since early 2010, the Arsenal’s SOS coordinator, Emily McFall, has been working to identify surviving family members in an 11-county North Alabama region, and to reach out to them with services. Because the Arsenal community includes servicemembers of all branches, SOS is reaching out

to families of fallen Soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen. It is also reaching out to the widows of deceased servicemembers who didn’t fall in the line of duty.

McFall has been the instrumental force behind the establishment of the SOS facility, relying on support from Army Community Service, FMWR and the Garrison and its employees, as well as volunteers and organizations such as the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Sergeants Major Association.

“Today we open a new space, dedicated to serving our surviving families. It will be a place of comfort, healing and strength. It will be those things not because the building is so great, but because the people who occupy it are absolutely great,” Hamilton said.

Currently, 87 fallen servicemembers are from the North Alabama area, representing about 185 family members. Several supporters of SOS joined with those families during the ribbon cutting ceremony and at the reception following.

“We can never repay the sacrifice these servicemembers and families have made for freedom. Never. There’s no price that we could pay,” said Jeff Wishik, a Vietnam veteran and local community leader.

Lynette Boshell of Cullman



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica helps John Carter Frasier, 5, with a boost to the microphone after the ribbon cutting ceremony. John Carter is the nephew of fallen Marine Lance Cpl. John Carter Smith of Eva. Smith’s mother, Donna, also attended the event along with his sister Adrienne Frasier and 14-month-old niece Maddie Grace Frasier.

visited the SOS facility for the first time during the event. Her husband, active duty Alabama National Guard 1st Sgt. Robert Boshell, died of a massive heart

attack seven years ago during physical training for an upcoming deployment. Boshell had served as a Marine during his early years of marriage, and the couple’s 32 years of married life included a deployment to Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

“I was a Soldier, too, even though I was on the home front,” Boshell said. “He had to trust me. I took care of the home front while he took care of us.”

Boshell hopes to volunteer at the SOS facility, helping young families cope with their loss.

“I have a great passion for survivors,” she said. “We served, too. We sacrificed. But I don’t regret the sacrifice. I’m proud of the sacrifice and of my Soldier. The pride you have for your Soldier really helps you a lot. I want to share with young people that, yes, they can make it through this.”

SOS will be a place where families can remember their fallen servicemembers, and cope with the feelings of loss and sorrow to hopefully find a way to go on with a life of hope and joy.

“Please remember why we are here,” Hamilton told the ribbon cutting audience. “Remember and be thankful for the sacrifices paid in defense of our very fragile freedoms.”

Gates recommends Dempsey as next chief of staff



By **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert Gates has recommended to President Barack Obama that he nominate Gen. Martin Dempsey to be the next Army chief of staff.

Gates made the announcement at a Pentagon news conference.

The Army chief of staff is the highest-ranking Soldier in the Army, and serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

If nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, Dempsey would succeed Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who has served as Army chief of staff since April 2007, and will retire after more than 40 years of service.

Dempsey, 58, is commander of the Army's Training and

Doctrine Command, based at Fort Monroe, Va.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called Dempsey a "creative thinker and a terrific Soldier" who has his unequivocal support.

Dempsey served as the acting commander of U.S. Central Command upon the retirement of Navy Adm. William Fallon in 2008. He took up the Training and Doctrine Command's reins in December 2008.

Dempsey commanded the 1st Armored Division in Iraq in 2003 and 2004, and he served as commander of the Multinational Security Transition Command in Iraq from 2007-08.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1974. He was assigned to Germany as an armor officer, and he served with the 3rd Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm.

Widow

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for deployment. While he was gone, the couple frequently talked and texted by phone.

"I was at the laundromat when he texted me and said 'When I get back, I'm going to marry you and we are going to have a family,'" Little recalled.

They married on Feb. 5, 2007. Kyle Little was supposed to deploy to Iraq in May. But deployment came much sooner in early March with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. So, too, did the Little family. Before he deployed, Kyle Little found out he was going to be a daddy.

His dreams of a family came to an end on May 8, 2007, in Salman Pak, Iraq, just north of Baghdad, when he died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

"He was killed three months and three days exactly after we married," Little said. "I had mailed a care package to him that included a videotape of the baby's sonogram where you can hear the heartbeat, and he didn't get it. It came back a couple weeks later."

Little was taking a nap the morning of May 8 when she was startled awake, and remembered wondering if she should name the baby after Kyle. Later, at work, she got a call from the Army, asking for her address. She thought nothing of it. When she got home, Little checked her Facebook and saw that one of her husband's fellow Soldiers had lost both his legs in an IED explosion in Iraq.

"At 3:15 (p.m.) I saw them walking up to my door. Even though I had grown up a military brat, I thought they were coming to tell me Kyle was hurt. I should have known better," she said. "When they told me, I just couldn't believe it. I said 'We're happy. We're married. We're having a baby. We've both been through so much. This can't be happening.'"

But it had. Soon, the news spread and family began making plans to travel to Fort Benning to be with Little. She kept herself busy with preparations.

"The house was a wreck. I had to get some food. I had to get some Diet Coke," she recalled. "I remember I was at the store with my friend Shaina (Bramlett) getting Diet Coke and our song came on the PA system. I just sat down on the floor and started crying. And Shaina sat down on the floor and cried with me."

Little got through the funeral and those initial dark days surrounding her husband's death. Eventually, her life resurfaced, and she began getting ready for her new baby. She moved to Hartselle, where her dad, a retired Marine, and his family lived. She started working through the feelings she had about her husband's death, including anger at his leaving her alone. And she started learning how to live as a widow.

"The grief didn't really hit me until Kylee was about 3 months old. I was really struggling. I was trying to keep it in, to keep it private," Little said. "I was able to use the pregnancy to distract me. Even when she was born, I told Kylee 'You are so beautiful. Your daddy and I love you so much.'"

As Kylee grows up, Little sees her husband in her daughter's face and personality. She is reminded of her husband in some of the things their little girl says and does.

"She just turned 3. Before her birthday, Kylee said 'Daddy needs to come home from heaven to be at my birthday.' Sometimes she pretends to talk to him on the phone. She says her daddy is in her heart," Little said.

"We talk about him nearly every day. I let her take the lead on it. She brings him up. Sometimes she will do things just like he did. She is like him in a lot of ways ... I want her to know how her father really was. He was definitely a hero and he was a hero before he died."

Little and her daughter are close with Kyle Little's family and friends, visiting his home in Massachusetts twice a year.

"I want her to know her daddy. Because our romance was so short, there's a lot of stuff I don't know," Little said. "She can learn that from his family and his friends and even his old girlfriends. He was a real person with real feelings and with these amazing qualities. I know that the Army and people want to put him up on a pedestal, but he was just a regular person who was doing his job. He volunteered to serve his country. I want Kylee to know all that."

Visiting Survivor Outreach Services and attending the meetings of My Soldier, My Fallen Hero have helped Little deal with her loss, and particularly with negative feelings associated with being alone.

"Sometimes I am angry at him for leaving this way," she said. "I didn't want to be a single parent,

not ever. I wanted to do it the right way. I wanted to have a family the right way.

"You don't necessarily want to wear the widow badge. You are proud of your husband, proud to stand in his place. But it's hard being a widow."

She is thankful for the SOS facility and for its coordinator, Emily McFall.

"Emily is an amazing woman," Little said. "To be prior Army, to be a Soldier's wife, and to go through her own struggles and ordeals and then to want to help others ... I'm amazed by her strength and the strength I see in other widows."

"I think it's amazing that the Army is doing this. Bad things happen when things get ignored. It's really awesome that the Army is standing up to the plate and knowing they need to do more."

Even though Little had the support of her entire family, SOS has provided her with a place where she can share her darkest feelings and thoughts without the worry of offending someone else or hurting someone's feelings, or of being judged.

"It's hard for your family to adjust to the new you. You don't want them to see the pain. But you do become a different person," Little said.

As Little goes on with her life, she remembers the love and hope she shared with her husband.

"He was full of strength. He was definitely my backbone and my strength in so many ways. He was an amazing man," she said. "I still have the last e-mail he sent me. It says 'I'll be home soon. Just stay strong.' I still read it sometimes."

Win or Lose

Troops will have extended season on court

Basketball opens scheduled Jan. 19

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The 2011 basketball season will be longer than usual because many of the troops are leaving for Fort Lee, Va., this summer.

The season opens Jan. 19 at the Redstone Fitness Center. Games will be played Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6 and 7.

"We'll probably play until mid-March. That includes the postseason tournament," sports director Gaylene Wilson said. "We're just going to have a season longer than usual. With all the troops leaving, we won't make it through a whole full year of Commander's Cup events. So to give them more play time, we're going to have a longer basketball and softball season."

The softball season should start by the first week of April with an ending to be determined. "They're telling me a lot of them are going to be leaving in the summer, so

it'll be based on what information I get and their availability," Wilson said.

The eight teams expected for basketball include Bravo Company, defending champion Charlie Company, HHC 59th, Headquarters & Alpha, NCO Academy, Marines, National Guard and the 326th Chemical Company. The 326th team will probably have two players from the 663rd Engineer Company out of Decatur.

The National Guard beat Bravo in the final of the preseason Holiday Basketball Tournament held in December.

"We got better," Bravo player/coach Andrew Hildreth said, referring to both during and since the tournament.

"We got new Soldiers in that are better than what I had then. The only thing that scares me is they're not here very long," Hildreth said. "I plan on taking it all."

Bravo's key returning players from the tournament include forward Jeremy Johnson and shooting guard Guillermo Ramos.

Charlie Company has one returning player from last year's championship team, forward Richard Robinson. The Wolfpack's first-year coach is Marlon Slade.

"Just hard work, and get the team to work hard," Slade said of his goal.

HHC 59th may be the most seasoned team in the league. Returning players for the "Raise-up bunch" include 6-foot-8 center Jeff Reuter, point guard Kevin Thomas, guard Travis Roop, forward Leroy Early and point guard David Harden. Power forward John Rankin played last year for Charlie Company; and guard Ellington Releford played last year for Bravo. William Ewings is the coach.

"It's basically the same team that won the post championship two years ago with a couple of additions," Releford said. "We plan on winning it all, man."

The 326th Chemical Company's returnees include shooting guard Frank Stafford, point guard Edward Searight, small forward Travis McReynolds and power forward Kenster Shannon.

"We're looking to have an all-around team this year," 326th assistant coach Eddie Bryan said.

Marines coach Montrice Bethea said his team will have mostly students and a few instructors.

"We're still getting used to playing together," Bethea said. "We expect to have a competitive team. We expect to do some damage this year."

The Marines returnees include power forward KiJuan Sullivan and point guard Terrell Houston.

Headquarters & Alpha coach Marcus Talley is in his first year with the Gators



Photo by Skip Vaughn

During the 2010 season, Kenster Shannon of 326th Chemical Company goes for a layup in the Dragons' 51-43 win over Bravo-1 last Feb. 3.

after coaching in Germany. "We should have a good team," Talley said.

NCO Academy player/coach Shawn Jones is back at Redstone after his 2010 deployment in Iraq. He plays shooting guard.

"We're a small team but we'll definitely have what it takes to get the job done," Jones said. "It's a whole new team but we'll have plenty of talent. By the time the season starts, we'll get it together."

Rocket City Titans get championship rings

The 2010 PSFL and BCS minor league national champions Rocket City Titans football team and staff received with their 2010 national championship rings and awards Jan. 3 at the Huntsville Jaycee's Building.

Guest speakers congratulating the national champions included Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and University of Alabama All-American John Croyle of Big Oak Boy's & Girl's Ranch.

In the 2010 inaugural season, the Rocket City Titans posted a unprecedented 14-1 record with capturing the

Premier South Football League championship then defeating the Chicago Cardinals in Atlanta 32-16 for the BCS minor league national championship.

The Rocket City Titans football organization is continuing to work hard this off season and gear up for defending the PSFL and BCS National Championship in the 2011 season. The Titans are holding a try-out Jan. 30 for players interested in playing with the team in 2011. For more information, visit www.RocketCityTitansFootball.com. (Rocket City Titans release)

Sports & Recreation

Family indoor flying

Fly remote-controlled planes indoors Jan. 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church gym, 2113 Old Monrovia Road. These family events are free and open to all ages. "Bring your small or medium-sized electric remote-controlled planes and helicopters and fly," a prepared release said. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 772-3946 or e-mail jmarconnet@gmail.com.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Catholic women

Catholic Women's Study at Redstone Arsenal is scheduled today through March 2 for eight weeks, on Wednesdays. The morning session, from 9:30-11, is titled "Discover Your Dignity, A Woman's Journey through Life." The evening session, from 6-7:30, brings "Lumen Gentium: Light of the Nation." RSVP at DianaRuzicka53@aol.com or call 852-5519.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel has Bible Studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. The lunchtime Bible study meets at 11:30 a.m.; and the Korean sisters begin their study at 10:30 a.m. For more

information call Judy Strange 430-3110, Karyn Wilson 837-7421, Mattie Jones (lunchtime group) 828-9890 or Soran Thrasher (Korean Group) 539-4862.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 859-3784.

Men's ministries

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

Civil War roundtable

Tennessee Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Nancy Rohr will speak on "Huntsville Heroes of the Civil War: Heroines All." Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their

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public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 1217. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Margrit Carr 313-1952.

Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

Space development

The National Space Society and its host chapter, the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, are bringing the 30th International Space Development Conference to Huntsville May 18-22 at the Von Braun Center and Embassy Suites. The annual event

invites entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, politicians and private citizens who are interested in creating a space-faring civilization "From the Ground Up," which is the theme of the conference. For more information on calls for papers or sponsorship, volunteer, or trade show opportunities, contact ISDC2011@gmail.com. The conference website is www.isdc2011.org.

Deployed work force ceremony

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Team Redstone operations for OIF/OEF. The Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is March 3 at 8:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments during June to December. Additionally, those who were not able to participate in the last five ceremonies are invited to participate in this ceremony. Rogers will present letters of recognition to Soldiers, civilians and contractors of the Team Redstone work force who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. The nomination deadline is Feb. 10. For more information, call Carla Landers 876-2612 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

See Announcements on page 26



Courtesy photo

Test flight

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Myles "Jason" Glenn, left, a helicopter pilot based at Redstone Test Center, shows an Iraqi pilot the controls on a T-407 training helicopter before a test flight Dec. 14 in Iraq. The U.S. military delivered three T-407 helicopters to the camp to help the Iraq Army develop its aviation program.

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Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter will not be holding a January luncheon meeting Thursday due to the retirement of longtime ASMC member and past president Charlie Barnes. His retirement luncheon is that day at the Officers and Civilians Club. If members are interested in attending the retirement luncheon, they may call Kathy Buford 842-6289 or Michelle Cobb 842-0228. The next ASMC luncheon will be held Feb. 11.

Acquisition work force

The South Region Alumni Association of Defense Acquisition University will hold its seventh annual DAU South Conference on Feb. 22-23 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. For information call Helen Purcell 922-8771 or e-mail helen.purcell@dau.mil. To sign up, visit www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=883797.

Fellowship program

The Senior Service College Fellowship at Huntsville is accepting applications through March 15 for the 2011-12 class. This 10-month resident program provides acquisition and senior leadership training to prepare civilian senior leaders for key leadership positions within the DoD acquisition community. Applicants must be Acquisition Corps members and be on track for executive level service. Applicants must submit their application online using the Army Acquisition Professional Development System within the Career Acquisition Management Portal/Career Acquisition Personnel and Position Management Information System at the following website: <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>. For more information, contact SS-CFS@dau.mil.

Combined luncheon

The International Society of Logistics and Army Aviation Association of America have teamed up to provide their first joint luncheon Jan. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured speaker is Keith Roberson, executive director for AMCOM G-3. Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. RSVP by Jan. 17 to Jon Liddie 642-9145 or jon.s.liddie@saic.com.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers meets Jan. 20 for lunch at the Holiday Inn on University Drive adjacent to Madison Square Mall. Sign-in starts at 11 a.m. and lunch at 11:30. Cost of the meal is \$15, payable at the door. The speaker is John Christy of University of Alabama-Huntsville. For reservations, e-mail dforan@shearerassociates.us.

Systems engineers

The INCOSE Huntsville Chapter will meet Jan. 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Jacobs Conference Center; 1500 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 100. Mark Brown, director of work force recruitment at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, is the scheduled speaker. If you plan to attend, e-mail to Sam Loo by noon Jan. 19 at weei.loo@mdnt.com.

Rotocraft professionals

The Redstone Chapter of American Helicopter Society International and the Alabama/Mississippi Region of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will sponsor a technical specialists' meeting on Airworthiness, Condition Based Maintenance, and Health/Usage Monitoring Systems on Feb. 7-9 at the Von Braun Center. The keynote address will be made by the FAA Rotorcraft Directorate. Rotocraft and technical professionals from throughout the aviation landscape are expected for this three-day event. For booth and sponsor information, e-mail Laura Bequette at lbequette@mcri.com. Registration is available at www.vtol.org.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Officer recruitment

Interested in being an Army officer? If you have completed a four-year college degree and are interested in the opportunities being an Army officer can provide, call 539-6511.

Motorcycle safety

To permanently register a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal, the DoD requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. There

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

Reserve unit

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

Reading with Taka

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

Prior service military

If you are prior service military without any military service obligation and are interested in joining the Army Reserve, call 1st Sgt. Brian May or Capt. Stacy Hopwood 539-6511.

Surplus sale

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

Thrift Shop grants

Does your organization or group directly affect the Redstone community? Last year the Thrift Shop gave out \$15,000 in grants to organizations like yours. It is that time again; and they are now accepting applications for 2011. The committee will meet in March and funds will be distribut-

ed by June 1. All applications will be considered and reviewed. If your company or group (no individuals please) is interested in applying, call the community assistance chairperson Jennifer Kennedy 682-6981 or e-mail jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com.

Flight training

If you're interested in becoming an Army aviator, you can apply for the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program by calling 539-6511.

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name — all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Education test center

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

Ride wanted

Julie Jordan, a badge checker in Sparkman Center building 5303, needs a ride home from work. Her hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and she resides on Airport Road. She is willing to pay. A handicap accessible vehicle or other special equipment is not required. Call 604-8433.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their dependents prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year. Last year's center was a major success, with over 4,000 returns prepared which resulted in more than \$3 million in refunds. The center is accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2010 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 e-mail rachael.yeoman@conus.army.mil.

Veterinary clinic

The Redstone Arsenal Veterinary Clinic will have evening clinics every Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Call for appointments 876-2441. Services that will be offered include Heartworm Test, microchip, vaccines, Feline Leukemia Test and wellness exams. It will also be open for over the counter sales.

Scholarship resource

The American Society of Military Comptrollers Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to aid ASMC members and/or their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. Applications should be received by Feb. 28. Applications may be submitted to scholarship committee chairperson Lindsey Harper 876-8361, Michelle Cobb 842-0228, Jessica Dunaway 313-0533, Cheryl Richmond 955-0066, Judy Smith 876-6163, Kathy Buford 842-6289, Dr. Beth Hodges 313-7013, Ann Bransford 876-3599, Rob Archer 313-8137, Michele Olney 876-7971 and Debbie O'Neal 723-2314.

Professional development

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will sponsor its annual Mini-Professional Development Institute Training Session on March 3 at the Jackson Center at HudsonAlpha Institute, 600 Genome Way. Lunch is included. Deadline to register is Feb. 11. Registration/doors open at 7 a.m., and the Mini-PDI begins at 8. Cost is \$125 for all attendees. Presenters include Mark Easton, Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Col. Chip Fulghum, Suzie Humpreys and Col. Barbara Gilchrist. You can earn up to 7 Continuous Learning Points. Enter into TIP System, catalog F112MPDI, course title ASMC MINI-PDI 2011. Call in reservation with IMPAC credit card information to Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Amanda Bertis 842-2444 and Theresa McBride 842-9272.

Art auction benefit

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club invites you to its annual "Evening on the Bayou" Art Auction event Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Forest Club House (on Martin Road outside of Gate 7). This event is the club's main fund-raiser for the year. Proceeds will go toward the club's various Community Assistance requests and its Merit Awards/Scholarship program. There will be a silent auction, giveaway gift tables, food and beverages, and a special appearance by Perry Berns Gallery. For tickets and more information, visit their website at www.rsacwc.org. RSA CWC is a private, nonprofit organization.

Community assistance grants

Each year RSA Community Women's Club distributes funds 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 and with your help, we'll be able to continue our humanitarian efforts to benefit the military and civilian communities." Applications for the RSA CWC community assistance grants are now being accepted. Forms are available at the CWC website www.rsacwc.org (click on community assistance) and will be used to collect the same information from each requesting organization. All requests must conform to the CWC Community Assistance Request Form. The deadline for submission of the grant request is Jan. 29. For more information, call Demy Robley 882-6064.

Young heroes

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Military Child of the Year. The contest, sponsored by Operation Homefront, recognizes the strength, courage and achievements of military children from all service branches. This year, for the first time, the contest is open to all branches of the military, including the Coast Guard. One child from each branch of service will be chosen as a contest winner. To nominate a military child, visit www.operationhomefront.net/mcoy and complete a nomination form. The winners will receive \$5,000, a laptop computer and a paid trip to Washington, D.C., for an April 7 awards ceremony. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31.

Dancing class

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center and FMWR are offering a free class, "Introduction to Ballroom Dancing," Jan. 18 from 7:30-9 p.m. at building 3155. This class is intended for those with very little or no experience in ballroom dancing and provides information about the "Dancing Like the Stars" program which has been ongoing at Redstone for five years. This special annual class is offered without obligation and consists of an overview with a handout, dance demonstrations, questions-and-answers and some basic instruction. Light refreshments will be provided. For information or to register, call the Campbell Recreation Center 876-4531. Class size is limited to 25 couples.

Dr. King celebration

Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration is Jan. 20 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The keynote speaker is Herb Boyd, activist, teacher and award-winning author and journalist. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Lance Green 876-8648 or Kimley Pierce 876-0023.

Cancer survivors

Young cancer survivors preparing for higher education may be eligible for scholarships from the Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. The society's Mid-South Division will award \$1,000 scholarships to eligible individuals who have fought cancer and are attending an

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accredited university, college or vocational/technical school. Awards for the 2011-12 academic year will be announced in April. Applications are due by Feb. 1. Scholarships will be awarded based on leadership, academic achievement and community service. For more information on the scholarship program or to obtain an application, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org/midsouthnews.

Arts update

See the stage production of "Deathtrap," a comedy and suspense play, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. This presentation is recommended for adult and teen audiences. For more information on this and other art oriented events, visit www.ourvalleyevents.com or www.artshuntsville.org.

CFC agencies

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2011. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is Feb. 7 through March 24. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. The Tennessee Valley CFC serves charitable agencies in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties. A copy of the 2011 CFC package may be acquired

by calling the CFC office 876-9143, the PCFO office 518-8214 or by visiting the website <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

Fox holiday plans

Fox Army Health Center will be closed on the following dates in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Friday, Jan. 14, closed starting at noon; and Monday, Jan. 17, closed the entire day. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Battalion reunion

279th Signal Battalion (Alabama Army National Guard) Reunion Dinner is Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. at Los Arcos, 326 N. Brindlee Mountain Parkway in Arab. Any members of the 279th Signal Battalion, as well as spouses, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call Robin Grubis 256-603-3201 for details.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop staff would like to wish everyone a happy New Year. It's a good time to consign or donate those gifts that weren't a perfect fit for you. The shop has started taking Valentine's Day items. Remember to call the "NO-LIST," 881-6915, before coming in. The stop's hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 9-5. The Thrift Shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road.



ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF JAN 6 2011	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																			
SCBK10749691	Operations Research Analyst	12-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-1515	14	14	98,265 - 127,743		X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK10745871	Aerospace Engineer	12-Jan-11	RDECOM	DB-0861	4	4	98,265 - 150,266	X											
SCBK10703427	Administrative Support Specialist	13-Jan-11	US Army Acquisition Spt Ctr	GS-0301	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK10747438	Human Resource Analyst	13-Jan-11	AMCOM	GS-0301	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X											
SCBK10749957	Secretary (Office Automation)	14-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-0318	7	8	39,422 - 56,754	X					X	X					
SCBK10686359	Secretary (Office Automation)	14-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-0318	9	9	48,221 - 62,683				X	X	X	X					
SCBK11774365	SUPV Contract Spec (Proc Anlys)	18-Jan-11	US Army Contracting Cmd	YC-1102	3	3	98,265 - 157,779			X			X	X					
SCBK10749691	Operations Research Analyst	19-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-1515	14	14	98,265 - 127,743				X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK11774504	SUPV IT Specialist (PLCOLN)	19-Jan-11	US Army Contracting Cmd	YC-2210	3	3	98,265 - 157,779			X			X	X					
SCBK11774618	SUPV IT Specialist (PLCOLN)	19-Jan-11	US Army Contracting Cmd	YC-2210	3	3	98,265 - 157,779			X			X	X					
SCEG11597616	Logistics Management Specialist	20-Jan-11	AMCOM/Integrated Material Mgmt Cmd	GS-0346	12	12	68,809 - 89,450	X						X	X				
SCBK11770180	Supply Systems Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMCOM	GS-2003	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11713121	Suicide Prevention & Substance Abuse Program Manager	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-0101	12	13	69,930 - 108,102	X						X	X				
SCBK11749499	Management Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-0343	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X					X	X					
SCBK11753690	Operations Research Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-1515	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X					X	X					
SCBK11750164	Operations Research Analyst	21-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-1515	12	13	69,930 - 108,102	X	X				X	X					
SCBK11741001	Computer Engineer	25-Jan-11	RDECOM	DB-0854	3	3	69,930 - 108,102	X			X		X	X					
SCBK100708357	Accountant	27-Jan-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0510	12	12	69,930 - 90,907		X		X		X						
SCBK10760499	Patent Attorney	4-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-1222	14	14	98,265 - 127,743											X	
NEAL10541178	Acquisition Management Specialist	15-Mar-11		YA-0301	2	2	48,221 - 119,935				X	X	X	X					
SCBK10631319OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X					X	
SCBK10631270OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102			X			X	X	X				
SCBK10482838OC	Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102					X	X	X					
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743				X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X			X	X	X				
SCBK10631337OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907						X					X	
SCBK10674714OC	Contract Specialist (Price/Cost Analysis)	9-Jun-11	ACC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779					X	X	X	X				
SCBK10724481OCE	Contract Specialist	29-Jun-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907						X					X	
SCBK11733651	Logistics Management Specialist	5-Jul-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	11	13	58,343 - 108,102					X	X	X					
SCBK10444988OC	Contract Specialist	17-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X	X				X	X					
SCBK1044488OC	Contract Specialist	18-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	2	2	47,215 - 108,102	X	X				X	X					
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743				X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK10482841OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743		X	X		X	X	X	X				
SCBK10482823OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X		X	X	X	X				

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

A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.

B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).

C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).

D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)

E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements) (Copy of Orders from Spouse)

F - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)

H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)

I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.) (SF-50 documenting service required)

R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.) (SF-50 documenting service required)

T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (Form 75 documenting service)

V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).

U - All U.S. citizens (Birth Certificate and other Documentation required)

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