

Redstone Rocket

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Icy post thawed by Garrison team

Road crews work through snow so the mission can continue

By KARI HAWKINS
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A winter weather event that hampered much of North Alabama for nearly a week also took its toll on Redstone Arsenal, closing the post for two days, and testing Garrison policies, resources and capabilities.

Now, with the challenges of 7-9 inches of snow and ice melting into the past, Garrison staff are considering lessons learned, reviewing procedures, commending the actions of road crews and preparing for even better management when the next weather emergency occurs. "This was one of the worst winter events we've ever had here," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said. "It will provide us with lessons learned and an opportunity to review procedures."

The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works is responsible for the safety, availability and accessibility of the Arsenal's infrastructure, consisting mainly of roads and facilities. It is a role that impacts all Arsenal tenants and their employees.

Consequently, on Jan. 6, when a major winter weather event was looking more imminent for North Alabama, Hamilton and the DPW staff along with the Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services, Installation Operations Center and Public Affairs began reviewing and discussing the actions that would be taken if forecasts became reality.

"We reviewed our procedures and resources, and started to form a picture based on weather forecasts and possible outcomes," Hamilton said. "It turned out that forecasts on Thursday and Friday were pretty accurate not only in terms of timing but also in the amount of snow we received on Sunday."

On Jan. 7, Garrison staff conducted a "formal review of procedures that we expected to execute on this event based on this forecast," the colonel said. The Garrison staff receives input from a variety of sources including the National Weather Service and emergency services



Photo by Kari Hawkins

On Thursday, four days after snow started falling in North Alabama, a Chugach employee operates a construction grader equipped with a rubber blade for snow removal to scrape snow off the entrance area near Gate 3 on Redstone Road. Chugach employees began working around the clock to clear roads once snow started falling on Jan. 9, and continued through Jan. 10 and 11 while the Arsenal was closed. With temperatures remaining below freezing, snow clearing continued on turn and merge lanes after the Arsenal reopened Jan. 12.

organizations from across the Tennessee Valley region.

As winter weather events go, each is unique based on timing, the amount of precipitation and the length of time the area will endure freezing temperatures.

"An event hitting on Sunday impacts us differently than one impacting us during the week while everyone's at work," Hamilton said.

"The winter weather we had in December focused us on early release procedures. On Sunday (Jan. 9), the decisions were more focused on how rapidly we could get the Arsenal prepared to receive the work force."

Road crews, provided by contractor Chugach, were brought in Sunday at 8 p.m. The 12-man force was broken up into two teams, working round-the-clock shifts to clear, first, the Arsenal's main arteries and gates, then the secondary roads and then the parking lots.

The teams used four construction graders, front end loaders and two sand/salt spreaders to clear roadways.

"The front end loaders were good around the gates and at the intersections," Joey Skinner, deputy director of DPW, said. "We ran three graders at a time and a front end loader, and the spreaders."

Since this type of event is so rare in Huntsville, the Arsenal doesn't have a large set of equipment dedicated to snow removal. "Our work force did a great job using the equipment available to clear the snow," Hamilton said.

With winter weather bringing much of North Alabama to a standstill, it was obvious the Arsenal would begin the work week of Jan. 10 closed. Because of snowy parking lots, the closure continued into Jan. 11, with the Arsenal opened to the work force on Jan. 12.

See Snow on page 20

GOING TO CHAPEL

Garrison chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie advises people to resolve to please God in 2011, rather than making New Year's resolutions that are set up for failure.

Page 10



LOOKING BACK

Team Redstone's annual event in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is slated Thursday.

Page 19

PICTURE THIS

Housing area residents show their creativity after last week's snow.

Page 21

WIN OR LOSE

The troop basketball season tips off tonight at Redstone Fitness Center.

Page 24



RocketViews

What did you think of our snow?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Sgt. 1st Class David Acevedo
625th Contingency Contracting Team

"I'm from Puerto Rico so it's something that you don't see where I'm from. I like it. My kids love it because the schools closed. This is the first time I've seen since I've been here that it stayed quite a few days."



Deon Davis
Program Executive Office for Aviation, Business Office

"I think the snow is wonderful. My daughter's actually never seen snow. I'm a military brat so I've seen a lot of snow. I'm just excited. And the days off weren't bad either."



Susan DeLoach
AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

"I love it. It makes me think of home. I'm from New Hampshire so this is really nothing compared to what I'm used to, what I grew up with. I don't like driving in it though."



Richard Ellis
South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center

"I love it. It's change – something different. And it gives me the opportunity to see what Alabamians come up with in making snowmen. I've seen some really good snowmen – I mean classic snowmen. That shows me the people of Huntsville have a good spirit for fun and recreation. And I took a picture of a snowman last night. The snowman was dressed with the Alabama football clothing."

Letters to the Editor

First lesson as parent – be there for your kids

By JENNIFER CLAMPET

USAG Wiesbaden

WIESBADEN, Germany — "Maybe I did it, but I wasn't there."

As a mother it's my biggest fear.

To hold my daughter while she sucks from a bottle. To watch her tiny 3-month-old hand punch at a toy.

To see a toothless grin spontaneously spread across her unblemished face.

Maybe I will have done them all, but will I have been there? Did I connect? Did I drink in the moment? Was I really there?

Or was I too busy? Busy worrying about the laundry? Busy trying to meet a schedule? Too busy counting the days until my husband comes home from deployment?

One year ago, I wondered what I would learn during my husband's second deployment to Iraq. This is it. Be there.

Whatever is happening, no matter how hectic and tiring or mundane and tedious, be there.

Pick those things that are most important and be there. It's harder than it sounds.

As my newborn daughter changed — her cries came less frequent and her smiles more so — I wanted her to slow down.

My husband wasn't there.

Daddy was sometimes a pixelated-image on a laptop computer screen that would call out my daughter's name. He would see her grow through daily one-hour sessions on Skype. But really, he wasn't there.

Like all military spouses, I wanted my husband home to see his child grow.

My desires for time control should have created a paradox of devastating consequences. Slow down the time for my daughter. But speed up those days until my husband comes home.

Neither wish was granted. So there I was left with my growing daughter in my arms and my husband hundreds of miles away in a war zone.

I was in the midst of my powerless state when I heard

Quote of the Week

'Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.'

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jane Fonda on the Oprah Winfrey Show reflecting on her life as a mother and grandmother.

Fonda told a story about lying next to her grandson staring at him. As Fonda went to break her gaze her grandson grabbed her face.

"I'm not ready," he told her.

Hadn't she done that with her own children — lain beside them as they drifted off to sleep, asked Oprah.

"Maybe I did it, but I wasn't there," said Fonda.

The experience became an epiphany for her. For me as well.

Life is full of little moments when we forget to connect — moments when we forget everything that's important.

I'm not ready for my daughter to start pushing herself up from tummy time. But I refuse to miss those moments when she cocks her head back and gives me that toothless grin.

I live in those moments. And in whenever I have the chance to angle the laptop to view her smiles and kicks, screams and giggles, my husband lives in those moments too.

And so without the powers of time travel or ultimate control of the universe, I relinquish control of my experiences to the here and now.

Because when my daughter is older and has a child of her own, I want to be able to say "I did it, too, and I was truly there."

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 6-12:

Jan. 6: Three Soldiers were reported as AWOL after they failed to report back for duty after holiday leave.

Jan. 12: A worker slipped on ice and fell in the rear parking lot of the Post Exchange. The worker, who complained of pain to her left side, was transported to Huntsville Hospital.

Jan. 12: A worker slipped on ice and fell in the parking lot of building 5309. The worker was transported to Huntsville Hospital for treatment of a head injury.

Jan. 12: A worker slipped on the ice and fell in the parking lot of building 5405. The worker complained of a minor head injury but declined transport to the hospital.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injury. No weather-related traffic accidents were reported.

Violation notices issued: 2 speeding, 1 improper backing.

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to **know you**

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

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Name: Jay Washburn

Job: Business analyst, Logistics Support Activity

Where do you call home?

I'm originally from Jackson County, Ala., but I live in Huntsville now.

What do you like about your job?

The flexibility. Knowing that the work that I do at least indirectly helps our Soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love movies. Reading. I love to travel.

What are your goals?

To buy a bigger house. To travel around the world with at least one large vacation per year.

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



The top of my bucket list is to visit Europe. As a matter of fact, I said that just the other day. I want to visit Europe before I die. I've seen the entire country. And nothing fascinates me more than other cultures, other languages. And I would like to be immersed in that, even if it's just for a few weeks.

Army renames contracting centers

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The Army Contracting Command announced today the renaming of its major contracting centers to reflect their geographical locations.

The centers provide comprehensive acquisition, contracting, business advisory, production support, and depot-level maintenance services in acquiring, fielding and sustaining Army weapon systems, services and Soldier support.

ACC Soldiers and civilians work with commercial firms to acquire equipment, supplies and services for America's Army. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, communicates with it, wears it, or eats it — ACC contracts for it.

"Over the past two years, we've come to realize the importance of establishing a consistent and practical identity across the organization," ACC executive director Jeff Parsons said on the reason for the change. "After much study and consideration, the one area we believe can achieve some major returns on investment is branding and standardizing the naming convention of the ACC contracting centers. We decided to incorporate the geographical locations of the

centers in their new names."

Following are the new and former names of the seven ACC contracting centers, effective today:

- Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, formerly National Capital Region Contracting Center, Alexandria, Va.

- Army Contracting Command-Warren, formerly TACOM Contracting Center, Warren, Mich.

- Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), formerly CECOM Contracting Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

- Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground (Soldier, Chemical, Research and Test), formerly RDECOM Contracting Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

- Army Contracting Command-Picatinny, formerly JM&L Contracting Center, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

- Army Contracting Command-Redstone, formerly AMCOM Contracting Center, Redstone Arsenal

- Army Contracting Command-Rock Island, formerly Rock Island Contracting Center, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

School Age Services earns accreditation

By **PAMELA RAMEY**

Staff writer
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A model for the Army.

That's what the Council on Accreditation has deemed the School Age Services program at Redstone.

The program was awarded the council's highest honor in December, after an 18-month auditing process that included extensive documentation, verification and observation of the program by council representatives.

The program met or exceeded each of the Council's 167 standards in three areas: administration, program standards, and human resources. The staff, led by director Mary Washington, learned of the accreditation in late December. The staff is to be recognized by Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton in a ceremony today.

"I am overjoyed," Washington said. "It was a long process, and we did this as a team. We have a wonderful staff here, and I thank God for them."

FMWR Child and Youth Division chief Andre Terry echoed Washington's sentiments.

"This is great news for the command, staff and children being served here at Redstone," Terry said. "It raises the bar on the already high standards we have in place. This lets the world know we meet the new standard set forth for Army DoD programs."

Redstone's SAS program is one of five in the Southeast Region to earn the accreditation. There are 22 programs in the region.

The School Age Services program provides before and after school care and summer activities for the children of Redstone employees, including active duty and retired military, DoD civilians and contractors. They provide activities for children in grades 1-5, including sports and recreation, life skills development, the arts, technology and educational support.



Photo by Pamela Ramey

School Age Services staff members include, from left, in front row, Mary Washington, Charles Sudder, Ashley Keith; and in back row, Carolyn Taylor, Karen Luckie, Lindell Johnson, Sheryl Scott, and Robert Wyche. Not pictured are La Quetia Payne and Torries Shoulders.

Take walk to start weight-loss program



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Desiree Walker, registered dietitian at Fox Army Health Center, demonstrates proper size portions, one of the things she says is a key to success in the Scale Back Alabama program. Fox Army Health Center will serve as a weigh-in site, in addition to FMWR's fitness centers.

Scale Back Alabama kicking off at Fox

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
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If their walk is as brisk as last week's temperatures, Redstone Arsenal Scale Back Alabama participants will be well on their way to wellness.

Fox Army Health Center will host a kickoff walk to the 2011 Scale Back Alabama program Thursday at the Fox walking trail, with remarks beginning at 7:30 a.m., and the actual walk beginning at 8. In the event of rain, a kickoff program will be held in the Fox Den.

"It's a great kickoff to start a new year and really focus on health and wellness," Desiree Walker, registered dietitian at Fox, said of Scale Back Alabama and Thursday's walk. "It fits in very well with our philosophy to promote wellness. It's a fun way to get motivated if health is one of your resolutions."

The goal of the program is to lose a pound a week throughout the 10-week program which begins Thursday, for a total of at least 10 pounds lost by the conclusion of the program in April.

"That's a good, safe rate of weight

loss," Walker said.

Individuals that will find success over the 10 weeks, according to Walker, are those that are "changing their food habits, being more aware of portions, eating out less and increasing their physical activity – making these two things a top priority in their life."

Educational sessions on topics such as fitness, portion control and healthy eating choices will be held throughout the program to inform participants on how they can make better wellness choices. Sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 2, March 16 and March 30 at a location to be determined.

"I encourage individuals to take a look at what they've done in the past, what's worked and what's been effective," Walker said. "Look at your food choices and your portions. What we're given in restaurants is not what has to be eaten."

In addition to the weigh-in times and locations provided by FMWR, Scale Back Alabama participants may also weigh in at Fox, Jan. 24, 26 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Wellness Clinic. While team members do not have to weigh in at the same time, all team members must weigh in at the same location.

For more information on Scale Back Alabama, call Fox at 955-8888, ext. 1026, or visit www.scalebackalabama.com.

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Courtesy photo

Master's earned

Torri West, right, a safety engineer in AMCOM Safety Office, graduated from the LOGTECH MBA program Dec. 16 at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. At left is AMCOM safety chief Pat Vittitow. The LOGTECH MBA education program is a joint effort of the Center of Excellence in Logistics and Technology (LOGTECH), managed by the Institute for Defense and Business; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School; and Indiana University, Kelley School of Business. The Army Materiel Command is the DoD executive agent for the program. The two-year program consists of approximately 48 credit hours of academic coursework accomplished through a combination of distance learning and short campus residencies (three residencies in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and a 10-day study residency in Europe).



Retired colonel helped apprehend Tucson shooter

By ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — During the harrowing events that took place Jan. 8 in Tucson, Ariz., several witnesses to Jared Lee Loughner's alleged shooting rampage intervened, possibly saving more lives.

One of those who reacted quickly was retired Col. William Badger, a 74-year-old resident of Tucson who spent 38 years in the Army.

Badger, an Army pilot whose assignments included being chief of aviation for the National Guard at the Pentagon, attributed his actions during the shooting to his military training. The retired colonel joined the South Dakota Army National Guard in 1953, and after serving part time for 20 years, applied for active duty where he continued to serve until 1991.

"I'm proud of my military service and this was a tragic event," Badger said in an interview Jan. 12. "I want people to know that it was my military background, my military training that made me do what I did."

Badger, who holds slightly different political views from U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, said he had written to her on several occasions.

"She's been exceptionally good at getting back to me and trying to accomplish what's best for the military," Badger explained.

The retired colonel had never met the congresswoman, so he thought the Jan. 8 event at a nearby Safeway grocery store would be a good opportunity.

Badger said that when he arrived at the Safeway, there wasn't a big crowd, but there were some people sitting in a line of chairs waiting to meet Giffords.

Just as he turned to get into the line, he heard a loud "bang, bang, bang," which he initially thought was the sound of fireworks — until he saw a man with a gun in his outstretched hand.

"The people in the chairs were falling to the ground, and jumping to the ground trying to get down out of the way, and I did the same thing," Badger said. "I dropped to the ground, and I was a little bit stung, but I didn't realize I'd been hit."

Badger's head had in fact been grazed by a bullet, and because of his blood-thinning medication, he began bleeding steadily. After hearing about an additional 20 shots fired, the gunman stopped, and Badger assumed the assault was over.

Badger began to stand up, but as he did, the shooter walked directly in front of him, apparently reaching for another clip of rounds to inflict more damage.

Just then, another bystander swung at the gunman with a folding chair, giving Badger a chance to grab the assailant's left wrist and hit him between the shoulders. Together Badger and another man about Badger's age took Loughner to the ground, while a woman grabbed Loughner's final clip. The two men pinned the shooter

to the pavement, with Badger's hand around the shooter's throat, until authorities arrived.

After Loughner was taken into custody, Badger was taken to a nearby hospital for an immediate MRI, but the three-inch graze didn't penetrate the skull or cause any brain damage.

"I'm the luckiest person in the world, and have been my whole life," Badger said regarding his wound. "Someone told me I better go and buy a lottery ticket, but I told them to still be alive is like winning the lottery."

Although Badger never served during combat, he said what he learned in the Army is still ingrained in him.

"My military training led me to just respond instantly," he said.

Badger said after he retired, he continued to stay physically fit, just as he had while on active duty.

He doesn't think it's anything special that a man of his age was able to help physically take down a 22-year-old on a shooting rampage. In fact, Badger dismisses his own heroics, insisting he didn't even have time to think before acting.

"It would have been entirely different if he had been standing straight up, and I was by myself," Badger said, naming the person who hit Loughner with a chair as the real hero.

And while Badger assures he is relatively unscathed, he is baffled at how the shooter, who was once rejected from military service, gained possession of weapons that are only available for law enforcement.

"You just can't visualize something like this happening," Badger explained.

"Something has to be done so that nothing like this ever happens again," Badger said, noting that he's volunteered to be on a committee to conduct research on stopping events like the Jan. 8 happening. "I want to continue to be involved in this."



International security forces engage insurgents

By ISAF Joint Command-Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Numerous insurgents were killed Jan. 12 by International Security Assistance Forces in eastern and southern Afghanistan.

In Logar province, an ISAF patrol declared an imminent threat when they spotted two armed insurgents moving in a historical fighting location in Charkh district. After gaining positive identification, coalition forces engaged the enemy position with small arms fire, killing the insurgents.

In Nangarhar province, an ISAF forward operating base was engaged by insurgents with indirect fire in Khugyani district. Coalition forces identified the enemy position and called for air support. After gaining positive identification, the air weapons team on scene engaged the enemy position, killing numerous insurgents.

During an ISAF patrol, coalition forces observed several insurgents employing an improvised explosive device in Sangin district, Helmand province. After establishing positive identification, coalition forces engaged and killed several insurgents. Afterward, coalition forces moved toward the enemy position and discovered a cache of IED-making components.

In the same area, an ISAF combat outpost was engaged by several insurgents with small arms fire. After gaining positive identification, coalition forces returned with effective fire, killing one insurgent and dispersing the others.

Also Jan. 12, Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF discovered several caches during separate clearing operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan.

In Kunar province, an Afghan National Police patrol found a weapons and

IED-chemicals cache in Dangam district. The cache consisted of 12 107 mm rockets, 15 rolls of detonation cord and 1,322 pounds (600 kilograms) of ammonium nitrate.

During a combined patrol, Afghan National Police and ISAF found a weapons cache in Zharay district, Kandahar province. The cache consisted of 14 anti-personnel mines, three anti-tank mines, one Rocket-Propelled Grenade warhead and detonation cord.

In Kandahar province, an ISAF patrol found a large weapons cache in Spin Boldak district consisting of 50 artillery rounds, 10 rockets and several spare mortar parts.

Initial reports indicated no civilians were injured and no damage was reported during the clearing operations. The weapons, chemicals and drugs from all the provinces were confiscated and were to be destroyed.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace

Soldiers take cover as they receive fire on a riverbed near Combat Outpost Delorean in Bala Murghab province, Afghanistan, Jan. 9. The Soldiers are assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade.

Workers urged to seek earned income tax credit

More workers could be eligible for a special tax credit this year and not know it. As a result, they may overlook claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, which can put anywhere from \$2 to more than \$5,600 into their pockets.

EITC is the magic credit and all you do is ask if you qualify when having your return prepared. You might just be one of the lucky ones who hits the jackpot with a larger refund. You don't even have to pay taxes to qualify, but you do have to work.

People move into and out of EITC eligibility based on changes in their earnings, their parental status or their marital status according to Herb Hayes, Alabama Taxpayer Advocate Panel representative.

"Many people will qualify for the first time this year due to economic changes in their incomes," he said.

Hayes encourages anyone who earned \$48,362 or less from wages, self-employment or farming in 2010 to see if they qualify. Eligible 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.

"IRS estimates four out of five eligible workers claim their EITC. We want to raise that to five out of five," Hayes said. "You earned it. Now file, claim it and get it."

Taxpayers have several choices for free help determining their EITC eligibility and claiming the credit. Many communities have volunteer income tax assistance sites, including Redstone Arsenal. To locate a site, call your community's 211 or 311 number for local services or call the IRS at 1-800-906-9887.

Help is also available at IRS

Taxpayer Assistance Centers, also referred to as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites. Many locations are online at www.irs.gov.

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 is a financial boost for working people hit by hard economic times," Hayes said. "This is money that can make their lives a little easier, especially families with three or more children who get an extra boost with a larger credit this year."

He also said his work with recently unemployed, underemployed and retirees coming back into the work force will find that EITC is a real benefit to their financial needs. But like most government benefits, each person must claim those benefits to receive them.

Annual wild game feast returns to roots

Sportsmen's Luncheon rejoins Rustic Lodge

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Redstone Arsenal's hunters are coming home for their very own Thanksgiving.

For more than 20 years, Outdoor Recreation has gathered with the men, women and families that know the hunting grounds of the Arsenal like the back of their hand each winter to celebrate a successful hunting season and enjoy a home cooked meal.

Come Jan. 28, they will gather once more to celebrate the fruits of their labor with a shrimp boil, hushpuppies, coleslaw, fruit crisps and all the wild game they can eat.

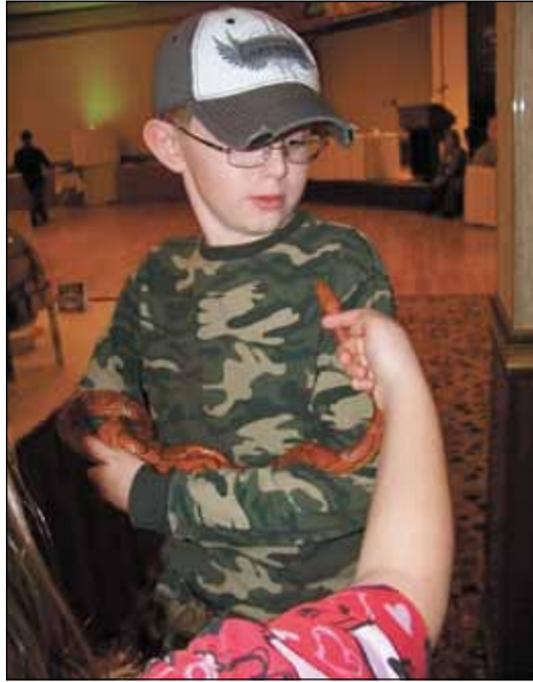
"This is the chance to enjoy the bounty of our harvest, our Thanksgiving you might say," Bill Moreland, manager of Outdoor Recreation, said.

Previously known as the Wild Game Cookout, this year's FMWR Outdoor Recreation Sportsmen's Luncheon moves to a new time and location – from an evening event at the Officers and Civilians Club to a luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rustic Lodge. While the time and place are different, all the fun is the same, complete with a snake show, wild game chili cookoff and door prizes.

"A lot of our hunters like this because this is where our roots are," Moreland said of the event's venue change. "Our hunters feel at home at the Lodge. They're excited to go back to the days where it began."

Outdoor Recreation, with the help of their hunters and staff of the O' Club will begin the fun Thursday evening, as they fire up the ovens, grills and smokers and prepare a range of wild game including bear, elk, antelope, duck and wild hog, cooking all through the night. While absent from this year's menu is some of the more exotic meats they've had in recent years, a lot of the items found on the all-you-can-eat buffet will come directly from the Arsenal's backyard, including fish, wild turkey and venison.

"We've really centralized this into



Courtesy photo

Will Pyburn handles a snake at the 2010 Wild Game Cookout. This year's event will be held Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rustic Lodge, complete with an all-you-can-eat wild game buffet, and of course, snake show.

mostly things we harvest here on Redstone," Moreland said.

Back again this year as part of the event is the Wild Game Chili Cookoff. Guests are invited to bring a pot of chili for tasting and judging; chili must include some type of wild game. Those in need of some wild game may contact Outdoor Recreation for some ground venison or sausage to add to their recipe at no charge.

The RSA Sportsmen's Luncheon will be held Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rustic Lodge and is open to anyone with access to the Arsenal. Sponsored by Woody Anderson Ford and Gander Mountain, cost of the luncheon is \$15 for RSA permit-carrying hunters and their family members, \$20 for those without a permit, children 12 years and under free. Tickets may be purchased from Outdoor Recreation, building 5138 on Sportsman Drive, phone 876-4868. Only 175 tickets will be sold. Assistance will be made available the day of the event for those with parking problems or motorists who may need help getting up the hill.

Gates says China relations ready for next level



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

Defense secretary Robert Gates talks with the press on the Great Wall of China in Mutianyu, China, Jan. 12. Gates wrapped up a four-day trip to China by visiting the People's Liberation Army 2nd Artillery Group and the Great Wall.

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

MUTIANYU, China — Defense secretary Robert Gates ended his meetings in China Jan. 12, saying the discussions he had with Chinese officials will take the military-to-military relationship between the two countries to the next level.

Gates ended his trip with a visit to the Great Wall. Perhaps the largest defense project in the world, the wall snakes along ridge lines north of Beijing.

In the morning, Gates visited the headquarters of the People's Liberation Army 2nd Artillery Corps. The corps has control of China's nuclear weapons and the means to control them.

Gates spoke to reporters traveling with him atop the Great Wall. He praised the visit and his Chinese hosts. During his visit, he met with Chinese president Hu Jintao, vice president Xi Jinping, Gen. Xu Caihou, the vice chairman of the Central Military Committee, national defense minister Gen. Liang Guanglie and foreign minister Yang Jiechi.

"The discussions were productive and set the stage for taking the military-to-military relationship to the next level," the secretary said.

Gates said he had "very candid" con-

versations with Gen. Jing Zhiyuan, commander of the 2nd Artillery Corps, and that Jing accepted his invitation to visit the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., later this year.

"This is part of the step-by-step process of building this relationship," the secretary said.

Gates stressed repeatedly during his visit to Beijing that enhancing the military-to-military relationship will take time and will require commitment on both sides to maintain it, regardless of which way the political winds blow.

During the discussions at the 2nd Artillery Corps, Gates said, U.S. and Chinese leaders discussed Chinese nuclear policy and its overall approach to nuclear conflict.

"We talked about their no-first-use policy, about command and control and several other subjects," the secretary said. "I felt that it was a wide-ranging and a pretty open conversation."

Overall, the secretary said, he was pleased with the reception he received from Chinese officials.

"What came across to me is both the military and civilian leadership seemed determined to carry this relationship further and build upon it," he said. "Are there those who have issues with it? Possibly, but I didn't meet them on my trip, and I'm very encouraged going forward."

Faith resolves can bring year of growth

Chaplain advises living graciously

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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The new year has begun. Have you started your resolutions yet? Or, have you broken your resolutions yet?

If you are like most new year revelers, making those resolutions on New Year's Eve is a lot easier than following through with them during the year.

So, Garrison chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie has a better idea. Instead of making resolutions, make a resolve to live a better and more spiritual life in 2011. "Most resolutions we make are self-directed — get thinner, work smarter, be stronger, take control of your life. We want to make changes that will help us, improve us and bring us good feelings about ourselves," he said.

"Instead of resolutions to live 2011 in a way that makes us feel good about ourselves, that brings ourselves pleasure, what if we resolve to live a life that brings pleasure to God? What if we were to forget the little resolutions and resolve something big? What if we were to resolve to live in 2011 so that in January of 2012 God can look back at our year of living and declare: 'Your life brings me great pleasure. Well-done, good and faithful friend.'"

Luckie feels so strongly about the power of resolve in deepening faith, that he made it a topic of his sermon at Bicentennial Chapel in early January, just in time to grab the attention of those who have made 2011 resolutions.

"A lot of times resolutions turn into berating ourselves because we didn't go to the gym this week or we didn't lose those extra five pounds we promised," he said.

"Resolve comes from the true self, from our soul, wherever creativity comes from. Resolve comes from a person who is truly open to making a difference in the world. When we're creative, our sense of well-being goes up and our sense of happiness goes up and our sense of contribution goes up."

New Year's resolutions are often temporary fixes that lead to failure and an easy brush-off explanation — "I may not have lost five pounds, but I did exercise"; "I didn't clean the closet, but there's probably a lot of good things in there that I need to keep anyway"; or "I didn't get my income taxes done until April 15, but I really don't want to give the government its due until the very last minute."

As a contrast, a resolve to live a deeper faith comes with big rewards and significant consequences.

"The absolute best thing we can ever know in life is that we have lived in such a way that it brings God great pleasure," Luckie said.

"But what happens if the life you lead in 2011 fails to live up to God's expectations? As wonderful as it would be to hear God say one day, 'I've tracked your life and ministry. You bring me great pleasure,' so horrifying and devastating it would be to hear God say, 'I've tracked your life and ministry. I take no pleasure in you.' Of course, the paradox of our saint/sinner status is that all of us fall short of pleasing God, but that God's grace covers our failures. In other words, each one of us hears two opposite things at the same time: 'You have failed me. You are perfect.'"

Committing to being a recipient of God's pleasure — and to deepen faith — can revolve around three resolves for 2011, Luckie said.

The first resolve? Please God.

Seeking God's praise and pleasure is much more rewarding than seeking to please other people or even ourselves, Luckie said.

"We all know 'people pleasers,' those who will do almost anything to be stroked and petted. People pleasers will turn themselves inside/out, promise anything, complain never, in order to win the approval, gain the applause, receive the end-of-the-month bonus. No matter what it takes, no matter what they have to do, it's all worth it to win the approval of others," Luckie said.

Living as a God pleaser means finding ways to reach out to people that society has forgotten, standing for righteousness in a world the often lacks true faith and justice, following the heart instead of the norm.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Instead of New Year's resolutions that are set up for failure, Garrison chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie urges people of faith to grow closer to God in 2011 by resolving to please God, seek out righteousness and live graciously.

"People-pleasing encourages us to avoid the glare from heaven, to keep our eyes down to earth, focused on the bottom line, fixated on the most accessible and easy," Luckie said.

"God-pleasing urges us to look far forward, to envision the possible and dream the improbable. Start a small urban garden, not because it will halt global warming, but because it will grow as much community spirit as it will tomatoes and lettuce. You might not change the world by choosing to be God-pleasing instead of people-pleasing, but you will change yourself."

The second resolve is to seek out road signs of righteousness.

"For those of us who follow Christ there is a prayer each of us can utter at the start of every new endeavor: 'Oh God, make a dead-end street at every turn that does not lead to you,'" Luckie said.

The minister does not view dead-ends as endings. Rather, they are places to turn around, reconsider, readjust and restart.

"The difference between a 'dead-end' and a 'fresh start' is all in your attitude," Luckie said. "If we are convinced that Jesus is guiding our footsteps, leading us down the path of pleasing God, then our reaction to 'dead-ends' should be 'Thank you, Jesus!' not 'Why me?' If we make our primary directive in life to 'Please God,' then we should pray that at every fork in the road, at every turn in our life, we should walk towards Christ, not away from him."

The new year has already started with some really bad roads to travel. Natural disasters, terror on U.S. streets, national budget issues, high unemployment, rising oil prices, war and conflicts that never seem to be resolved both on personal

See Faith on page 11

Faith

continued from page 10

and professional levels all seem like big failures of society. But Luckie sees them as road signs, of places where people can turn around and find their faith.

“When we run into the bumps in the road, a crisis in life, we feel like God’s abandoned us when actually it’s a turn-around point. God wants us to go in another direction,” he said. “A dead-end sign is a road sign designed by God to give us the opportunity to make an about face, and go back and find the road we missed. It’s a chance to make a course correction in our lives. The road back to Jesus is never out of range no matter how many wrong turns we’ve taken.”

The third resolve is to live graciously.

“Gracious people make you feel at home, make you feel welcome,” he said. “Gracious people look after others more than they look after themselves. The greatest commandment is to love God and to love others more than ourselves.”

Living a gracious life means showing the love of Christ to the world, even if that world comes in the shape of a smelly, dirty homeless man, a desperate criminal or even a misdirected co-worker.

“As people of faith, we should reach out to others. In the workplace, we should be concerned about the people working next to us,” Luckie said. “We should ask ourselves how we can assist them, encourage them and applaud them when they are successful. We should be open to sharing our stories

of crisis, God’s intervention and accomplishment. There are people out there who need to hear our stories. Our stories can be transforming in their lives, they can resonate in their heart and soul.”

Those brief conversations over morning coffee at work can be a place to share messages of hope and encouragement. Sharing stories over lunch or being a sounding board for an employee’s personal or professional issues are other ways to share God’s message.

“A brief moment can make all the difference in the world,” Luckie said. “It’s not about being evangelistic, but about being available.”

Living graciously also means accepting people wherever they are in their walk of faith.

“We all enter our faith at a different level. Some of us are exploring what faith is all about. Some are growing their faith. Some are very close and centered on their faith,” Luckie said. “Everybody brings different talents, abilities and skills to the team. Are we gracious enough to accept people where they are in their faith and to walk with them?”

In today’s society where headlines scream the hurts of the world, Luckie said it is more important than ever for people to grow their faith.

“People who believe there is a purpose in life, that God can guide and point them in the right direction, know that even in the midst of the worst trials, God’s graciousness is transforming,” he said. “People of faith can overcome tragedy and adversities knowing God will give them strength.”

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'I wanted to be in a position to make a difference'

Ex-Garrison commander wins seat on Huntsville city council

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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He didn't know it at the time, but Redstone Arsenal offered John Olshefski, then a colonel, much more than a Garrison command position.

It also offered him a good training ground for what would become his future after the Army.

Olshefski retired from the Army after serving in the demanding and challenging role of Garrison commander for three years. It wasn't long before he resurfaced as a District 3 candidate for the Huntsville City Council, emerging at the top of a field of eight candidates and then going on to win the seat in a runoff election in late 2010.

Though he served his country in the Army for 27 years, Olshefski's drive to continue that service on behalf of the public was born out of his last Army assignment as the "mayor" of Redstone Arsenal from June 2005 to July 2008, where he led the Garrison's efforts to provide infrastructure and various support services for a growing Arsenal community.

"It was the Garrison commander's job that did it for me," he said. "I loved serving as the mayor of Redstone. When I retired, I missed taking care of people, and taking care of the small and big issues that affected the Redstone community. I missed working with various people and groups on solving issues that affected people's quality of life."

In early November, Olshefski, 52, was sworn in as the District 3 city councilman, representing south Huntsville. In the short time he has held the office, he has become aware of the working differences between his Garrison assignment and an elected official's assignment.

"I don't have a full staff as a member of the city council that I had as the Garrison commander," he said. "Serving on the city council is a part-time job with full-time responsibilities. I would certainly like to serve the city full time, but I don't make enough money to represent the city full time."

"I am trying to break the mold. Many of those who run for office are retired and wealthy. They have made politics into a rich man's sport. I am not retired and I am not a rich man."

But Olshefski is quick to point out that Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle's staff is responsive to queries from a city councilman. Olshefski, himself, has made many of those queries as he has worked to become more familiar with the issues facing Huntsville and the district he represents, and to ensure he makes the right decisions as the city confronts concerns that will shape its future, such as the Huntsville City Schools budget crisis and managing the city's growth in the face of a tough national economy.

"It can overwhelm you," Olshefski said. "There are serious issues that we must address. I have been welcomed on the city council as bringing a new perspective to the council. I have experience running something (Redstone Arsenal Garrison) that is almost as big as what I am doing now on the city council. People have been welcoming, but they are also wondering what I'm up to, if I have a hidden agenda. But I am not that way."

Olshefski is not new to the spotlight or to the demands of leadership. In the short time he has been on the council, his profile in the local media has skyrocketed. He is known for being blunt and direct about how to solve problems. He is also known for working against the norm, for wanting to achieve more, for wanting to use his leadership abilities developed in the Army. And he is certainly not ready for the retired life.

"I might be the first ever with Department of Defense experience on the city council," he said. "When you retire from the military, most retirees are looking for a paycheck, so they have to get a job. Those first three to five years after retiring from the military are the most financially lucrative. They are your best opportunity to reach financial goals. Most military retirees also want to relax and chill in their off time because many have made a lot of sacrifices while in service to their country. But I didn't want any of that."

With the determination of a retired colonel, Olshefski is ready to make a difference on the public level.

"I knew in the fall of 2009 that I wanted to be in a position to make a difference," he said. "I wanted to do something in the realm of what I did in my assignment with the Garrison."

"Coming to Redstone Arsenal was a gift to me. My career had me in command of 3,000 Soldiers. But, then I was given the gift of being in command at Redstone. It didn't take a month before I realized what a gift



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Col. John Olshefski is using his military background to help lead Huntsville as the newest elected member of the Huntsville City Council.

I had, what an opportunity I had to make a difference."

Olshefski, a 1980 Citadel graduate whose ordnance assignments included far-off places like Saudi Arabia and Korea, definitely made a difference on Redstone. During his three years as Garrison commander, he managed more than \$250 million in annual expenditures to provide services to a growing number of Arsenal tenants. He was the first Redstone Garrison commander to work on the successful execution of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations that have involved more than \$875 million in funding for construction and movement, more than 21,000 new residents coming to the Tennessee Valley, and infrastructure plans in support of those moves.

Olshefski was also Garrison commander during the early days of the Enhanced Use Lease project that will bring 3 million square feet of commercially developed office, research and academic space to the northwest

section of the Arsenal. He was Garrison commander when the Residential Communities Initiative for the revitalization of Army housing was implemented at Redstone, and when the development of the Team Redstone concept was initiated to identify the collective group of Redstone Arsenal and Tennessee Valley communities involved in responding to the BRAC initiative. He also was involved in the execution of a Redstone Arsenal master plan that involves more than \$730 million of ongoing and planned construction.

"Redstone was a wonderful assignment. BRAC 2005 had not happened yet. The announcement came two or three months before I came here," he said. "I was blessed with two great bosses (then AMCOM commanders Jim Pillsbury and Jim Myles). General Pillsbury told me to go out and make things happen. General Myles let me continue in doing my job."

So, when he did retire, Olshefski

See Council on page 13

Council

continued from page 12

felt the letdown of leaving command leadership. He couldn't replicate it in the work force, even though he held positions of change first at the Army Materiel Command, then with BFA Systems and now with Navigator Development Group as a business development executive. And, although his position with Navigator provides plenty of opportunities to build working relationships for the company, he wanted more. That more became a political career.

"I knew if I ever had aspirations in anything in the game of politics, I needed to start on the ground floor," Olshefski said. "In the Army, I didn't just start out as a colonel. I started as a second lieutenant. So, I decided I could start my political career with the city council."

With incumbent Sandra Moon opting not to run for re-election, Olshefski made the District 3 council seat his target. In a field of eight candidates, the race was fast-paced, demanding, worry-inducing and always interesting. Olshefski took on the race like any colonel would, using matrixes to develop a plan, organizing the district into grids and strategizing how to gain the most votes. Yet, he found the race quite challenging.

"I didn't realize the magnitude of the campaign process," Olshefski said. "It was one of the hardest things I've done in my life. It was a field of seven people plus me. I compared the whole campaign process to the hardest I worked leading Soldiers in the military. The difference is in the military you have a full staff while here I had volunteers. I started a new chapter in my life's book – a chapter about leading volunteers."

But he was successful in this new venture. Although his wife Sharon was his number one volunteer, he gained many more from his Army days, and then there were those within the community who provided lots of support. He recalled the Saturday morning neighborhood sweeps when he asked volunteers to go door-to-door with his message. Those mornings always brought out groups of 15 or so volunteers.

"They bought into the campaign and the process. They wanted me to win," Olshefski said. "I had to do two things in the campaign. I had to get votes and I had to raise money. I had the name recognition because of my Redstone days. South Huntsville is dominated by 55-plus year old residents and a very strong military retir-

ee community. I had more of an advantage because of that. So, it wasn't hard asking for votes. But it was harder asking for money.

"I liked getting out and talking to people. I am still the new guy here. I've only been here for two years. I'm still learning the streets. So, it was good to get out and talk to people, to show them I didn't have ulterior motives. I only care about my district, about Huntsville and about Redstone Arsenal."

These days he has two offices – one in city hall and the other at his place of business on the downtown square. He encourages residents to contact him with their concerns, and even has a Facebook page for easy accessibility.

As a city councilman, Olshefski said the number one priority should be education.

"Education is the most critical piece to our future. If we don't have educational strength in our community, who is going to move here, who is going to live here," he said.

He also wants to work for the revitalization of south Huntsville and road improvements. He wants to work on issues involving Ditto Landing and the Huntsville Housing Authority. And then there are looming budget issues.

"It's going to get tough because we are concerned about the financial side of the issues, too," he said. "We have to learn to do more with less. In the Army, we had to learn that, too. At Redstone, we had to make the hard calls when funding didn't match the budget. You've got to be able to prioritize and make decisions between what people want and what you can provide. You've got to be able to do the right thing and make the hard choices."

As he becomes more involved in his elected position, Olshefski knows his military experience will serve him well. Not only did his Garrison command provide him with experience at solving community issues, his military travels gave him an international perspective and his leadership experience has given him the tools to manage through any issue or crisis.

"My work in the Army prepared me for this," he said. "Even though I was retired from the Army, I wasn't ready to give up leadership. I wanted to go to the next level. I wanted to continue leading."

"I want to be an elected official who really helps. I am very comfortable with what I can do on the city council. This is what I want to do. I want to be the best city councilman I can be."

Program helps Soldiers return to duty after brain injury



Photo by Ashley Bateman

Rachael Taft, physical therapist at Bamberg's mild Traumatic Brain Injury clinic, explains the Balance Manager System to visiting guest, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Connecticut Gil Sanborn in February 2010. The machine aids in the assessment of whether a patient with mTBI has a damaged inner ear, which directly affects balance. Taft gauges the magnitude of the damage to assist in developing a personalized recovery program.

By **ASHLEY BATEMAN**
USAG Bamberg

BAMBERG, Germany — Since 2000, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center has counted 178,876 cases of Traumatic Brain Injury amongst U.S. military personnel. Seventy-seven percent of those cases were determined to be mild. Based on these numbers, the number of confirmed cases of TBIs has surpassed recorded cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by nearly 100,000.

The Army has responded to these numbers by increasing behavioral health and clinic services, teaching Soldiers to recognize evidence of TBI or PTSD in themselves and their battle buddies and implementing treatment programs at installations across the globe.

Warner Barracks established a mild Traumatic Brain Injury program more than two years ago, working alongside behavioral health employees. Eventually the need for more space and equipment led the program to move to its own facility, occupying Preston Hall in late 2009.

Soon after the move, Sindy McCord, occupational therapist at the clinic, flew to Fort Campbell, Ky., to observe one of the Army's top mTBI courses, the Warrior Resiliency Program.

The program, one that Bamberg's mTBI clinic has imitated, is a dynamic assessment and progression program meant to assist Soldiers who have sustained an mTBI and want to return to active duty service.

The Warrior Resiliency Program, and now Bamberg's Return to Duty program, utilize a team of health care professionals to assess and observe Soldiers during simulated war zone and training scenarios. Based on a Soldier's functionality through simulated fire fights and other training events, the team determines their physical and mental preparedness to return to active duty.

McCord realized after her trip that this aspect of rehabilitating Soldiers was missing from Bamberg's program.

"It certainly was a benefit to have support from the Fort Campbell staff and model their ideas," McCord said. "Bamberg is a much smaller community so we have tailored our program to run differently."

McCord contacted Bamberg's Training and Support Center Director Daniel Cintron.

"This allowed me to coordinate access to the training area where we provide real-life simulated scenarios," McCord said. "Also, gaining the support of the command at the health clinic allowed us to access one of the medics on staff to be an integral part of the team."

Military personnel, particularly medics, have been key in determining interaction between Soldiers in the scenarios.

"Another factor that shaped the program is the Soldiers themselves in sharing what Soldier skills could be used to assess their ability to perform their duties," McCord said.

One of those Soldiers is Sgt. Juan Tovar, 630th Military Police Company. Having graduated from the Bamberg mTBI clinic's rehabilitation program in early fall, Tovar helped program personnel create realistic training and war zone situations.

"I helped Sindy come up with different scenarios and told her things that we might go through or experience downrange," Tovar said. "I used my personal experience and basic training. We've mixed that into some of the things in Return to Duty, some of the scenarios."

The coordination of various post organizations is crucial to provide Return to Duty participants with the proper equipment, space and personnel.

McCord said with the support of TASC and the command, "we are able to provide realistic challenges and have military medical support to provide insight into their performance. We recently have had unit commands join us in communication on developing this program and that military support will enhance the process greatly."

See Injury on page 15

Injury

continued from page 14

According to experts, the effects of an mTBI, if caught in time, can be completely reversed.

“The majority of individuals with mTBI recover within 90 days of their initial injury,” Dr. Juan Hill, neuropsychologist, said. “Since many of the cases that we treat are complicated by issues such as physical injury, traumatic stress and general post-deployment adjustment concerns, their care is somewhat more complicated, and generally requires the concerted effort of a number of different specialties. Since our opening, we have successfully returned several service men and women back to duty and helped them to reintegrate back into the general military community over time.”

“Given the right environment, support and treatment a mild Traumatic Brain event usually heals and does not become a life-long issue,” Dr. Kuno P. Zimmer-

mann said. “Our goal with this program is to provide the support, rehabilitation and reintegration.”

Tovar was able to receive treatment at the clinic, but is concerned that too many Soldiers are ignoring or not recognizing mTBI symptoms in themselves.

“If a Soldier is coming back from downrange and someone’s saying something’s wrong with you, or different, whether it’s family members, a spouse or another Soldier, there might be,” Tovar said. “You think you know yourself but sometimes someone else sees something different. It’s at least worth getting checked out.”

Similar to the set up of the mTBI rehabilitation program, Return to Duty is a three stages program.

First, the team determines if a Soldier needs to participate in mTBI rehabilitation and then through collaboration with the Soldier it is determined if he or she needs to participate in all

the phases of the Return to Duty tasks, said Rachael Taft, physical therapist.

Units from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team stationed in Bamberg have already shown interest in the program. The brigade just returned from a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

The clinic will be hosting a Return to Duty demo for unit leaders.

“They are interested in involvement on a weekly basis to monitor progress of their Soldiers who are enrolled in the program,” McCord said.

The assessing health care team includes a variety of specialties. As an OT, McCord’s role is vital in preparing rehabilitation procedures geared toward a workplace environment.

“Occupational performance is the driving force for the development of the program, assessing Soldier functional abilities at work,” McCord said. “Specifically OT comments on the cogni-

tive, visual and fine motor skills, while physical therapy observes balance and vestibular reactions and the mental health team would be involved to manage psychological stress and anxiety. We are observing safety, judgment, generally how well they adapt to the stressful environment.”

As the clinic program continues to develop, there is a desire to incorporate PTSD exposure therapy, McCord added.

For some Soldiers, mTBI treatment has made a huge difference in their careers.

“This is something that can really help,” Tovar said. “I got the help I needed and I’m back to training Soldiers and patrolling Bamberg.”

For now, Return to Duty will focus on activating Soldiers who will go through scenarios as a small unit. Other advances at the mTBI clinic include the development of a video connection for web-based conferences or consultations between staff members at various locations.

Contract management program serves Army posts

By Brig. Gen. THOMAS HORLANDER
Installation Management Command

Today's defense leaders are faced with a daunting challenge. Simply stated, the nation's economy cannot sustain the level of defense spending that the country has experienced since the attacks of Sept. 11th. Over the past decade, the U.S. defense budget has more than doubled. The Army's top line has more than tripled, growing from \$78 billion in 2000 at a meteoric pace to over \$250 billion in 2009. A growth of this speed and magnitude cannot be achieved through rapid organizational change in a bureaucratic giant like the Department of Defense.

Therefore, much of this growth, by design has come in the way of contracts: staff augmentation contracts, service contracts, weapon system procurement contracts and large enterprise systems acquired through contracts. In virtually every aspect of national security, contractors are present and contributing. From Highly Qualified Executives, think tanks and expert advisory/consulting services at the highest levels of defense, to aviation and vehicle mechanics, groundskeepers and dishwashers at the tactical level, an outsourced capability is integral to virtually every operation.

The National Security apparatus' dependence on contracted capability has never been greater in our nation's history. In the Army alone, taxpayers spend over 50 percent of the service's annual budget on outsourced capabilities (contracts), spending on the average over \$400 million a day on contracted capabilities and the Army's ability to manage these contracts has not grown commensurate with its dependence on them.

The Army's Installation Management Command represents a microcosm of this dependence, spending over 50 percent of its Base Operation Support funding on service contracts. The other major capability areas in the Installation Management Community are also very heavily contracted. These include: the Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization of the Army's existing infrastructure; Army Family Housing Operations, which is almost totally privatized and operated by a contractor; Military Construction of new buildings and real property to replace those that have outlived their life span or to support key legislation like Base Realignment and Closure and the growth and movement of Army formations to other operating bases; and the support to Overseas Contingency Operations, ensuring the Army's deploying and redeploying formations from the theater of war are fully supported and prepared to conduct their mission throughout the Army Force Generation continuum and that their families at home are well-cared for.

To ensure the Army maximizes its purchasing power throughout its installations and exacts a greater level of fiscal discipline, IMCOM developed and implemented a comprehensive contract management program to empower its leaders to better manage and resource its installation services contracts. Commonly referred to as SIECMP (Services and Infrastructure Enterprise Contract Management Program), the program was imple-

mented in 2009 and has matured as an invaluable tool that has allowed key leaders at the Garrison and IMCOM headquarters level to make better, fiscally informed contracting and resourcing decisions about the Army's installation's services.

Implemented properly, the program provides the leader/decision maker full contract visibility and a holistic view of the outsourced capabilities that his/her organization depends on and thereby providing him/her the ability to make more fiscally and operationally sound sourcing decisions.

IMCOM developed SIECMP as a leader's program and built it, founded on three fundamental Lines of Effort. LOE 1 was to establish a structured management program. To achieve this, IMCOM developed a Contract Management Contract Officer position and authorized each garrison to hire one individual that provided the leadership a dedicated manager to help the garrison manage the entire contracting spectrum from requirements generation and validation to contract execution and closure. Within this LOE lies the most important facet of SIECMP — the periodic conduct of Contract Planning and Review Boards at established intervals that complement and inform both operational and resourcing activities in an organization.

Finally, the command would seek over time to develop and mature a comprehensive contract database that could serve as an authoritative and current source for all the command's service contracts. LOE 2 seeks to leverage Enterprise Sourcing and other available tools to ensure the command maximizes efficiencies by contracting like services in the same manner and where it makes sense, utilizing an enterprise level contracting vehicle that has the potential for large savings (i.e. the storage of privately owned vehicles for deployed Soldiers deploying from continental U.S. installations).

LOE 3 seeks to professionally develop key non-acquisition personnel by conducting full spectrum training for leadership and management personnel. Currently, the command conducts CMSO training via Defense Connect Online, has instructed the program at command level symposiums and forums to mid-level management and has integrated instruction about the SIECMP in key executive leadership courses like the General Officer Senior Commander's Course and the Garrison Commander's Course.

While the command has realized varying degrees of success and progress within each of these three LOEs, the progress is evident in the

program's first year of operations as Garrisons conducted five SIECMP Quarterly Contract Review Boards and reported identifying cost avoidance and savings estimated at approximately \$50 million.

With just a little over a full year in operation at the Garrison level, SIECMP still has room for improvement and greater opportunities for the installation management community. The keys to its continued success are contingent upon the same leaders who rely upon it to empower them to make sound contracting and resourcing decisions.

Deployed with a dedicated staff (i.e. CMSO), key leadership involvement, disciplined review, analysis and reporting, and integrating it into the organization's resource management program are tantamount to its success and maximizing its benefit to an organization. SIECMP is not without precedence and is applicable at virtually every level in any environment. Similar programs have been deployed in tactical and operational units and in a deployed environment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with excellent results.

SIECMP is a powerful tool to aid commanders in one of their fundamental duties of being good stewards of the Army's resources while providing quality installation services to the Soldiers, families and civilians we are privileged to serve.

The Army's ability to fiscally sustain itself as the world's premier fighting force is dependent on key programs like SIECMP and others to ensure leaders have the capability to make sound and timely sourcing and resourcing decisions that fully support ARFORGEN operations and other key operating and generating force requirements while maximizing the purchasing power of a decreasing budget.

To learn more about IMCOM's Services and Infrastructure Enterprise Contract Management Program, log on to <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/604044> or contact Chris Greiman (IMCOM G8 SIECMP program manager) at christopher.greiman@us.army.mil, phone (210) 424-8792 or Kathy Thomas (IMCOM G8 Acquisition and Sourcing Division chief) at kathy.j.thomas@us.army.mil, phone (201) 424-8620.

Editor's note: Brig. Gen. Thomas Horlander, the Installation Management Command G8/resource manager, has developed and deployed contract management programs in several resource management assignments during his career.



Army chief applauds Corpus Christi depot

By ED MICKLEY

Corpus Christi Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the 36th chief of staff of the Army, made his first visit to tour Corpus Christi Army Depot on Jan. 10 and thanked the work force.

On a nationwide tour of Army bases, Casey wanted to get a firsthand look at the rotary wing production capabilities, review new facilities under construction and meet the employees.

Casey packed in hundreds of handshakes around briefs on depot cost-saving programs that ensure war fighter support while saving taxpayer money.

Starting at one of the newest investments, a fluid cell press, he became a “Depot Honorary Artisan” after making a frame section for the UH-60 saving \$16,889. The innovative press, one of four in the eastern hemisphere, can make parts in minutes as opposed to days on older equipment.

At the Rotary Blade Facility, where main and tail rotor blades for UH-60 Black Hawk, AH-64D Apache and UH-47 Chinook helicopters are repaired,

he shared a story about his visit with a Medevac unit in Afghanistan – that the Soldiers do what they do because they know the helicopters are there to rescue them and transport them to safety.

“But that wouldn’t happen without the work that you all do here,” he said. “This great Army isn’t just great because of its Soldiers; it’s great because of the civilian work force that supports it.”

Casey enjoyed spending time with artisans learning about crash battle damage repair and helicopter overhaul, handing out commemorative coins to many.

Kresten Cook, deputy to the commander for support operations, said the visit from the highest ranking member of the Army was a very special occasion.

“To see him showing his appreciation and support for what we do here means a lot to everybody,” Cook said.

While many employees were hard at work, hundreds of others, off-duty, gathered to hear Casey’s address. He thanked them for their support of the war fighter at a time when “aviation assets are making a huge difference every day in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

After his address, he stayed to visit and shake hands with every employee



Photo by Kiana Allen

Corpus Christi worker Richard Ochoa explains to Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. how the UH-60 blade sheath is bonded to the blade during the repair process at the depot. Each blade repaired saves taxpayers approximately \$90,000.

who wanted to meet him.

“I’m glad to have the opportunity to come here,” Casey said. “I’d heard good

things about the depot when I was a lieutenant colonel. That was in 1988. I’m impressed with the pride I see here.”

NBC 'Today' show airs surprise baby shower



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Jennifer Overmyer, left, wife of Capt. Thomas Overmyer, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, receives a gift cart from a Walmart employee Dec. 23, during Operation Shower. More than 100 pregnant spouses received strollers, diapers and other necessities for newborn babies during a live taping of the "Today" show held at the Commons.

By **JASON CUTSHAW**
Army News Service

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — The nation witnessed Fort Drum's holiday spirit recently when 112 expectant mothers were treated to an early-morning surprise.

NBC's "Today" show hosted a baby shower at the Commons as nearly 50 employees of Walmart Supercenter on Route 11 gave each mother-to-be a stroller full of necessities for their newborns.

"We were contacted to help support approximately 100 expecting mothers, so in just a couple of days we gathered the items and we had nearly 50 volunteer associates stuff the strollers with gifts, and we are going to present them live on the 'Today' show," Cindy Humerickhouse, Evans Mills Walmart store manager, said before the event. "We are very fortunate to be a part of the Fort Drum community, so we are happy to give back to those who serve the nation. We are excited to be able to be a part of this.

"This should be a great surprise, and I would imagine there will be a lot of hugs and a lot of tears," she added.

During their visit, members of the "Today" show staff spoke to several spouses of Soldiers assigned to Fort Drum and spotlighted them and their struggles as they support both their deployed husbands and also their families on post.

"This means a great deal," said Cindy Burseson, wife of Col. Bill Burseson, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander. "I have been a military spouse of almost 21 years, and I have never experienced anything like this. For a show as big as the 'Today' show to come and find the time during this busy holiday season is extremely overwhelming. The spouses are very touched, and I think they are amazed that others are thinking of them during this holiday season."

As members of the "Today" show staff spent time on the installation, they remarked at how amazed they were during a welcome home ceremony and how words could not capture the emotions they witnessed when husbands and wives, parents and children are reunited.

"I have never seen a welcome home ceremony in person, only on television, and there is a whole emotion and a whole emotional connection there that you don't get just watching it on TV," Jeff Kleinman, NBC news cameraman, said. "You can see some of the loneliness of the people there, but then when you see the reunion, it is just so heartwarming.

"Fort Drum was really exciting," he added. "The weather was a little bleaker

than I thought it would be, yet the hearts of everyone was so warm and generous that it warmed you right up."

Another member of the NBC team spoke about how happy they were to show the American public a small glimpse of what Soldiers and family members go through and the sacrifices not only the troops make, but also the sacrifices of those who eagerly await their return.

"My visit here to Fort Drum was fantastic," Mary Ann Zoellner, "Today" show producer, said. "Everyone here is so nice and giving. As I did my research, I found out how much Fort Drum and the Soldiers do for the country, and it was an honor to be here.

"The families and mothers we spoke to were great," she added. "They were very emotional, and it is an emotional time for them, and the support they receive is great. I am amazed at how supportive the community is, and I am so happy I got to be here and be a part of this."

Shortly after speaking with the "Today" show studio, the mothers-to-be were truly surprised as Walmart employees burst through wrapping paper doors to deliver strollers filled to the brim with goodies.

"This is amazing," said Nichole Holobowicz, wife of 1st Lt. Lance Holobowicz, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment. "Sometimes you feel really alone, and to have this makes you feel a little more appreciated for what you do as a military spouse when your husband is deployed.

"It was very exciting to be on national TV," she added. "I had no idea what was going on. They just asked us to show up, smile and look nice. It was a real treat, and I am thankful for everyone who helped make this happen."

Strollers contained items such as diapers, digital cameras, car seats, baby clothes and books.

The gifts were donated by Walmart and coordinated with "Operation Shower," a nonprofit organization that provides baby showers to spouses of Soldiers.

"This is a very exciting day," said Darci Michaud, wife of Capt. Jake Michaud, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment. "Being on national TV was a lot of fun. It was exciting, and it was an opportunity for all of our families across the nation to be able to see us for the holidays, if not in person, at least we can be in their living rooms.

"This is fantastic," she added. "To receive this kind of support around Christmas when some of our husbands are deployed means a lot to us."

Redstone remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*Birthday celebration
scheduled Thursday*

Americans honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s civil rights contributions to the nation during the 25th annual holiday anniversary Jan. 17.

Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration is Thursday 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.

King, known as a clergyman and civil rights leader, was born Jan. 15, 1929, at his family home in Atlanta. Historical accounts list King's many achievements and 13 years of civil rights activities.

King was considered a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement. He was selected to head the Montgomery Improvement Association whose boycott efforts for 381 days from 1955-56 eventually ended the city's policies of racial segregation on public transportation.

He was also a founder and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957-68 and began lecturing nationwide, urging active nonviolence to achieve civil rights for African-Americans. King was arrested 30 times for his participation in civil rights activities. One included a protest of lunch counter segregation for which he was jailed. The case drew national attention. Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy interceded to obtain King's release.

In 1963, King helped organize the march on Washington, an assembly of more than 200,000 protestors during which he made

his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The march influenced the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. At age 35, he was the youngest man, second American and third black to be so honored.

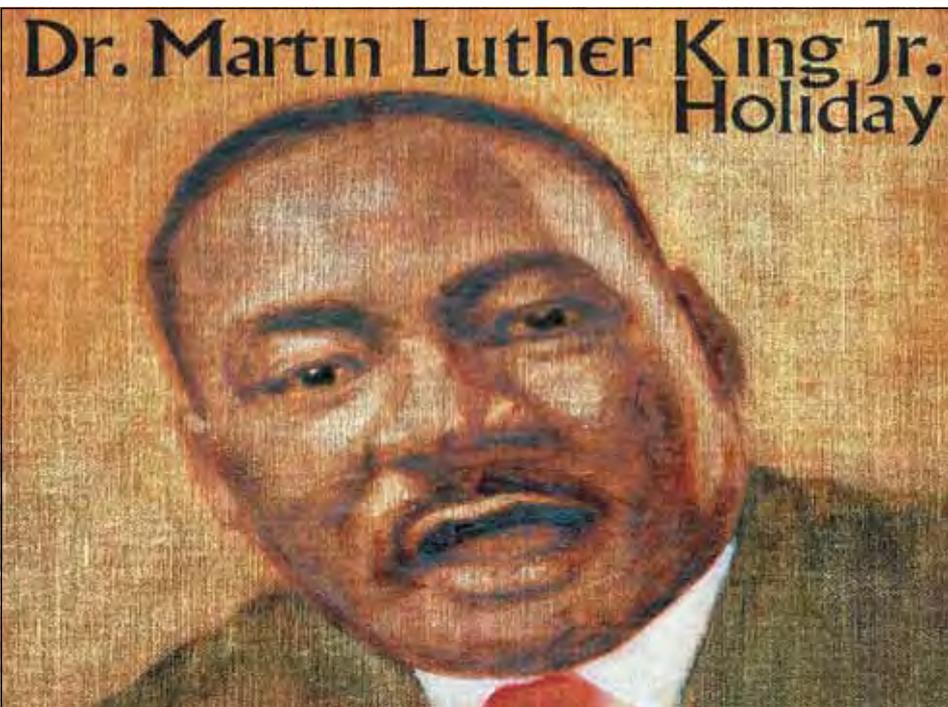
The following year, King and the SCLC led a campaign for African-American voter registration centered on Selma. A nonviolent march from Selma to Montgomery was attacked by police who assaulted and tear-gassed the marchers. The march only succeeded when federal troops were mobilized to protect the marchers along their route. The events in Selma provoked national outrage and months later public opinion precipitated passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Thereafter, King broadened his advocacy, addressing the plight of the poor of all races and opposing the Vietnam War.

King's plans for a poor people's march to Washington were interrupted April 4, 1968, when King was assassinated by James Earl Ray as King stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. The motel is now the National Civil Rights Museum.

King's final resting place is part of the Martin Luther King Jr. library complex, located close to his childhood home and the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. The Martin Luther King holiday was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and it was first observed in 1986. Additionally, in 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action on the holiday instead of just taking the day off from work or school.

Participation in the King Day of Service has grown during the past decade. Many Americans work each year on projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on King's life and teachings. Many of the projects begun on King Day continue to involve volunteers beyond the holiday and impact the community year-round.

Editor's note: This article was adapted from the Army homepage.



Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute graphic

Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said: "The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing; for a multiracial nation united in justice, peace and reconciliation. It is not merely just a day to honor Dr. King, but to celebrate the values of equality, tolerance and interracial sister and brotherhood he so compellingly expressed in his great 'I Have a Dream' speech."

Always watch your step in snow and ice



By LEAH FOX
Garrison acting safety manager

The inclement weather has brought to our doorsteps snow and ice. As much fun as it is to play in, there is an increased risk of slips and falls due to icy sidewalks, parking lots and work areas.

Now is the time to ensure precautions are taken to minimize the risk of slip and fall injuries in the coming winter months ahead.

Here are some tips for winter safety:

- Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time.
- Streets and sidewalks that have been cleared of snow and ice should still be approached with caution. Look out for “black ice.” Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often shows up early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.
- Wear shoes or boots that are specifically designed

to provide traction on wet, slippery surfaces.

- When entering and/or exiting vehicles, use the vehicle for support. Never jump from vehicles or equipment.

- Carrying heavy items can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much — you need to leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.

- Test the travel path for slickness by gently sliding your shoe/boot on it before proceeding.

- Walk slowly; never run on snow or ice covered surfaces. Take short steps to maintain your center of balance over your feet. Bending your knees a little and taking slower and shorter steps increases traction and can greatly reduce your chances of falling. It also helps to stop occasionally to break momentum.

- When walking on steps, always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.

- When entering a building, remove snow and water from footwear so as not to create wet, slippery conditions indoors — walk carefully.

Snow

continued from page 1

“We made the decision to close the Arsenal on Sunday evening,” Hamilton said. “When we make decisions like that, we really consider all the factors and information we can get our hands on.”

Word of the closure reached employees through Arsenal websites, Facebook and social media, the local news media and various communication channels within tenant organizations.

While Arsenal employees stayed home Jan. 10 and 11, the Chugach road crews “worked continuously through Wednesday morning clearing roads, clearing parking lots and preparing the Arsenal for the work force. Our road crews rotated out with the equipment working 24 hours a day while the weather event was going on. It has basically been a complete effort with crews working continually,” Hamilton said.

Those two days of closure also meant that traffic couldn’t hamper clearing efforts. Having the Arsenal closed for two days allowed crews to clear parking lots, Skinner said.

“The volume of this event is unusual for Huntsville in recent history. During a typical snow shower, the area gets a couple inches, and the weather warms back up and it’s gone,” Hamilton said. “By the time we get to them, typically, parking lots are already melting and nor-

mally don’t have to be touched by our equipment. This event was atypical.”

By Jan. 12, the Arsenal was ready to reopen, even as work continued to improve conditions. “Our priority is safety,” Hamilton said. “We looked at the conditions both on the Arsenal and outside the Arsenal. Inside the gates, we were prepared a little bit faster. We do consider employees’ ability to get to the Arsenal and we do realize that there are still employees living further away that are still impacted.

“Opening the Arsenal gives our tenant activities the flexibility to resume mission functions. Employees still affected within their home communities work with their supervisors to make decisions on whether to come to work. We opened Wednesday knowing full well we would not have 100 percent of the work force.

“Our 35,000 employees have a wide variety of conditions because of where they live, the status of their streets and (in the case of children) the status of their schools,” Hamilton continued. “Employees should work with their supervisors to develop a (weather) plan suitable for them.”

While the senior commander and the Garrison commander determine whether the installation is open or closed, the option to offer employees liberal leave — which allows them to take an unplanned absence for a portion of the workday or the entire workday — is at the discretion of the commander of each Ar-

senal tenant.

“The authority to put employees on leave resides with the commanders and directors of each organization,” Hamilton said. “The Garrison staff works closely with the operations staff of tenant activities to ensure they understand the decisions and timelines involved with the Arsenal being closed and opened. Even on Wednesday, some activities, based on their own mission requirements, allowed liberal leave for their employees.”

Tenant organizations also can determine when to start operations after opening. On Jan. 12, although the Arsenal opened with normal hours, Marshall Space Flight Center delayed their employee start time to 10 a.m.

“Tenants make those decisions based on the mission, their workload and their own leave policies,” Hamilton said.

Some complaints have been received by the Garrison regarding the clearing of Arsenal parking lots and entrance ways. The Jan. 9-10 winter weather event stretched Garrison resources and abilities to clear these areas.

Work on Arsenal roads didn’t stop once the Arsenal reopened. Crews were out every day, clearing snow from remote areas, and widening clearing efforts on main roads and around gates.

“There were some turn and merge lanes that may not have been cleared out wide enough,” Skinner said

“Once traffic left on Wednesday night, we were able to clear those areas out.

“We are very proud of our Chugach contractor. They’re part of our team. They stepped up and made sacrifices to make sure the Arsenal could open on Wednesday. We really appreciated all their hard work and effort. We are working to minimize the impact this weather event has had on the mission. This has been an enormous undertaking.”

Hamilton is sure some changes will be made to improve Arsenal policies once the decisions and actions related to the Jan. 9-10 weather event are reviewed.

One change that is already underway is bringing online a mass notification system that allows employees to receive messages on their cell phone and/or home phone regarding Arsenal closures and openings. The system, managed by the IOC, will be online in the near future, Hamilton said.

Other changes will address early release issues in allowing employees to leave the Arsenal in phases when bad weather is expected during a workday, and which roads and parking lots should be given priority for snow clearing.

“The Arsenal is growing rapidly,” Hamilton said. “We are continually bringing new buildings online. As there is a shift in the work population density, there are shifts in priority on streets and parking lots, and we have to update those priorities.”

PictureThis

Snowmen plow their way to housing area

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

Snowmen and a few snow forts are scattered throughout Redstone's housing area following the 7-9 inches of snow that fell throughout the area Jan. 10-11, and then remained for days afterward.

Driving through the neighborhoods, visitors could find plenty of snowmen whiling away the cold weather in front yards, including a Navy Seabee snowman, a Christmas reindeer snowman and a cute snow couple.

There were also plenty of children having fun in the snow with school canceled for several days.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

This Navy Seabee is home on January leave.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

A reindeer adorns the front lawn of a Redstone residence.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Taylor Brown, 10, at right, puts the finishing touches on the snowman that she and her sister Kyla, 8, built with the help of their dad, Sgt. Joshua Brown. They used lollipops for his smile, hard candy for his eyes and candy bars for his buttons.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Hours melt by for this happy couple on a bench at their home.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Stephanie Rhodes, 10, left, and her friend Kanani Collins, 8, stir up a bit more snow to make snowballs after spending a fun day building a snow fort and a little snowman. Stephanie's father, Sgt. Randall Rhodes, helped the girls with their project.

Marksmanship unit shows educators different side of Army

By TIM HIPPS

Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO — The Army Marksmanship Unit hit a bullseye with educators and business leaders from around the United States Jan. 6-7 at the San Antonio Gun Club.

The world-class competitive-shooting Soldiers provided shotgun instruction, performed a trick-shooting demonstration, and hosted a shooting competition for dozens of the 87 distinguished guests of Army Accessions Command here for the Army's All-American Bowl game Jan. 8.

"As I heard some of the people say during introductions this morning, a lot of people don't realize the Army even has a shooting team," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Holguin, a double trap shooter who was the 2009 World Championships silver medalist and 2008 Olympian. "To be able to get to know us on a personal basis — a lot of the public's exposure to the military is on television — is a good way to meet them face-to-face and get to know them on a more personal level."

Olympic gold medalists Sgt. Glenn Eller and Sgt. Vincent Hancock gave the guests hands-on instruction, along with world champion Staff Sgt. Josh Richmond and Sgt. Sherri Gallagher, the Army Soldier of the year.

"You see their eyes light up and their faces light up when the two Olympic gold medalists are introduced," Holguin said. "They're like, 'Oh, wow,' because that's something that they can relate to."

"Everyone knows what the Olympics are, and not everyone has a chance to meet an Olympic gold medalist. It's special for a lot of them. Some of the ladies were going around getting autographs from all of us. That was pretty neat."

Jacquinita Rose, a dean of academic affairs at Pearce College in Los Angeles, was one of those autograph seekers.

"In the media, when they talk about the Army shooting this and shooting that, they don't show you the other side of it," said Rose, who has two sons in the Navy. "The media only gives you that one biased perspective. Unfortunately, what people tend to think of are assault weapons, those big barrels that shoot like 50 things, and snipers, but this is fantastic to be able to see another side of the Army that is not



Photo by Tim Hipps

Sgt. Vincent Hancock of the Army Marksmanship Unit assists Hunter Crandall, of Cisco Systems U.S. Federal Organization, in skeet shooting at the San Antonio Gun Club, Jan. 6. Crandall was one of 87 distinguished guests U.S. Army Accessions Command hosted for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl game Jan. 8.

exposed to the masses. I really enjoyed myself."

Rose was one of the 87 Accessions Command guests to network and learn more about the Army during the week of the All-American Bowl, the Army's annual East vs. West all-star football game for high school seniors.

"My primary purpose for this week is to come and discover wonderful new and exciting opportunities with the Army," Rose said. "My family was military and my sons are in the military, so I'm familiar with the Army and some of their educational opportunities, but this was a great week to learn more."

Mark Mayberry, president of ExamExperts USA of Canton, Mich., says his company, like the Army, "inspires students to greatness."

"I'm here to learn about the educational options that the Army offers to students who may want to look at military service as an option and what educational opportunities they can take advantage of if they choose to go into the military," he said. "If students want to pursue military service, we want to help them achieve those objectives."

Mayberry also networked with educators to gain knowledge to share with his students, 80 percent

of whom are in high school.

"My father was a war veteran and my brother served in the Army Reserve so I've always looked at the military as an option," he said. "I believe that the Army is growing in what it offers to citizens, so I'm here to find out more about that."

A former semi-pro baseball player, Mayberry had never shot a shotgun before.

"Being an athlete, it requires hand-eye coordination, so I understand what it takes," he said. "To have an opportunity to meet them and see just how excellent they are at their craft — being Olympic and World champions — I am really impressed by their humility. They are the guys you want on your side."

Mayberry appreciated the military for making the Army All-American Bowl more than just a football game.

"It helps us see the role that the Army plays not only in the defense of the country but also in everyday activities of life," he said. "It's really good to see it up close and personal."

Patrick Finn of Cisco Systems U.S. Federal Organization in Herndon, Va., knows rifles but engaged different targets with the AMU in San Antonio.

"I've been on a couple pheasant hunts but nothing big," he said.

"This was excellent. It gives you a lot of pride to see young men and women who are national champions who are part of our military and part of our Army."

"I'm totally blown away. I was very surprised, but if you think about it, it does make a lot of sense that our young men and women are participating in the Army as marksmen on the Olympic and World Championship level."

The military has taught him a great deal in his business dealings with them.

"My customer is the Army," Finn said. "Not only do we work with them on communications from a technology perspective, we actually partner with them on the recruiting front. We've been involved with the Partnership for Youth Success program, where we are a corporate sponsor, and in that way we can actually educate the recruiting youth about potential opportunities in the technology field with Cisco Systems."

Hunter Crandall, a former Soldier who works with Finn for Cisco, won the shotgun shooting contest among the guests.

"As Lt. Gen. (Ben) Freakley (commander of Accessions Command) said in his opening remarks, I think we took it for granted for many years and decades that there were so many people in our society who had the experience in Korea and World War II and even Vietnam, but we've gotten to the point now where kids aren't exposed to those adult role models in their community who have that background," Crandall said. "So I think it's more important than ever to get people energized about going back into their community and educating and informing the young kids, that Army service is a great option for them."

Finn said the entire week of events was one big eye-opener.

"Just pride in what our men and women do," he explained. "I'll definitely be an advocate for what the Army is all about. They are involved in peacekeeping efforts and diplomacy and marksmanship and sportsmanship, and representing the United States at a world level and that's important for our country to understand."

"If you meet somebody from the Army and you don't walk away impressed, something is wrong with you."

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF JAN 13 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	19-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-1515	14	14	98,265 - 127,743					X	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				
SCBK11774618	SUPV IT Specialist (PLCOLN)	19-Jan-11	US Army Contracting Cmd	YC-2210	3	3	98,265 - 157,779				X				X				
SCBK11765698	Supervisory Budget Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-0560	15	15	115,588 - 150,266					X		X	X				
SCBK11775844R	IT Specialist (APPSW/SYSANALYSIS)	20-Jan-11	AMCOM	GS-2210-13	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X											
SCBK11764823	Historian	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-0170	12	12	69,930 - 90,907					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			
SCBK11770180	Supply Systems Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMCOM	GS-2003	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11713121	Suicide Prevention & Substance Abuse	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			X	
SCBK11753690	Operations Research Analyst	20-Jan-11	AMC	GS-1515	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X						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			X	
SCBK11740656	Lead Logistics Management Specialist	21-Jan-11	AMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X			X		X						
SCBK11754354	Aerospace Engineer	24-Jan-11	US Army Res, Dev & Engr Cmd	DB-0861	3	3	69,930 - 108,102					X		X	X			X	
SCBK11605489	Writer -Editor (Printed Media)	24-Jan-11	AMC	GS-1082	11	12	58,343 - 75,843					X		X	X			X	
SWH811P6769016	Quality Assurance Specialist	24-Jan-11	DCMA	GS-1910	11	12	58,343 - 75,843		X					X				X	
SCBK11741001D	Computer Engineer	25-Jan-11	RDECOM	DB-0854	3	3	69,930 - 108,102												X
SCBK11755525	Budget Analyst	25-Jan-11	CHRA	GS-0560	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X	X		X	X				
SCBK11741001	Computer Engineer	25-Jan-11	RDECOM	DB-0854	3	3	69,930 - 108,102	X			X		X	X	X			X	
SCBK11766159	Lead Logistics Management Specialist	26-Jan-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X											
SCBK100708357	Accountant	27-Jan-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0510	12	12	69,930 - 90,907		X		X		X		X			X	
SCBK10820126	Contract Specialist	28-Jan-11	US Army Space & Mis Def Cmd	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102		X		X		X	X					
SCBK10760499	Patent Attorney	4-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-1222	14	14	98,265 - 127,743												X
SCBK10631319OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102							X		X	X	X	
SCBK10631270OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102				X			X	X	X	X		
SCBK10482838OC	Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102							X	X	X	X	X	
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X			X	X	X	X		
SCBK10631337OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907									X			X
SCBK10674714OC	Contract Specialist (Price/Cost Analysis)	9-Jun-11	ACC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779							X	X	X	X		X
SCBK10724481OCE	Contract Specialist	29-Jun-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907									X			X
SCBK11733651	Logistics Management Specialist	5-Jul-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	11	13	58,343 - 108,102							X		X	X		X
SCBK10444988OC	Contract Specialist	17-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X	X					X	X			X	
SCBK1044488OC	Contract Specialist	18-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	2	2	47,215 - 108,102	X	X					X	X			X	
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743				X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10482841OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743			X	X		X	X	X	X			X
SCBK10482823OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X		X	X	X	X	X			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.

Win or Lose

National Guard basketball team has extra energy

*Deeper bench available
for this year's Patriots*

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

The National Guard should be optimistic entering the basketball season which opens tonight at Redstone Fitness Center.

The Patriots won the preseason Holiday Basketball Tournament held in December. They have four key players who they missed in the 2010 season because two were deployed and two were away on training.

Now they're back, and the Patriots have that extra energy.

"It just gives us a lot more depth and consistency every game," Patriots guard Bryan Christa said.

Christa scored a game-high 22 points in the National Guard's 62-55 win over Bravo Company in the preseason tournament final Dec. 13. The Patriots went 3-0 in the tournament.

"I'm just ready to play," said guard Wendell Williams, who also played last year. "Last year we played with a lot of five- and six-man teams. This year we have more players so I'm anxious to see what's going to happen.

"Last year I found myself trying to conserve energy. Now we know we can play hard. We can play harder, not worried about getting tired."

The other eight teams include Bravo Company, defending champion Charlie Company, HHC 59th, Headquarters & Alpha, NCO Academy, Marines, 326th Chemical Company and 375th Engineer.

Games will be played Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6 and 7 at Redstone Fitness Center.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The National Guard plays defense against the Marines during the Holiday Basketball Tournament held in December.

Troop basketball season rolls through March

The troop basketball season opens with two games tonight and continues through March 17 at the Redstone Fitness Center. The postseason tournament is projected to start March 23.

Here's the season schedule:

Tonight – HHC 59th vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; and Marines vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 7.

Thursday – NCO Academy vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; and 375th Engineer vs. Charlie at 7.

Jan. 24 – Marines vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; and Bravo vs. Charlie at 7.

Jan. 26 – Headquarters & Alpha vs. NCO Academy at 6 p.m.; and Marines vs. Bravo at 7.

Jan. 27 – National Guard vs. 375th Engineer at 6 p.m.; and 326th Chemical vs. HHC 59th at 7.

Jan. 31 – NCO Academy vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; and Headquarters & Alpha vs. 375th Engineer at 7.

Feb. 2 – Bravo vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; and National Guard vs. Marines at 7.

Feb. 3 – Headquarters & Alpha vs. Charlie at 6 p.m.; and National Guard vs. NCO Academy at 7.

Feb. 7 – National Guard vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; and 375th Engineer vs. NCO Academy at 7.

Feb. 9 – 326th Chemical vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. Charlie at 7.

Feb. 10 – NCO Academy vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; and Marines vs. 375th Engineer at 7.

Feb. 14 – National Guard vs. 326th Chemical at 6 p.m.; and Charlie vs. Marines at 7.

Feb. 16 – Charlie vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. NCO Academy at 7.

Feb. 17 – 375th Engineer vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. Marines at 7.

Feb. 23 – Marines vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; and NCO Academy vs. 326th Chemical at 7.

Feb. 24 – 326th Chemical vs. 375th Engineer at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 7.

Feb. 25 – Bravo vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; and National Guard vs. Charlie at 7.

Feb. 28 – National Guard vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; and 326th Chemical vs. Marines at 7.

March 2 – Marines vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; and Charlie vs. 375th Engineer at 7.

March 3 – NCO Academy vs. Marines at 6 p.m.; and Headquarters & Alpha vs. Bravo at 7.

March 7 – 375th Engineer vs. Headquarters & Alpha at 6 p.m.; and 326th Chemical vs. Charlie at 7.

March 9 – National Guard vs. HHC 59th at 6 p.m.; and 326th Chemical vs. NCO Academy at 7.

March 10 – 326th Chemical vs. National Guard at 6 p.m.; and Bravo vs. 375th Engineer at 7.

March 14 – Charlie vs. Bravo at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. 375th Engineer at 7.

March 16 – Marines vs. NCO Academy at 6 p.m.; and 326th Chemical vs. Bravo at 7.

March 17 – NCO Academy vs. Charlie at 6 p.m.; and HHC 59th vs. 326th Chemical at 7.

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.

Wounded Warrior 5K

Grissom High School's Army JROTC will present the Wounded Warrior 5K on Feb. 26 at 8 a.m. at McGucken Park on Bailey Cove Road. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Entry fee is \$20 through Feb. 14 or \$24 from Feb. 15-26. For information or a registration form, call Stefanie Armstrong 883-4735 or e-mail stefaniepayne@bellsouth.net.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel has Bible Studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. 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 Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Nancy Rohr will discuss the Civil War in Huntsville through the diaries of 10 women. For more information, call 539-5287.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Rocket Announcements

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 infor-

mation, call Carla Landers 876-2612 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

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.

Weight watchers

At Work Weight Watcher meetings are held every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sparkman Center. "Weight Watchers now has a new program," a prepared release said. "Take a system you know and love, add the latest science, make it more livable and the result is PointsPlus. When it comes to weight loss, and committing to your goals, having a positive attitude can make a huge difference.

See Announcements on page 26

Rocket Announcements

With Weight Watchers, you have support to help. There is still time to join us to make that positive change in your life." For more information, call Pat Sandy 313-5470 or e-mail pat.sandy@us.army.mil.

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.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold its monthly meeting Jan. 27 at 11:15 a.m. in the Loft Room at the Officers and Civilians Club. The public is invited. Those eating lunch should arrive early and go through the lunch buffet line and return to the meeting room to eat. For more information, call Angela Jones 955-2494 or Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers meets Thursday 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.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will meet Feb. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The feature is "The Great Exchange" — participate by bringing your own fashion accessories to "exchange." Gaines Gravelee, community vocalist, will per-

form. Phyllis Page, international speaker from Chelsea, Ala., will discuss "How to have peace when faced with hurricane heartaches." Free child-care for age 6 and younger will be provided off-site. Reservations for lunch or child care due by Jan. 31. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339. HCWC is an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, a support ministry for military wives and other women.

Systems engineers

The INCOSE Huntsville Chapter will meet Thursday 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 Sam Loo by noon today 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.

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/>.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 distributed 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.

See Announcements on page 27

Rocket Announcements

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.

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, non-profit 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.

Dr. King celebration

Team Redstone's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration is Thursday 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 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.

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>.

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.

Swing dance classes

The Campbell Recreation Center and FMWR will present "Dancing Like the Stars 2011," Basic (Beginner) Single and Triple Swing for adult couples for six Thursdays, Feb. 10 through March 17, at building 3155. Tuition is \$66 per couple. No experience necessary. This course is also available as a five-week review course at \$55 per couple (by eliminating the first class only) for those who have taken this course earlier at Redstone. Registration is at the Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is Feb. 9. For information on this or other ballroom dance courses offered this year, call 876-4531.

Circus tickets

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus will come to town with "Barnum's FUNundrum" March 3-6 at the Von Braun Center. Active duty, retired, Reserve and Guard personnel, and Department of Defense employees, and their family members are eligible for a \$12 ticket in two price levels at six performances. The \$12 ticket is good for 300-level seating at the following performances: March 3 at 7:30 p.m.; March 4 at 7:30 p.m.; March 5 at 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and March 6 at 1 and 5 p.m. Here are the three ways to purchase tickets:

Rocket Announcements

Show your government identification at the VBC box office; visit www.ticketmaster.com; or call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Use promotional code, "MIL," for online and phone orders. A convenience charge per ticket and handling fee per order will be added to Ticketmaster orders. For more information on military tickets, call Group Tickets USA at 776-1876.

Vintage record sale

The WLRH Great Record Sale returns in February. Vinyl junkies can scarf up LPs, CDs and 45s at the WLRH studios Feb. 18-20. Sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. that Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Treasures in all categories, including classical, jazz, pop, new age, and spoken word will be available. If you are starting off the new year by clearing off your shelves, bring your discs to the WLRH studios on the UAH campus during the weekends before the sale. For more information, call 895-9574.

Science/engineering apprentices

The Defense Department initiat-

ed the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens, with a Social Security card, and at least 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 1, 2011. The apprenticeship program is divided into eight, 10 and 12 weeks. The contacts for application information are senior counselors at all public, private and parochial high schools and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at Redstone Arsenal include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The application deadline is Feb. 25. If students are unsuccessful in receiving application information from high school senior

counselors or college placement services, call Angela Jefferson 313-3198 or Darlene Milam 876-9541, at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in building 5308, or visit www.gwseap.net or www.usaeop.com.

Blood drive for troops

Donate blood to the Armed Services Blood Program today from 1-8 p.m. at the Community Activities Center, building 3711. For information call Dan Morgan 876-4990. The appointments website is www.militarydonor.mil.

Arts update

Huntsville Chamber Music Guild presents the Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road. This is the first U.S. tour of the 85-member orchestra. The performance includes Polish soprano Iwona Sobotka, the Grand Prix winner of an international music competition, and Marta Kowalczyk, a prize-winning young Polish violinist. For more information on this and other art oriented events, visit www.ourvalleyevents.com or www.arts-huntsville.org.

Thrift Shop

"We hope everyone has made it through the snow and ice," the Thrift

Shop staff said. "Come visit us now that we are back open for business and see our selection of coats and everything to keep you warm. We have started to take Valentine's Day items for consignment or anytime as a donation. Remember to call first before bringing in any large items for consignment. The No-List number is 881-6915." The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9-5. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road.

Heart society ball

The 2011 Heart Society Ball is Feb. 5 at the Westin at Bridge Street Town Centre, 6800 Governors West Road. Cocktails and silent auction begin at 6 p.m., and the dinner and live auction start at 7. Junctional Rhythm will entertain. "The Heart Ball promises to be an engaging evening of fun and passion bringing community and philanthropic leaders together," a prepared release said. "Last year, our Heart Ball campaign raised just over \$51 million nationwide allowing us to fund over \$123 million of research and programs across the country and in your community." For tickets and more information, visit www.heart.org/huntsvilleheartball.



Photo by Spc. Luther L. Boothe Jr.

Taking knee

A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division kneels in an over-watch position on top of a qualot wall during Operation Steel Sky, an air assault mission near the village of Shakhmodkhel in Afghanistan Dec. 21.

