



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Leaders of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion – outgoing 832nd Ordnance Battalion commander Lt. Col. Sean Cusker, incoming 832nd commander Lt. Col. Demetrius Jackson and 59th Ordnance Brigade commander Col. Lee Merritt – perform the final inspection of troops prior to the casing of the battalion's colors. The battalion will complete its move to Fort Lee, Va., later this summer. Cusker, who retired prior to the color casing, will remain in Huntsville with his family.

'Vital mission of training Soldiers' nears end

832nd commander retires from service as unit makes final moves to Fort Lee

By Kari Hawkins

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

Lt. Col. Sean Cusker participated in an official troop inspection of Headquarters & Alpha, Bravo and Charlie companies one last time during a Thursday morning retirement ceremony on Warrior Field, located in the shadow of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School and the Arsenal's Soldier barracks.

But this event was much more than a retirement ceremony for an officer and decorated war veteran. It was also the last time the 832nd Ordnance Battalion would stand together in ceremony at Redstone Arsenal. At the close of the ceremony, the battalion cased its colors for transfer to Fort Lee, Va.

Even the battalion's new commander – Lt. Col. Demetrius Jackson, who is also a decorated war veteran – isn't assigned to report for duty at Redstone, which makes Cusker the last commander of the 832nd at Redstone. Jackson is assigned to Fort Lee, with plans to visit the remaining troops at Redstone as needed before the battalion is fully transferred to its new headquarters, set for later this summer.

"We still have a few great Soldiers here for a little longer," Jackson said.

Those Soldiers, about 200 in all, will remain at Redstone until they complete their ordnance training. While at Redstone, they are also making preparations for their first duty assignment.

"The AIT (advanced individual training) battalion is the last line before Soldiers move on to the operational Army," Jackson said. "Our job is to make sure they transition well."

The 832nd has been part of OMEMS at Redstone for 25 years, serving as a training battalion for Soldiers who came to Redstone for ordnance instruction following their basic training course. It is moving to newly constructed facilities at Fort Lee as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission requirement. ... **Vital mission** continued on page 4 ...

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FMWR reaffirms customer commitment

Navy beats Army for baseball title

PS Magazine celebrates 60th year

Soldier rescues motorist on flooded road

Rocket Views

What's special about your father?

By Skip Vaughn

Megan Cotton

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

"I would say everything – from what he's taught me about life, hard work, to sports. He's wonderful and I love him."



Capt. Jimmy Gaston

1st Information Operations Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.



"He's still in the military (Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Gaston Jr.). That's the number one reason I got in. And he likes to fish."

Jeremiah Hightower

5-year-old son of Capt. Warrick Hightower

"He does great things to me. And he always watches movies with me. And he always takes care of me."



Getting to know you

By Skip Vaughn

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

Name: Wayne Shaw

Job: Badge checker for Phoenix

Where do you call home?

I'm originally from east Tennessee. I was born in Elizabethton and it's close to Johnson City, Tenn.

What do you like about your job?

What I like about this job is going to different security desk sites in different buildings because each one has different procedures and you learn that way. I like moving around and that way you learn a lot from different Army programs.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

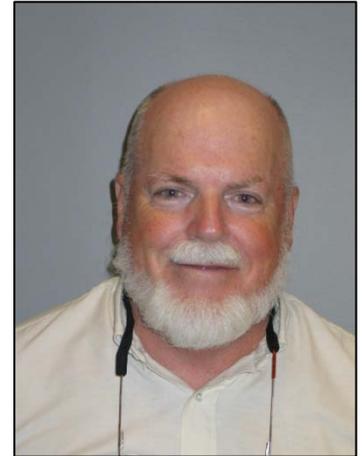
In my spare time, I like to do volunteer work. I do volunteer work in the church. I have done volunteer work with the Red Cross. I'm involved with the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. I go down to help out there. I take an active role when they have certain activities. And also I'm a coordinator with Community Watch here in Huntsville city. I like to go and support these Civil War re-enactments. I like history. In the future, I'm taking interest in car shows. I have an antique automobile I'm fixing to enter in car shows in a year or so.

What are your goals?

My goal is to stay healthy and active. I'm doing a study on my ancestors to find out where they came from. And I'm hoping to find all my relatives as a goal.

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

I'd like to visit all 50 states but I've probably visited maybe about half of them so far. And then before I kick the bucket, I'd like to see the University of Tennessee win the national (football) championship one more time.



Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for June 2-8:

June 5: A Soldier's vehicle was damaged while parked.

June 7: A Soldier was reported by his commander as being absent without leave.

June 7: A Thrift Shop employee allegedly forged checks in the amount of \$5,600.

June 7: A civilian reported her vehicle was damaged while parked.

June 8: A Soldier was stopped for having only one headlight; and an NCIC check revealed his license was suspended. He was cited and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

June 8: An AWOL Soldier was arrested by local civilian authorities and released to Redstone police. He was processed and returned to his unit.

June 8: A Redstone staff sergeant was arrested by Clanton police for disorderly conduct.

Traffic accidents reported: six without injury.

Violation notices issued: 23 speeding, 1 suspended driver's license, 1 failure to properly merge, 1 no insurance, 3 failure to obey a traffic control device, 1 expired tags, 4 parking, 1 failure to yield right of way.

Note these do not include numerous verbal warnings.



Letter to the editor

Experiences as student hire

When I became a college student, I thought I really hit the lottery! I first learned that most new students relished the thoughts of freedom, Greek parties and a whole new territory in which to explore. As an engineering student at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, I quickly learned that engineering students play hard and work even harder. I also quickly learned that college life comes with a price tag (e.g. rising cost of gas, textbooks and extracurricular activities). Eventually, reality hits most students to realize that choices made during this new college life actually impact their pursuit of career options. Fortunately, the Students Working at the Army in Parallel (SWAP) program is there to help, not just the student, but also the Army!

As a student, the SWAP program enhances one's academic career aspirations, affording hands-on experiences where classroom experience can take a student only so far. My Army job greatly brings to real life the information I've learned in the classroom by working through real world situations and by participating in Defense Acquisition University continuing education and training classes. Many classes at UAH taught me to think critically and encouraged me to always be a lifelong learner. Being a SWAP student and supporting the Army has given me the opportunity to experience these principles firsthand.

One great advantage for being a SWAP student is that two free textbooks are provided each semester that must be returned. Plus, this program has allowed me the flexibility to set my own schedule around my class schedule, plus I have more hours available to me to actually work in my engineering field! This is a benefit to the Army, too, as SWAP students are more available to support and contribute to the Army mission, allowing more hours to work versus limited hours per week through other programs. In fact, on average, full-time SWAP students work between 16-28 hours per week, and these students are enrolled in a minimum of 12 academic hours. Additionally, having a Secret level security clearance through UAH allows me to provide greater support to the Army, not limited to unclassified work alone. The sky is the limit on how successful this program can be for both the student and the Army!

A major advantage to the Army is that there is not a hiring obligation at the end of the student's period of performance, which makes the program a great screening opportunity. Because a position is not guaranteed for them at the end of their period of performance, SWAP students recognize the need to demonstrate a good work ethic to secure themselves consideration for jobs following graduation. This reinforces in each SWAP student the value of working hard for personal success, a great and needed work ethic for all Army employees. Likewise, SWAP students can "test the water" in their chosen career field to see if an Army career is a good match for applying their field of study/degree. In reality, it is as much a learning experience for each student as it is for the Army, and beneficial to all!

The SWAP program and others like it have been utilized by AMRDEC for over 19 years with great success. Fifty-three percent of SWAP students have been hired by the Army, 25 percent hired by industry and 4 percent hired by another government agency (results as of April), and many students decide to further their education. For more information on the UAH SWAP program, visit <http://smaplab.ri.uah.edu/Smaptest/Swap.html>.

Kayla Bullock

UAH SWAP student,

Aviation Ground Support Equipment Project Office

Vital mission, *continued from page 1 ...*

“We’re closing the doors of OMEMS” and the “vital mission of training Soldiers” at Redstone, said Col. Lee Merritt, commander of the 59th Ordnance Brigade, which is the 832nd’s senior command.

“A unit’s change of command is a significant public display of the tradition of continuity and leadership” and represents the Army’s “promise to Soldiers in the unit and to America to continue to be steadfast in the mission,” he said.

Cusker, a 24-year veteran who came to Redstone two years ago to lead the 832nd, has provided the management and leadership skills needed to oversee “a significant measurable increase in the ability of Soldiers” while also managing the transition of the battalion to Fort Lee, which involved the movement of different segments within the battalion at different times as various ordnance training courses concluded at Redstone.

“You improved training and readiness of every Soldier you touched,” Merritt said of Cusker, adding that Cusker and his command staff represented “skills found nowhere else in abundance in our Army today ... You and your staff were responsible for the training and development of over 1,000 Soldiers at any given time. Your efforts have helped make this unit one of the best in TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command).”

Merritt thanked Cusker for his “outstanding leadership in the vital mission of training Soldiers and enhancing the combat mission” while also welcoming another outstanding leader in Jackson.

In his comments, Cusker, who will remain in Huntsville with his wife and two school-age daughters, said that over the years “thousands of ordnance Soldiers for our Army have left Redstone Arsenal prepared to face tough challenges” and the last remaining Soldiers of the 832nd “represent all those tens of thousands of ordnance Soldiers that have come to Redstone Arsenal and trained.”

He thanked the local community along with Arsenal tenants for their support of Soldiers. He mentioned the “steadfast service for Soldiers” provided by such organizations as Fox Army Health Center, Army Community Service, Military Personnel Office, Military Pay Office and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation as well as the mayors of Huntsville and Madison, and the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

“Redstone Arsenal is absolutely a special place to live and serve because of the character of the people and their support of Soldiers during these 25 years,” Cusker said. “I’ve seen this community’s genuine care and love of American Soldiers.”

Taking the yoke of command, Jackson thanked his family for their support and thanked “God for allowing me the opportunity to stand before you today and take command of such a unique organization. I am pledged to continue to build on your success.”

During the ceremony, a Chinook helicopter flew over Warrior Field. It was symbolic of the changing landscape as Redstone’s mission shifts from ordnance training to focus more fully on the development, fielding, training and sustainment of the Army’s aviation and missile assets.

Whether at Redstone or Fort Lee, the mission of the 832nd will not change, Jackson said, and will continue to both provide ordnance instruction to Soldiers while also preparing them for active duty.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to command young Soldiers,” the 832nd’s new commander said.

BRAC process positions Army for future challenges

By Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Installation Management Command commander

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The past 10 years have brought a great deal of change to our Army. Not only do our Soldiers continue to fight in two wars, but the Army is going through the greatest organizational change since World War II. Between instituting the Army Force Generation model, reorganizing around modular brigades and the Base Realignment and Closure process, our Army looks very different than it did 10 years ago. The BRAC process is a large part of that reorganization. With its completion on time and on target in September, the Army will have reshaped its infrastructure to better support Soldiers, civilians and families.

The Base Realignment and Closure commission made recommendations about how to make efficiencies in the Department of Defense to the president, who presented them to Congress and those recommendations became law in September 2005. Of the 182 commission recommendations, 113 affected the Army. This BRAC is an important part of the Army's historic transformation and has affected many commands, including the Installation Management Command headquarters in San Antonio.

BRAC 2005 enables the Army to reshape its infrastructure to support its forces. It repositions our forces, making them more relevant and combat ready for the combatant commander. It also creates doctrinal efficiencies by consolidating schools into centers of excellence and headquarters and other activities into joint or multifunctional installations for efficiency and cost control.

Joint Base San Antonio is experiencing the largest economic development in its history with 10,000 families relocating here. This BRAC move has transformed the former Fort Sam Houston into a premier medical complex and the largest medical training campus in the world. Joint installations, like JBSA, improve training capabilities and eliminate excess capacity while providing the same or better service at a reduced cost.



Lt. Gen.
Rick Lynch

Fort Benning, Ga., the new home of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, is a good example of how BRAC growth has been handled in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable way. Thirty-four new projects have been built there as a result of BRAC and all of them have been designed to be LEED Silver certified. All of the new construction supports increased operational capacity and our war-fighting capability.

On installations across the Army you can see signs of success in meeting the goals of BRAC 2005. Construction alone has brought thousands of jobs to surrounding communities. Expanded installations have caused local businesses and service providers to grow. Even communities surrounding closure installations have benefitted by working with the Army to redevelop the surplus property. But with BRAC successes, there are also challenges. More people require more schools, houses and emergency services. The city of El Paso is a great example of a community that turned its challenges with BRAC into a success story.

Fort Bliss is experiencing the largest BRAC realignment in history with unparalleled growth of 29,600 Soldiers and 45,000 family members relocating there. El Paso embraced BRAC, building new schools, while the state invested \$1 billion for transportation projects in the city and creating thousands of civilian jobs. When BRAC and Army transformation are complete, Fort Bliss will have enough new facilities to accommodate five brigade combat teams, a division staff and their families.

IMCOM plays a big part in transforming the Army's infrastructure through BRAC, supporting the movement of several organizations and welcoming thousands of Soldiers and civilians onto our installations and into surrounding communities. This transformation has made us a stronger more efficient and agile organization, supporting a stronger, more efficient and agile Army.

BRAC is an important part of the largest Army transformation in three generations. Consolidating and repositioning several major commands will save millions in personnel and facilities costs and is needed to put the Army on the path to future sustainability.

We have no way of knowing exactly what the future will look like, but the 2005 BRAC process better positioned the Army to meet future challenges. The Army has realigned its infrastructure with the new modular structure and modernized our support facilities, all while becoming more fiscally and environmentally sustainable. When it is complete it will be a major achievement for the Army. By September, the Army will have completed over \$13 billion in construction and renovation projects, and a reorganization that will affect one-third of the Army. This will all have been done in six years putting the Army on time and on target to meet its future missions.

Supply Support Activity receives logistics honor

The Supply Support Activity at Fort Rucker, maintained by Army Fleet Services and under the oversight of the Aviation Center Logistics Command, has been recognized as the best in its category in the Army.

Representatives from 99 Army units came together May 12 in Richmond, Va., as recipients of the seventh annual Chief of Staff of the Army 2011 Combined Logistics Excellence Awards.

Since assuming responsibility for the aviation maintenance contract in 2004, the SSA has been recognized as best in the Army three times. (*Aviation Center Logistics Command release*)

FMWR reaffirms commitment to customers

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation puts its customers first.

FMWR reaffirmed its commitment to service excellence June 8 with the signing of the Employee and Customer Covenant. FMWR director Derrick Gould and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton led the ceremony at Outdoor Recreation.

“You’re not going to find anything more important to you than customer service,” Gould said.

Redstone’s facilities compete for customers against businesses off post, Hamilton said.

“Quite frankly if we don’t continue to do it well, we’ll be out of business,” the colonel said. “We’re in a business.”

During the event, Southeast Region Outstanding Recreation Awards were presented to division chief Mike Chemsak and activity managers Gail Alden (Library), Gaylene Wilson (Sports and Fitness), Bill Moreland (Outdoor Recreation), Bill Woosley (Auto Skills), Gail Glass (Community Activity Center) and Lori Connors (Arts and Crafts).



Photo by Skip Vaughn
Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and FMWR director Derrick Gould sign the Employee and Customer Covenant. In the background is customer service coordinator Beckv Laux from the FMWR Command.

Garrison commander proud to join this team

Hamilton introduces himself, thanks employees for efforts

By Kari Hawkins

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

The first Garrison Town Hall under the command of Col. John Hamilton touched on several issues pertaining to the Arsenal work force.

But, before that, Hamilton had to get a little personal business out of the way.

The Garrison commander formally introduced himself to Garrison employees, sharing a bit about his family, and his Army experience as a career logistician with the 82nd Airborne Division and Special Operations.

The Garrison command is his first assignment within the Army’s Installation Management Command, the first time he has been charged with leading employees who provide the infrastructure for an Army post.

“I’ve had very limited time in the institutional Army ... This is very different from commanding a battalion in the 82nd,” the five-time and decorated war veteran said.

But Hamilton did serve under Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody as deputy executive officer, so he is familiar with the operations of AMC and its commands, including Redstone’s Aviation and Missile Command, and the Security Assistance Command.

For Hamilton, life comes down to “God, family and work,” in that order. And his “non-negotiables” are: safety, treat people with dignity and respect, integrity, teamwork and do your best every day especially in the areas of efficiency and effectiveness.

Hamilton said he and his wife and two children have appreciated the warm welcome they received from Garrison employees and that he is “excited to be here, to be part of the team. This is a great, great place to be ... It’s a real honor and privilege to be part of this team.”

One other bit of personal information – when it comes to sports, Hamilton, a Tallahassee, Fla., native, roots for Florida State University and “whoever is playing the Florida Gators.”

Hamilton's background with AMC will serve him well during his assignment at Redstone as its officer corps continues to grow, and it continues to benefit from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission requirements as well as non-BRAC-related organizational moves to Redstone.

"There's still a lot of work to do with growth," he said. "September 2011 (the time period when all BRAC-related moves must be complete) is a major milestone. But reality is this community is going to continue to grow because of BRAC and moves that had nothing to do with BRAC."

Hamilton said he is impressed with the "phenomenal relationship we have with the local community. Our priorities, collectively, are roads, schools, work force and medical services. We don't get to stop and take a knee come Sept. 15, 2011. We are just getting started. We will continue to grow."

He also discussed a new fiscal environment for the Army and IMCOM that will lead to cutbacks, and a greater need for employees to be "as efficient as we possibly can be while being effective."

Garrison employees need to ask themselves "how do we do what we do even more efficiently? It's not an easy environment to work in," Hamilton said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. John Hamilton, the Garrison commander since mid-October, emphasizes a point during this first Garrison Town Hall on June 7. Employee recognition during the event focused on those who assisted in Arsenal recovery efforts following the April 27 tornadoes and ensuing recovery efforts.

But growth is bringing opportunity to Redstone that other installations may not enjoy while struggling with the fiscal environment. New facilities and new services are still very much part of Redstone's future, said Joe Davis, director of Public Works.

The Arsenal's five-year construction plan includes a \$60 million Von Braun IV facility, and a \$28 million Army Contracting Command headquarters along with a \$15 million widening project for Martin Road, and a \$2 million project for a new Gate 9 Visitors Center and changes to Goss Road as they relate to the new Redstone Gateway. In addition, Raytheon will soon begin construction of a 70,000-square-foot state-of-the-art missile production facility on Redstone, and a shoppette is in the planning stages for Martin Road with an opening date in July 2013.

"Redstone Arsenal is changing every day. That's the beauty of the work at the Garrison. No two days are the same," Davis said.

Much of the focus of the town hall was on recovery efforts associated with the April 27 tornadoes that adversely affected Redstone and its employees. Following April 27, even as the majority of the Arsenal was without power, the Garrison was able to provide temporary housing assistance, PX/Commissary and Shoppette services, and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation services, said Alvin Odoms, director of the Garrison's Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Directorate.

"We have a whole host of resources on Redstone that we can provide to do two things – one, to take care of our employees and the reconstitution of Redstone, and, two, to assist the city," Odoms said.

He stressed the importance of accountability during emergency situations.

"We tried to reach out and touch everybody that we could to make sure they were OK," he said. "We're interested in every employee, not only in Garrison, but the entire Team Redstone."

During the town hall, Directorate of Public Works employee Greg Calvert was recognized with the Commander's Superior Service Award for exemplary performance of duty while supporting recovery operations following the April 27 tornadoes and a Marshall Space Flight Center certificate of appreciation for exceptional leadership and dedication to duty while restoring power to Marshall.

"I'm proud to accept this award but this belongs to a lot of people," Calvert told Garrison employees after receiving the superior service award. "There were so many things that had to be done (to get the Arsenal back to 100 percent electrical power after the April 27 power outage). There were hundreds of little individual things that had to be accomplished and you accomplished it. Thank you for letting me accept this."

Others recognized for their exemplary work during recovery efforts following the tornadoes included: Commander's Certificate for Appreciation – Keith Cook, Lisa Kendrix, Shannon Lott, Christine Noriega, Karen Peterson, Theodore Tyson and Richard Wall.

Achievement medals – Brendan Bennick, Howard Berryhill, Bill Best, Giannia Brown, Kenneth Carter, Mike Durham, Tony Fuller, Edward Gancarz, Paul Grosch, Tamilene Harris, Ben Howard, Daniel Huber, Terry Likely, David McNair, Minnie Rhoden, Lawrence Rogers, Charles Stewman, Tim Thompson and Paul Walters.

Commander's Award for Civilian Service – Timothy D' Ambrosio, Mark Dille, Terry Fincher, Kim Henry, Les Miller, Sharee Miller, Alvin Odoms, Jerry Robinson and Jason Scott.

Others recognized during the town hall included police officer Eric Moe, for placing fifth with his K-9 partner Bruno in explosive detection at the U.S. Police Canine Association National Detector Dog Trials, May 23-25; police officer Billy Booth, for placing second with his K-9 partner Bleckie in explosive detection at the U.S. Police Canine Association National Detector Dog Trials, May 23-25; Terry Davis, for work in developing an emergency management common operation picture that is a model for other Army installations; Glen Reese, for earning the black belt status in the Army's Lean Six Sigma program; Ashley Kalifeh, for winning the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware first place community relations award for the Garrison's JROTC Day; Joey Skinner, for being named the career program manager of the year in support of science and engineering construction fields in the Garrison; Ronnie McDaniel, for exemplary performance as the chief of the Military Personnel Office; and Ivy Downs, for a distinguished 40-year career upon her retirement as the integration branch chief of the Garrison's Plans, Analysis and Integration office.

In addition, length of service awards were presented to the following: 40 Years – Curtis Clark, Garrison deputy commander, and Clinton Clifton of FMWR-Golf Course; 35 Years – Billy Gaines of Emergency Services, Robert Heard of FMWR-Golf Course and Otis Hillis of Public Works; 30 Years – Carol Mayo Carter and Barry Nunn, both of Logistics, and Jacquelyn Williams of Equal Employment Opportunity; 25 Years – Christopher Carter of FMWR Membership Office, Virginia Dempsey of Army Community Service, Telton Tolbert of FMWR Flying Activity and Michael Wassell of Public Works; and 20 Years – Mark Collins and Ronald Schrimsher, both of Emergency Services, Mark Germonprez of FMWR and Robert Lovett of Public Works.

New Garrison directors introduced during the town hall were Michael Sheehy, Directorate of Emergency Services; Debra Fay, Internal Review and Audit Compliance; Sharee Miller, Public and Congressional Affairs; and Leah Fox, Safety.

'Ceremonies will remind us that freedom is not free'

Communities unite on Memorial Day

By Jason Cutshaw

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Members of the local community came together to honor those who paid the ultimate price protecting life, liberty and freedom.

Veterans, service members, local and national government officials and citizen patriots came out to honor fallen heroes during a Memorial Day ceremony May 30 at Maple Hill Cemetery.

"I want to thank everybody for coming here today because this is a special time for this community," Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. "We live in a great community, we live in a great state, we live in a great nation but all of that comes at a cost. Look at the cost that it is between chaos to civilization.

"The people who we honor today, the people who have fought for our freedoms, for our way of life, are those who have made sure that we have one of the greatest civilizations on Earth. Today we can be very, very proud that we as a community honor those who have honored us. Thank you all for coming out today, you have made a very special day of Memorial Day."

Many local combat veterans came out to the cemetery to pay their respects to their brothers and sisters in arms who gave their last full measure of devotion to fellow comrades and to the country.

“It is truly an honor and a privilege for me to address a gathering of patriots on this very special occasion where we remember the sacrifices of our fallen,” said retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mike Durant, president of Pinnacle Solutions in Huntsville and former member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

“Almost 5,000 military heroes have fallen since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. All died for their country: in defense of our nation and all that we hold dear.

“Today, we remember the sacrifices that Americans have made worldwide in answering the call to serve in these recent conflicts. They followed in the footsteps of millions of veterans, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to protect America and defend liberty throughout the world.”

Durant served in Operations Prime Chance, Just Cause, Desert Storm and Gothic Serpent. His aircraft was shot down in Somalia and those actions formed part of the storyline in the movie “Black Hawk Down.”

“Memorial Day is about the men and women in uniform who have given everything in defense of their country,” Durant said. “There is a certain amount of celebration justified for the freedoms they have earned for us, but at times like this, we remember and are overwhelmed by our sorrow in their loss.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, speaks during the Memorial Day ceremony at Maple Hill

“Let us challenge ourselves today to always remember how much we owe to the valiant men and women of the armed forces, those who have served and those who are serving now. Let us always remember them, what they stand for and what they do for us each and every day.”

As the morning ceremony progressed, one of the event’s guests quoted President Ronald Reagan’s 1983 Memorial Day speech and talked about how the nation owes a debt to those who choose to serve their country.

“I thought today’s event came together very well,” Rep. Mo Brooks, Alabama’s 5th Congressional District representative, said. “It is very important for us on Memorial Day to remember those who have sacrificed so much so that America can be what it is today.”

After the congressman spoke, one of Redstone Arsenal’s leaders addressed the crowd and reminded everyone of the importance of the day.

“When I look out and see what you are doing today at this ceremony it just reminds me of how great America is and anytime you forget, you just need to come to an event like this,” Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said. “Thank God for the United States of America and for its communities like this one here in Huntsville, Alabama. I want you to know that it is an honor and a privilege for Diane and me to be here today and to represent our active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who bravely defend our freedom.

“Today, on Memorial Day, we honor those who have given their lives in the service of their country. Memorial Day is a solemn day of

remembrance for those men and women who paid the ultimate price of freedom.”

Formica talked about what the day means to America as the nation remembers those who made the world safe for democracy and ensured that those who sought freedom, attained freedom.

“Ceremonies will remind us that freedom is not free,” Formica said. “Veterans and servicemembers resting in these cemeteries died defending the lives and values that create the fabric of our nation.

“Today, servicemembers serving around the world share a heritage and common bond with the men and women who gave their lives which we honor today. If you would look into their lives, whether they were privates or generals, you would see the same core values we share today: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These were ordinary men and women who rose to meet seemingly impossible odds and did extraordinary things. Their lives were dedicated, not to conflict or to death, but to protecting lives and freedom.”

As the memorial ceremony came to a close, the general spoke about how the Huntsville community came out to show their support and what it means when people show their respect for all who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

“Today was an acknowledgment of service and sacrifice by this community,” Formica said. “I didn’t know what to expect when I got here, but to see the community turn out -- various military veterans and associations, people who have lost loved ones, people who have served and just people from the community who have come out and remember those who gave their lives touched me deeply. It is what Memorial Day is all about.

“Memorial Day is a national holiday where we remember those who sacrificed their lives in service to their country. It is important to me that communities like Huntsville and those around America that are doing this very thing pause to remember those who served and remember those, in prayer, who are still serving.”

Letterkenny provides industry showcase

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. – Letterkenny Army Depot held a showcase June 8-9 for businesses interested in building relationships and contacts within the Letterkenny community as well as the greater Franklin County community and businesses.

Twenty-two vendors, ranging from businesses that specialize in military transport containers to electronic and technological products, and 185 participants attended the event held at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg.

The dedication of the Letterkenny Child Development Center to Staff Sgt. Richard J. Tieman at Letterkenny kicked off the events. Tieman, of Waynesboro, was killed by a suicide bomber while serving in Kabul, Afghanistan. Speakers at the ceremony included Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, deputy commander for operations at Installation Management Command; Letterkenny commander Col. Cheri Provancha, Letterkenny sergeant major 1st Sgt. Gregory Stevens and two members of Tieman’s former unit. *(Letterkenny Army Depot release)*

Taiwanese visitors

The Army Security Assistance Command welcomed the first foreign major general to visit its new facility on Redstone Arsenal May 25. Maj. Gen. Tian-Leon Shaw, deputy director general of the Taipei Economic Cultural Office, and a Taiwan delegation received briefings on the Apache, Black Hawk and Patriot programs and the Operational Flight Trainer from security assistance enterprise members, including AMCOM and PEO STRI. USASAC facilitates foreign military sales to foreign governments and Taiwan has the largest FMS program in the PACOM area of responsibility. From left are Maj. Chung-Hao Yang, Lt. Col. Frank Lin, Col. Kevin Chao, Shaw, USASAC chief of staff Col. Bob Pastorelli and USASAC PACOM deputy director Jeff Lake.

Photo by Melody Sandlin



Redstone workers certified to improve processes

Fourteen complete black belt course

By Skip Vaughn

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

They are trained and ready to improve processes throughout Team Redstone.

Fourteen workers completed a four-week course Friday in Lean Six Sigma black belt.

“We have got to be in the business of changing the mindset of people – all the people – that there are better ways to do things,” Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said. “We have got to find out how to do it better, faster and with less resources.”

He presented completion certificates in a morning ceremony in his conference room. The four-week course was conducted by the AMCOM Office of Continuous Improvement.

The graduates included Cathy Miller-Robinson, an engineer in the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, who is the third person in Army history to be certified as a black belt. She earned the certification by finishing her project on process improvement.

“I feel honored to have been able to achieve something like that,” she said. “It’s a great achievement.”

Leafus Thomas, a logistics management specialist in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, said the course covered a lot of information.

“It was very informative, learned a lot of analytical skills,” he said. “All in all I thought it was of benefit to the organization.”

The graduates included Miller-Robinson, Thomas, Lakeisha Buckner of Army Materiel Command, Deborah Edwards of Competition Management Office, Marian Guidry of Resource Management, Kimberly Kinsner of Integrated Materiel Management Center, Paul Lawson of IMMC, Nathan Parks of AMC, Mark Russell of AMRDEC, Michael Schneider of Army Contracting Command, Rebecca Shelton of Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, Paul Smith of TMDE Activity, Lisa White of Office of Continuous Improvement and Marcella Reynolds of AMC.

The instructors were Johnnie Bradt of the Office of Continuous Improvement and John Pelzel from Defense Ammo Center in McAlester, Okla.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Graduates of the four-week Lean Six Sigma black belt course gather after Friday’s ceremony.

***PS Magazine* reaches golden age of service**

*Going strong
after 60 years*

By Jonathan Pierce

PS Magazine acting editor

The Army’s master mechanic is still on duty even though his tour of duty began during World War II. Master Sgt. Half-Mast McCanick was the Army’s master mechanic back then, answering Soldiers’ questions in *Army Motors* magazine. Half-Mast, as he prefers to be called, and his *Army Motors* sidekick, Cpl. Connie Rodd, took a break from military service at the end of the war. That break was short.

At the beginning of the Korean Conflict, Half-Mast was recalled to duty and Connie returned as a civilian employee. They formed the core of a new publication, *PS, The Preventive Maintenance Monthly*, more commonly called *PS Magazine*. Since June 1951, they and the magazine have been busy encouraging Soldiers to practice preventive maintenance on vehicles, weapons and equipment.

Some readers may think they’re getting a bit old to do much. But Half-Mast and Connie haven’t aged a bit. They star in a magazine that uses sequential art to inform and influence Soldiers about maintenance and supply issues. That’s a highfalutin way of saying they’re comic book characters in a magazine that pairs them with animated equipment to capture reader



Courtesy graphic

Half-Mast and Connie are currently joined by two other regular characters in *PS Magazine*. Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin “Rotor” Blade is an aviation expert. Bonnie serves with Connie as civilian maintenance and supply experts.

attention. It's one of the oldest and most successful publications using sequential art as an educational tool to present information in short, clearly written, highly focused text and illustrations.

For 60 years, mechanics, supply clerks, armorers, and a host of other Soldiers who operate the Army's equipment have used *PS Magazine* to stay up-to-date with changes to Army technical publications, repair parts national stock numbers, and maintenance and supply policy.

Eventually, *PS* became an Army technical bulletin (TB) 43-PS-series. Published monthly, the magazine regularly covers combat and tactical wheeled vehicles, small arms to crew-served weapons to cannons and missiles, radios and generators and other electronics gear, aircraft, uniforms to body armor and other Soldier support items, construction and engineer equipment, and logistics management systems, policies and techniques.

Today, the *PS* crew regularly visit Soldiers at continental U.S. installations to keep in touch with Soldier concerns, pick up article ideas, and discover Soldier solutions to maintenance and supply issues. After their ideas are turned into articles, the *PS* staff has the information approved by the Army organization that is the proponent for that information. With their approval, the articles are published, and the information can be applied to Army equipment on the same basis as other Army technical manuals and bulletins.

In addition to the printed publication, *PS* is available online. From the *PS* home page, Soldiers can view complete past issues back to January 1999 or use indexes to find individual articles back to January 1990. Soldiers can also search topic areas to find what has been published on a topic since 2000. You can view *PS* at <http://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/pshome.cfm>.

PS is embracing social networks by first establishing a presence for Half-Mast on Facebook. You can find his Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/halfmast.mccanick>.

Half-Mast will keep you up-to-date on late-breaking Hot Topics, articles that will be appearing in the next issue, and when the newest issue has been posted on the *PS* homepage for viewing.

Half-Mast and the *PS* crew hope you'll join them in reading the hard copy magazine or viewing it online. In our March issue, Half-Mast visited DC Comics "Sgt. Rock and the men of Easy Company." The feature article is drawn by its original artist, the renowned Joe Kubert. Kubert is also the current artist for *PS Magazine*. It's the 700th issue of the magazine and a part of its 60th anniversary celebration.

PS Magazine is a part of the Logistics Support Activity, Army Materiel Command, at Redstone Arsenal. You can email Half-Mast at half.mast@us.army.mil. The telephone number is 955-0893.

Contracting commands unfurl flags at Redstone

The Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command will mark the official transfer of their headquarters to Redstone Arsenal with a command flag uncasing ceremony.

ACC and ECC will unfurl their flags during the ceremony at 9 a.m. Thursday at their joint headquarters campus at Wells and Mauler roads. The headquarters are moving to Redstone from Fort Belvoir, Va.

"This is a very important next step for ACC and ECC," Jeff Parsons, ACC executive director, said. "It not only signals the physical change of our headquarters operations, it's another significant milestone in our growth as one of Army Materiel Command's major subordinate commands."

The Army activated ACC in March 2008. ACC's mission is to provide global contracting support to war fighters through the full spectrum of military operations. Along with its two subordinate commands, the ECC and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, ACC's 5,500 military and civil servant work force operates at more than 115 locations worldwide, including contingency contracting operations supporting U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, communicates with it, wears it, or eats it – ACC contracts for it.

About 60 percent of the ACC headquarters staff is on hand at Redstone; ECC has approximately 40 percent of its staff here. Once the transition is complete this summer, about 350 Soldiers and civilians will be working in the two headquarters.

Army helping destroy wind tunnels for NASA

By Debra Valine

Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville

A Facilities Reduction Program project to remove wind tunnels and supporting facilities at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., is making history in more ways than one and is saving NASA a lot of money.

Langley officials approached the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville's FRP program manager about demolishing four wind tunnels and related structures. The FRP helps government agencies eliminate excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings.

Specific facilities being demolished at Langley are the 30-by-60-foot full scale wind tunnel, two 8-foot tunnels that are large concrete structures, co-located next to each other, and the 16-foot transonic wind tunnel complex, which includes 10 wind tunnel support facilities. The 16-foot complex also includes an administration building that will remain in place.



Photo by Jeff Shea

Workers destroy a wind tunnel at NASA's historic Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. The tunnels were used to test aircraft prior to World War II. Demolition of a historic structure requires years of planning and preparation.

Huntsville Center, NASA Langley, the Corps' Norfolk District, Charter Environmental (prime contractor) and Neuber Environmental (subcontractor) are partners on the project.

Work got under way in January on the \$3.75 million project. The project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be complete in October, ahead of the projected completion date of Dec. 31.

"NASA's original estimate for the full scale wind tunnel and the 16-foot wind tunnel was \$8.4 million," Thad Stripling, Huntsville's FRP program manager, said. "We will remove those two tunnels as well as the other two with related structures for \$3.75 million – that's less than half the original estimate."

This project is unusual for the FRP since it's a NASA facility rather than a Department of the Army facility and the wind tunnels have historic significance. Several large components of the full scale tunnel and smaller historic artifacts from the full scale and the 8-foot transonic pressure tunnel were salvaged for display at NASA Langley and other locations, including the

Smithsonian. Some of the artifacts, such as 35 fan blades from the 16-foot transonic tunnel, are being incorporated into the structural design of new NASA Langley facilities. A full list of salvaged items is available at http://crgis.ndc.nasa.gov/historic/Salvaged_Artifacts.

"This project is very interesting because of its complexity. These wind tunnels are historical structures that were used to test the capabilities of various aircrafts since before World War II," said project manager Mindy Shelton, Huntsville Center's FRP. "Jeff Shea from Charter and Mark Frank from Neuber are working exceptionally well with NASA personnel to execute this extremely complex project on schedule and within budget."

Between closure and demolition, the Full Scale Wind Tunnel was recently used in the Cameron Diaz movie "The Box."

Demolition of a historic structure requires years of planning and preparation, according to Mary Gainer, Langley's historic preservation officer. Memorandums of Agreement with the Virginia Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation defined mitigation measures to be undertaken by NASA. These measures included preparation of Historic American Engineering Records, artifact salvage and curation, a public interpretation website and public display on the NASA Langley campus.

During their lifetimes, the wind tunnels were used for aeronautics research. In more recent years the tunnels were used for space applications such as shuttle. Officials at Langley determined the wind tunnels were no longer needed and decided to remove them to reduce maintenance and associated costs.

Defense Department cites Redstone travel team

Redstone's support team for the Defense Travel System has won a top award from the Defense Department.

The DTS Helpdesk received the Elite Award from the Defense Travel Management Office. It was among three winners of Connect 2011 excellence in practice awards,

"Out of all of DoD we won one of three awards," Randy Gloyd, chief of AMCOM's Financial Management Division G-8, said. "We were surprised we won."

The Redstone helpdesk supports 42 organizations and sub-organizations with more than 14,000 travelers. It has processed about 22,000 requests for assistance in the past year, which include phone and system calls, email and walk-in and one-to-one training sessions.

The staff includes team leader Janice Nash, George Falling, Kim Kelley, Ethel Jones, Karen Collins and Marshall Smith.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The DTS Helpdesk honorees include, from left, George Falling, Kim Kelley, Ethel Jones, team leader Janice Nash and Karen Collins. Not pictured is Marshall Smith.

PX to give away children's playhouse

Army & Air Force Exchange Service locations are once again teaming up with Hershey's to give away nearly \$20,000 worth of children's playhouses through June 30.

One "Step 2 Neat and Tidy Cottage" Playhouse will be given away to a Post Exchange shopper as part of the giveaway. Valued at approximately \$159, the playhouse includes an interactive phone, working doorbell and pass-through mailbox in addition to a molded-in kitchen table, faucet, burner and two seats.

"This may be some little boy or girl's first 'home,'" PX general manager Loraine Arbo said. "We look forward to not only awarding the prize but, depending on how generous the winner's allowance is, maybe even showing them how the Exchange can help them furnish it."

The "Hershey's Fisher House Sweepstakes" runs from June 3-30 and the in-store drawing for the playhouse will take place at the Post Exchange on or about July 1. All authorized shoppers are eligible and no purchase is necessary to enter. (AAFES release)

Quack home

A mother duck and her ducklings have made themselves at home in the Sparkman Center courtyard near the entrance to building 5308. The duck family has been spotted cooling off in this garbage can lid full of water, as well as parading around the courtyard in formation. Employees have left apple slices and other food for the ducks to munch on.

Photo by Ashley Kalifeh



Emergency operations at home in new facility

Location should improve efficiency after natural disasters, mishaps

By Kari Hawkins

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

Down a long hall at Garrison building 4488 there is a secure area that serves as the heartbeat of emergency operations at Redstone Arsenal.

The Garrison's Installation Emergency Operations Center, formerly located across post in the basement of building 111, is now at home right where the Garrison wanted it – just a walk downstairs from the commander's office.

That's important, said Garrison IEOC employee Tamilene Harris, because when there is an emergency on post, the Garrison commander is immediately brought into the situation, providing leadership and final decision-making power on emergency operations implemented for the protection of Arsenal employees and assets.

"This is much more efficient for us," said Harris, who serves as the Garrison's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives program manager. "It makes it much more convenient for leadership."

Besides the commander, major emergency operations – such as natural disasters, weather situations, chemical emergencies, terrorist actions and workplace accidents – involve all Garrison directors, who must report to the IEOC to assist in assessing and managing an emergency response.

"When there is an emergency, information is pushed down through our directors to our employees and through other emergency operations centers on post to include tenant organizations," Harris said.

Besides the location, the new IEOC also offers the latest in technology, the best in emergency operations equipment, a conference room with video teleconferencing capability and a large enough situation room so that the 12-person IEOC staff can accommodate upwards of 50 or more people during an on-post emergency.

"During the April 27 tornado emergency, the IEOC was crowded and cramped. It was a really busy time," Harris said. "This new space gives us the room we need so if the commander needs to have a meeting, he has a place right here to do that. There is space for all our directors plus representatives from the tenant organizations who need to come here during an emergency."

Harris said the new IEOC also provides the equipment needed for the IEOC staff to be more effective in achieving the daily emergency management mission.

"The most important part of our job is what we do for others," Harris said. "We have to manage emergencies well and take care of employees, Soldier units and their families. We have to manage for whatever emergency comes along.

"Each emergency that we work through improves us as we go along. No emergency is the same so we learn a lot about emergencies as we work through them."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Garrison's new Installation Emergency Operations Center offers a situational room that can accommodate 50 or more people during the management of an on-post emergency. The 12-person IEOC staff working to prevent and manage emergencies include, from left, Fransavia Coleman, Christine Noriega, Tamilene Harris and Sherry Shows.

Huntsville Center shares diversity training

By Jo Anita Miley

Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville

More than 75 Huntsville Center managers and supervisors attended mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity training May 12-13. Army Corps of Engineers director of EEO James Braxton gave the focal point training class, “Leadership and Development: Creating a Positive Workforce,” during four training sessions held over a two-day period in the command conference room.

Braxton said the training is required for managers and supervisors, and is part of the annual mandatory EEO requirement set out by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Department of the Army Office of Diversity and Leadership. It is intended to give leaders an overview of the work force in the 21st century, provide new ways for managing employees, and foster diversity in the workplace.

Braxton said he would like to change the way EEO is viewed by those in leadership positions within the Corps.

“EEO is not just about race and gender anymore – there are far more issues that we (leaders) will have to deal with,” Braxton said. “We (leaders) must find better ways to reach our employees in the 21st century. We have to figure out how to overcome the barriers that divide us in the work force – this is what EO is about.”

Employees from other Corps of Engineers locations were given an opportunity to attend the training. Jeffrey Dziedzic, deputy director of the Corps’ Learning Center, attended the training with other supervisors and managers from his organization.

“I definitely benefited from the EEO training. I experienced many ‘aha’ moments during the session that I attended,” Dziedzic said. “Mr. Braxton’s use of analogies and examples were excellent ways to bring his point across, and another advantage for me. I took notes where I might not otherwise take notes, because I really appreciated the message he was sending.”



Photo by Jo Anita Miley
Army Corps of Engineers director of equal employment opportunity James Braxton conducts a class May 19-20 at Huntsville Center.

Soldier rescues motorist on flooded road

Driver stranded during storms

By Sofia Bledsoe

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

Just when one surmises that all the heroic stories have been told on the aftermath of the April storms that devastated many communities, a hero is discovered, rising beyond the call of duty and saves a life.

Dusk was setting. Few cars were on the road and provided the only lights in the city. The storms and tornadoes that had just passed through the night of April 27 wiped out Huntsville/Madison County’s electric grid. Melissa Wheeler, 28, had decided to go home after work instead of spending the night at a friend’s house. She knew she had to get home quickly.

Lt. Col. Jimmy Bowie was in the middle of transitioning from his old unit to the Army Materiel Command in the headquarters’ chief of Staff office. He had been a battalion commander for the 4th Battalion, 321st and during the week of the storms, was trying to close out in a big exercise. Soldiers from Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Alabama had traveled to Redstone Arsenal for the exercise and arrived Tuesday of that week. By Wednesday afternoon after the power had gone out, attention had shifted from the exercise to feeding and caring for the Soldiers.

On a two-lane road in Harvest where she was detoured by police, Wheeler was making her way toward Toney where she lived with her parents. Then without warning, a flash flood swept the back end of her car and

pushed her halfway off the road. The creek off of Monroe Road had overflowed. Water was rising fast, and Wheeler's Ford Fusion had stalled. The phone lines were down, and there was no cell phone coverage. Wheeler could not reach anyone in her family. Trapped and helpless, she dialed 911, the only number that would go through.

With no phone coverage, Bowie had not been able to talk to his family either. He knew at least two of the storms had hit Toney where he also lived. After feeding the Soldiers, Bowie told his command sergeant major that he was going to check on his family and see how they fared and said he would be right back. It was around 7:30 p.m.

"I was in the driver's seat which was filling up with water faster than the passenger seat," said Wheeler, a management support specialist at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. The 911 center had told her not to exit her car since it was dark and there was no way to tell how fast the water was moving.

"I had my flashers on and the batteries were dying. My phone was dying," Wheeler said. She tried frantically to catch the attention of a few cars that were on the road that drove near the edge of the water.

"I saw a couple of cars come but then turned around," she said. The night was getting darker and 911 was overloaded with emergency calls and dispatches. Wheeler tried to describe the road she was stranded in as best she could to the 911 dispatch. She was unfamiliar with the detour road and did not know its name. "911 couldn't find me. They were busy. It was chaos," she said. "I thought I was going to die."

Bowie headed toward Toney when he left Redstone Arsenal. "I normally go up Pulaski Pike, but of course, it was blocked and so were many other places as I would find out later," he said. Downed power lines, flooding, debris and trees led to detours at every road he knew to take. After an hour of driving, Bowie was getting a little frustrated and turned onto another road he had never taken before in Harvest.

"As I crested the hill and was coming down, there was a truck ahead of me that had stopped. The road ahead was obviously flooded, so the truck had turned around. I pulled up to the edge of the water and I was making the same judgment. The water was way too deep, moving way too fast, I'm not going to try it," Bowie said.

Even with a four-wheel-drive large truck, he decided it was not worth trying.

"I was getting ready to back up and turn around, and as I was doing so, my attention caught something just out in the middle of this," Bowie said. In the back of his mind, he thought there was no way a car could have driven that far down the flooded road which was approximately 300 yards away. "I thought it was a marker on the road. It was so far away that I couldn't tell what was out there," he said.

Like many Soldiers trained in combat, he assessed the situation and instinct got the better of him. "I started easing out there and it kept getting deeper and deeper. As I neared the middle of the flooded road, I realized there was a car there."

The water had risen to about a foot and half on his car door. It had been raining heavily and Bowie knew the water would only continue to rise and was flowing fast. "But then I realized there was somebody there in the car, and I just pressed on," he said.

Wheeler was desperate and had almost given up hope that someone would find her. There was little chance any other car would pass through that late in the night when all the power was out. Then she saw a truck stop at the edge of the water line. This time, the driver of the truck kept moving forward toward her.

"The first time I saw her she was sitting on the door frame on the high side," Bowie said. When he pulled the truck alongside Wheeler's car, it created a wave.

Bowie knew the best thing was to get Wheeler out of her dire predicament as quickly as possible. "What I didn't want to do was to have two cars stranded in the middle of the flood," he said.

Bowie turned on the lights inside the truck, and Wheeler could see that it was a Soldier. She knew instantly that she was sent an angel, and that Soldier would do everything he could to bring her home safely. Most of the men in her family had served in the military, and so she knew to trust a Soldier.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Lt. Col. Jimmy Bowie of the Army Materiel Command chief of staff's office stands in front of the flags at the AMC headquarters. He saved Melissa Wheeler at great risk to himself the night of April 27 after the storms.

“Can your car start?” Bowie asked. “No,” Wheeler replied. “It’s dead.”

“Well then I’ll take you home,” Bowie replied.

Mike Courtemanche, Wheeler’s stepfather, a contractor for Logzone Inc. who works in the Fixed Wing Product Office in the Program Executive Office for Aviation, said he and his wife JoAnne had concluded that Wheeler stayed at either her friend’s house or her brother’s house that evening. Although she often spent the night at either house, the fact that they knew nothing of her situation made them worry. “There was no way to reach her. Our community was in total communications blackout,” Courtemanche said.

Then around 11 p.m., Courtemanche saw car lights pulling away from the house. He caught a glimpse of Bowie and made out that he was a Soldier. He quickly got dressed but when he went to his daughter’s room Bowie was already gone.

Courtemanche searched for Bowie and found his email address. “If you are the person that got Melissa home,” he wrote, “thank you very much for the effort you put forth. I am sorry that I did not get a chance to thank you on the spot.”

“Lt. Col. Bowie does not think what he did was heroic, but it means so much to us that our daughter is alive and well because of his actions,” Courtemanche said. “It was a very, very frightening moment for Melissa. Words cannot express our gratitude to the colonel for risking his own life.”

The following morning, Wheeler and her parents drove to where her car was stranded and saw that the water had risen to almost 5 feet overnight. “My car was totaled,” said Wheeler, disappointed about the loss of her vehicle but so glad to be have been able to go home. Wheeler also discovered that Bowie did not live far from their house in Toney.

“I want to thank him for coming by, for following his instincts and getting me out of the car and taking me home,” Wheeler said. “I want to thank him for what he did for me and what he has done for our country.”

Bowie, now fully transitioned into AMC, said he didn’t think what he did was heroic.

“I’ve done three combat tours in Iraq, and I’ve seen heroic actions,” he said. “In this case, I don’t see it as being heroic. It’s just neighbors helping neighbors, and I’m just fortunate for her to be at the right place at the right time when I found her.”

‘You can overcome adversities in your life’

Worker displaced by April tornadoes appreciates community’s kindness

By Kari Hawkins

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs

Every day, Sonya Morris, director of the Defense Military Pay Office, makes the trip home to Harvest after work. She checks for mail, sees about her neighbors and does a few things around the house.

And then she drives back to Redstone.

“Home” these days for Morris is uninhabitable. She and her 18-year-old daughter, Brittany, are living in temporary housing on the Arsenal while they wait for substantial repairs – including a new roof, chimney, ceiling and floors – to be made to their home after the April 27 tornadoes that wrecked their Harvest Landing neighborhood. Morris’ husband, Anthony, lives and works in Saudi Arabia. Both are retired military.

For Morris, the aftermath of April 27 is still very much with her as she goes through the process of rebuilding what was taken by the tornadoes. She had to rely on the help of friends, co-workers and even strangers during the initial days of recovery. Now she is waiting patiently while her home damage goes through the insurance claims process. And she is remembering with gratitude the kindness showed to her and her daughter during the days following April 27.

“To see the kindness of the people coming through ... I had never seen anything like that in my life,” Morris said. “Until you see a disaster you really don’t know how hearts are. There’s a spark inside our hearts to do for our fellow man. I got so many hugs, so many ‘Can I help you?’ and ‘What can I do for you?’ It really makes you understand the depths of human kindness.”

Like most Arsenal employees, Morris was at work on April 27. Between the day's multiple severe weather systems – just before lunch – she dismissed Military Pay employees, hoping each would get home safely. She and co-worker Lisa Brown, who lives in Madison, remained in the office on Hercules Road.

“We kept watching the weather,” Morris said. “The lights went out here. The (exterior) doors were slamming. The wind was rattling everything. The fourth tornado hit (in northwest Madison County) and we waited until that system passed over us before we went home.

“I’m thinking I can go home. I didn’t know the damage had occurred.”

But, as she traveled west on Highway 72, Morris began getting the feeling that something bad had happened. Very few cars were on the road and the wind was very strong, making it feel as though her car lifted off the road several times. When she turned left onto Wall Triana, Morris realized that a tornado had hit the area. Several utility lines were down and utility poles were bent all along the roadway.

It took Morris several attempts to get to her home, having to change routes due to roads that were impassable.

“After about 1 1/2 hours of detouring, we (she and other drivers who had formed a sort of caravan) got close. Now it’s about 4:30. I had told my daughter not to go to work. But, thankfully, she left right before the tornado that we think hit our house. So, she was stuck trying to get back, too,” Morris said.

Although she was close to home, emergency personnel at the intersection of Wall Triana and Yarborough directed Morris to leave her car and take shelter at the Harvest House restaurant because another tornado system was coming through.

“I was so worried about my daughter. She was stuck on Wall Triana in a long line of traffic. She walked through the rain and made it to Harvest House,” Morris said. “I’ve never been so relieved in my life.”

After the last weather system went through, Morris and her daughter walked about a half mile to their home.

“It was dark and there was a narrow path,” Morris said. “Houses all along the way were damaged. Some were missing. Some were actually lifted off their foundations and dropped down. What horror it was. Every house was damaged.”

That damage included their one-story home and Morris’ Dodge truck, which had been parked in the driveway.

“The truck was slammed and shattered. The windows were shattered in the house. I’m so glad my daughter went to work because she probably would have been killed by flying glass,” Morris said. “But, beyond that, we couldn’t really see anything. It was hard to assess the damage because it was so dark. From what we could see, the kitchen, dining room, pantry and laundry room were all under water. Water was pouring down from the ceiling. All we could do was get some bags, grab some stuff and go.”

The two came back to the Arsenal, where Morris had planned for them to stay in her office until the morning. But a friend managed to reach them by phone and provided them a place to stay. They stayed with their friend for about five days until they obtained temporary housing on the Arsenal.

“The next day ... to talk about it brings tears to my eyes,” Morris said. “We had to show our IDs to get in the neighborhood. People were in their yards, their hands out to the sky, their homes totally destroyed. One of my neighbors and their 16-year-old daughter died.”

Although her truck was banged up, it still started. Her home’s roof was destroyed and the ceiling had collapsed. The chimney was gone and there was water damage throughout the house. Both Morris’ and her daughter’s bedrooms were torn apart. The backyard privacy fence was gone and someone’s wooden play set was impaled on the storage building. A beloved willow tree taller than the house was gone.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Sonya Morris, director of the Defense Military Pay Office, is overcoming the challenges presented by the April 27 tornadoes that severely damaged her home. She and her family have relied on the help of friends, co-workers and even strangers.

“A contractor tarped my roof. People were in the neighborhood cutting trees and moving debris. A guy came up the road with my chimney in his wheelbarrow,” Morris said. “Co-workers and their friends came in with chainsaws and cut trees out. We boarded up my windows and put everything we could save in a place where it wouldn’t get more damage.”

Harvest House opened their doors to tornado victims, cooking up all their inventory and providing everyone, including Morris, with free meals. Donations came from friends and co-workers at Redstone and across the Army who wanted to help. It was a co-worker who suggested Morris contact the Bicentennial Chapel to seek temporary shelter, which led to the Redstone Garrison providing them with a two-bedroom, furnished apartment where they now.

“I go home every day. I don’t want to forget it,” Morris said of visiting her home in Harvest. “There are people who lost everything. But you are in your own little world and what you are thinking about is what you lost.”

Of course, at some point, Morris had to tell her husband what had happened to their home.

“When we finally got in touch with each other, he said he had been trying to call me for days,” she said. “He already had plans to come home for Brittany’s graduation. He wanted to know if he should come sooner. I told him to keep his plans. I didn’t want him coming home and having to deal with what happened. I had done that and I was trying to move forward. So, he kept his plans as they were.”

And life does go on. Even though the focus was tornado recovery, the family was facing other milestones in their lives, many centered around their daughter’s high school prom and graduation. Again, Redstone Garrison stepped up, providing the Morris’ relatives an on-post cottage for their visit at graduation and the use of the Rustic Lodge for a graduation party.

“My daughter is a military brat. She was born in Frankfurt, Germany,” Morris said. “But I never thought I would see her leave from an installation to go to prom or to go to graduation. She was sad at first. But the Lord provided us with a place. I have been overwhelmed with the generosity.”

There are many lessons – both practical and personal – that Morris has gleaned from the horror of tornado destruction. They include: know your insurance representative, have an emergency backup plan, have an emergency kit, put a fire extinguisher in every family vehicle and have patience.

“Something like this toughens you up and lets you know you can overcome adversities in your life,” Morris said. “This is a horrible nightmare. But out of it comes a lot of good. We’ve had well-wishers from around the country, but it’s mostly the military community that has embraced us. I’m in awe how kind people can be.”

Machine guns delivered overseas despite obstacles

By Michelle Harlan

USASAC Public Affairs

Flight cancellation and location changes didn’t prevent the shipment of M60 machine guns to the United Kingdom as part of a foreign military sales case supported by the Army Security Assistance Command. USASAC’s motto of “Strength in Cooperation” not only applies to its support to security enterprise partners and foreign countries but to the efforts of the employees who monitor FMS case requisitions and ensure their success.

Kim Bricker was the senior central case manager for the delivery of the machine guns sale. Bricker, who works at USASAC’s New Cumberland, Pa., office, had to keep track of the items as they made their way from the contractor to the buyer in the U.K. This particular case ran into several snags as the items made their way to their final destination. In one week, the shipping location changed four times as flights were canceled and temporary safe-haven storage was located. Since the shipment involved weapons, the items were required to be escorted and stored securely at all times.

The guns left the contractor in Nevada and were shipped to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland for the original scheduled flight to the U.K. When that flight was canceled, the plan had to be changed. Andrews AFB



Kim Bricker

did not have a secure facility to store the artillery until a new flight could be arranged, so the materiel was moved to Indian Head, Md., for a short-term secure storage solution.

“No matter the amount of planning there are always obstacles you must overcome to fulfill the mission,” Adam Coffman, a traffic management specialist from TACOM-Security Assistance Management Directorate who was responsible for arranging the transport of the weapons, said. Dealing with these types of changes are “just another day in the FMS transportation world,” he added.

Coffman was in constant contact with Bricker throughout the process by providing status updates and shipping options to ensure the items were delivered as quickly as possible.

“Adam stepped in to figure out how to get the guns to the U.K. and was able to amend paperwork to change the delivery destination in the U.K.,” Bricker said.

FMS cases are assigned a delivery term code (DTC) that specifies the point at which responsibility for transportation of the items shift from the U.S. government to the foreign government purchaser. This case required the items be delivered to a Department of Defense port of exit onto a customer country controlled ship or aircraft. By changing the DTC that was assigned to the case, that restriction was lifted and the items were able to be placed on a commercial carrier flight out of the U.S. directly to the overseas destination.

The guns were taken out of storage at Indian Head and driven to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. From there, the guns were on a flight to the Royal Air Force Station at Mildenhall in Suffolk, England.

“Once the decision was made to change the DTC we were able to get (the guns) in the U.K. in under 48 hours,” Coffman said. “It took a lot of coordination to complete this requirement.”

Despite the challenges, Bricker and her Security Assistance Enterprise partners were never in doubt that the delivery would be made to the U.S. coalition partner.

“There were many obstacles that came up, but in the end the mission was completed and our allies were very pleased with the delivery and acceptance of the new materiel,” Coffman said.

“There is a team. We are here to help each other,” Bricker said. “You don’t do anything alone in this business.”

Corps of Engineers workers recognized for service

The Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville recognized eight employees and one team for their service during its annual Engineer Day celebration June 3. The annual event commemorates the birthday of the Army Corps of Engineers, which turns 236 years old June 16.

Nancy Book, Engineering Directorate, was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work as the senior secretary within the division.

Ryan Black, Office of Counsel was awarded the Commander’s Leadership Award for his superior leadership as the primary attorney and labor counselor advising the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, to include the International Operations work.

Carol Sargent, Management Review Office was awarded the Contracting Professional of the Year. Sargent serves as the only contracting professional assigned to the MRO. She is responsible for initiating all contracting activities for the MRO mission.

Jennifer Peete, Resource Management, was named the Resource Manager of the Year. For the past year, Peete has exceeded expectations in every facet of her position. She leads the monthly financial reporting and has reduced reporting time from five business days to two business days.

Patrick Clark, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, was named the Project Manager of the Year. Clark has provided critical project management support for a variety of highly complex state-of-the-art medical projects executed by the Medical Repair and Renewal Program.

Mary Young, Engineering Directorate, was named the Employee of the Year. Young has provided excellent technical leadership in the MMRP as well as many other programs during the past year.

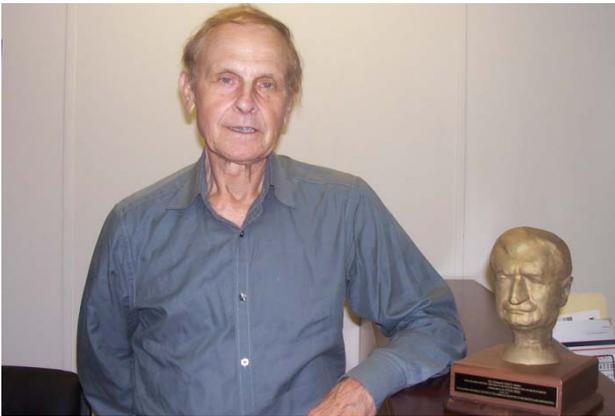
Krysta Zurowski, Engineering Directorate, was named the Volunteer of the Year. Young has served as vice president of the Huntsville Center Activities Association for the past year. Zurowski has worked with this group

to provide entertainment and support for the work force through various activities and events that have made a huge impact on the center.

Ross Allen, Jelani Ingram and Sandy Wood, Engineering Directorate, were named the Innovators of the Year. This team utilized the Building Information Modeling Rivot system to present their ideas to their customers, resulting in the delivery of a superior product to the customer that created three-dimensional models of the templates, re-organized linked data, thereby systematically improving the customer's information that could be viewed and accessed.

Thomas Meier, Engineering Directorate, was named the Engineer of the Year. Meier serves in several roles within the Engineering Directorate that impact the entire center. In addition to supporting mechanical engineering functions within the branch, Meier serves as the fire protection engineer for the center.

The Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Team received the Teamwork Award. Team members include Lisa Nall, Gina Elliott, Laura Mabee, Matthew Morelan, Stewart Brandon, Charles Lee, Vernon Petty, Jefferey Murrell, Omar Ching, Mark Fleck, David Hill, Joan Theusch, Fiatupu Murphy, Brandy Whitehead, Tanya Murray, Carol Steuart, Corey Asher, Mitchell Duke, Ralph White, Chris Newman, Brandon Hicks, Paul Anderson, Ashley McDonald, Jay Bogus, Gary Harper, Jonathan Stephens, Dwight Fohner, Tim Fulmer, Michael Palmer, Richard Arnold, Katherine Sparks, Tina Springer, Guy Wilson, Joel Morrison, Sharon Butler, Suzanne Wear, Darren Sackett, Richard Mullady, Michael Collum, Nicholas Haas, George Crittenden, Tracey Edmonds, Jennifer McClure, Richard Himebrook, Jeff Carden, Shannon Walls, Linda Merschman and Charles Williams (deceased). The team is noted for its expertise in delivering state-of-the-art building control systems, HVAC systems, fire alarm systems and metering projects. *(Huntsville Center release)*



Oberth award

Al Reisz of Reisz Engineers received the Hermann Oberth award for individual achievement in astronautics at the awards dinner of the Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics on June 2. Reisz has been developing an electron cyclotron resonance in-space propulsion system working with the University of Michigan under NASA small business grants. Reisz Engineers is developing an ECR propulsion system at the Propulsion Research Center of the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Photo by Judy Wilson

Father's Day gift available through Social Security

By Julie Croley

Social Security Administration

Father's Day is right around the corner. Perhaps you'll give Dad the usual gift: a necktie, shaving set, leather wallet, or new fishing lure. But there's something he may appreciate even more. People all over the country are helping their dads save nearly \$4,000 a year on the cost of prescription drugs. You can help your dad too — and it won't cost you a dime.

The high cost of prescription medication can be a burden on fathers (or anyone) who have limited income and resources. But there is Extra Help – available through Social Security – that could pay part of his monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. That Extra Help is worth an average of almost \$4,000 a year.

To figure out whether your father is eligible, Social Security needs to know his income and the value of his savings, investments and real estate (other than the home he lives in).

To qualify for the Extra Help, he must be enrolled in Medicare and have:

- Annual income limited to \$16,335 for an individual or \$22,065 for a married couple living together. Even if his income is higher, he still may be able to get some help with monthly

premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. Some examples where income may be higher include if he or his spouse support other family members who live with them, have earnings from work or live in Alaska or Hawaii.

- Resources limited to \$12,640 for an individual or \$25,260 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We do not count his house and car as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that you can help complete for your dad. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov. Just select the link on the left of the page that says, "Get extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs." To apply by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020). Or go to the nearest Social Security office.

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Of course, the Extra Help is not just for fathers. Anyone who is entitled to Medicare and has limited income and resources may be eligible.



Quilts with kindness

Elizabeth Knudson, right, presents Rochelle Hogan with the gift of a quilt from the Country Quilters Guild of Pine Bush, N.Y. Knudson's aunt Erica Scheuermann organized an effort for her quilt guild to provide keepsake quilts to families who are living on Redstone Arsenal due to the loss of their homes in the April 27 tornadoes. The quilt guild had donated 14 quilts along with several copies of the guild's cookbook. In addition, Knudson's aunt and her mother, Ann Walker, donated \$450 to assist tornado victims housed on the Arsenal. Hogan and her husband, retired Master Sgt. Edsel Hogan, and their two youngest children are living on the Arsenal while their Harvest home is repaired. With Hogan and Knudson are, from left in background, Brenda Haynes and Jennifer Golden, both of Redstone Communities. "The love that goes into a quilt, there's nothing better than that," Hogan said.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Fox Pharmacy dispenses policy change

By Fox Army Health Center

Effective June 1, a 90-day supply may be dispensed at a time for maintenance medications at Fox Army Health Center.

The prescription with refills can be filled up to a 12-month period for non-controlled drugs. For Narcotics and Scheduled III-V Controlled Substances, a maximum of a 30-day supply may be prescribed with five refills for a total of six months which include medications such as Generic Tylenol 3, Generic Ativan and Generic Lomotil.

Scheduled II drugs may be written for a maximum of a one month supply with no refills. These include medications such as Ritalin, Adderall and Concerta. However, as an exception, these medications may be dispensed up to a 60-day supply for Attention Deficit Disorder with no refills. Tussionex Suspension is limited to two ounces with no refills.

The original number of refills will be annotated on the RX label. For example, zero of five refills means there are zero refills out of the original five refills prescribed.

Prescriptions expire after one year from the original date of dispensing for most medications; controlled substances prescriptions expire six months from the original date on the prescription. Properly dispose of all unused medications using these timelines.

For all active duty servicemembers: Refer to your primary care provider or the Pharmacy pertaining to controlled medication prescription policy changes as per ALARACT 062-2011 (Army Regulation 40-51).

The following information is provided to properly dispose of medication:

- Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so. For information on drugs that should be flushed, visit the FDA's website at www.fda.gov.
- To dispose of prescription drugs not labeled to be flushed, you may be able to take advantage of community drug take-back programs or other programs, such as household hazardous waste collection events, that collect drugs at a central location for proper disposal. Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.
- If a drug take-back or collection program is not available, take your prescription drugs out of their original containers and mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grinds. Put this mixture into a disposal container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or a sealable bag. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty container by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off. Place the sealed container with the mixture and the empty drug containers in the trash.

Editor's note: The Redstone Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program, Fox Army Health Center and the Redstone Police will give the Redstone community an opportunity to prevent medication abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your medications for disposal to the Post Exchange. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Navy beats Army 5-3 to capture league championship

By Army Athletic Communications

ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- Jeff Bland went 2-for-4 and scored a run during Navy's three-run sixth inning as the Midshipmen overcame an early 3-0 deficit to defeat Army 5-3 in the third and deciding game of the Patriot



Photo by Army Athletic Communications

Army senior Ben Koenigsfeld went 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles to pace Army at the plate in the Black Knights' loss to Navy.

League Championship Series on May 24 at Max Bishop Stadium.

Top-seeded Navy (33-23-1) won its first Patriot League title since 2002 and advanced to the NCAA Regionals. Second-seeded Army, meanwhile, saw its 2011 campaign come to an end with a 22-26 record.

"I thought it was a well-played ballgame," Army head coach Joe Sottolano said. "I didn't think we came up with the key hits when we needed them, and that prevented us from extending our early lead. We didn't play as well defensively as we're capable of, and that hurt us today as well. I don't take anything away from Navy, though. They played hard, remained patient and came away with some runs late in the game.

"I'm proud of our club; I thought we battled hard today. Obviously, we came up a little bit shy of where we wanted to be, but I don't have any regrets about how we went about our business."

Ben Koenigsfeld went 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles to pace Army at the plate. J.T. Watkins and Brent Peterson each collected two hits apiece for the Black Knights, who outthit the Midshipmen 11-7 in the contest.

Get hooked on safe boating habits

By **Ralph Langford**

Garrison Safety Office

Every year about this time we start hearing about boat accidents on the water. The need for safety on the water is great. Here are a few things to do every time you get on the water.

Never start the motor in the boat without the kill switch being hooked to a life jacket. This is just common sense; if you or anyone in your boat is thrown from the boat, the need to immediately cut the engine is a must!

Make everyone in your boat wear a life jacket when the engine is running. Many accidents occur when no one in the boat is wearing a life jacket.

While several people are fishing in the same boat, hooks can take an eye out or ruin a good fishing day. If you fish out of a short boat or fish more than two people at a time, make everyone fish out of the same side of the boat. If everyone in the boat is turned to the same side while casting then the hook is always safe from hooking another person. This is simply smart, safe fishing and eliminates the margin of error that can cause you to hook your boat partner.

Finally, don't forget to protect your skin and eyes from the sun. Use sunscreen or wear SPF clothing, and don't leave home without your sunglasses!

Safety is nothing but common sense, and I hope these tips help you act in a responsible manner while fishing and boating.

Cockpit demonstrator shown for workers

Lockheed Martin on June 8 showcased its F-35 Lightning II mobile cockpit demonstrator to employees; federal, state and local elected officials; Alabama-area suppliers and the news media at AAR Precision Systems, a local supplier for the F-35 program.

"We're always proud to share the experience of flying the F-35 with the men and women who are helping develop, build and support this aircraft. AAR Precision Systems and all of our suppliers nationwide are critical to the success of the F-35," Robert Rubino, Lockheed Martin director of Navy F-35 Washington Operations, said. "The F-35 represents the next generation of American fighter aircraft and is the result of more than a decade of research and investment." (*Lockheed Martin release*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sports/recreation

Bowling benefit

A 1950s-style bowling benefit, "The '50s are Back with a Bash!," will be held Friday from 6-9 p.m. at Plamor Lanes to raise funds for the Tut Fann Nursing Home and the Huntsville Veterans Memorial. Participants are encouraged to put on their hippest '50s threads and bowl to the tunes of '50s rock-n-roll. The first 40 ladies to call 852-6381 will be given poodle skirts to wear at the event. Cost is \$20 for bowling shoes and three games. Children bowl for free with their parent. Plamor Lanes is at 2404 Leeman Ferry Road.

Indoor flying

Grace United Methodist Church, 2113 Old Monrovia Road, welcomes pilots and spectators of all ages to its full-court, high-ceiling gym for indoor small electric radio-controlled airplane and helicopter flying from 1-4 p.m. June 26. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 772-3946 or email jmarconnet@gmail.com.

Boating safety class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering an instructional course on boating safety beginning Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687 on Neal Road. For more information about the Boating Seamanship and Skills class, call Tom Kunhart 830-6621 (home), 527-4475 (cell) or email tkunhart@knology.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.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Community Activity Center. Breakfast is available at the Java Cafe. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services -- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the 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 425-5307 -- at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for \$5. For more information, call Hobbs 425-5307.

Lunch and learn

Huntsville-Madison County chapter of Blacks In Government will hold its monthly Lunch and Learn session Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Federal Credit Union Executive Conference Room on Wynn Drive. Rochelle Conley, attorney and counselor, she will talk about Estate Planning and Small Business Consulting. The public is invited. For those eating lunch, they will have a limited amount meals available to the attendees for a small price. There also will be a limited selection in the cafeteria. For more information, call Ronnie Hawkins 876-8810 or Angela Jones 955-2494.

AMCOM town hall

Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers will hold an AMCOM Town Hall on June 20 from 1-2:30 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Rogers will discuss some key accomplishments and issues, and then transition to a question and answer period. Video teleconferencing hookup will be provided for Corpus Christi Army Depot, Letterkenny Army Depot and Aviation Center Logistics Command team members. The town hall is also broadcast on Channel 42 for those folks not in the Sparkman Complex.

Engineer society

The June meeting of the Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, honors young persons who have achieved note in scientific endeavors. Thursday's luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn next to Madison Square Mall. Successful science fair exhibitors from area middle and high schools will showcase their experiments and give brief presentations on their achievements. Huntsville Post will also honor the recipients of the Post's Scholarship award for undergraduates. The cost of the meal is \$15. Please reserve a plated lunch by calling Deb Paoline 271-2511 or emailing deborah.paoline@parsons.com.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will meet July 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The feature is "Inexpensive Ways to Refresh your Home Décor" by Kathy Blades. Music will be provided by Carla McAlpine-Franklin, community vocalist. Susan Hines will speak on "How to Make Progress in Processing Life's Plan." There is free childcare for 6 and younger off-site. Reservations for lunch or child care are due by July 1. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339. HCWC is an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, a support ministry for military wives and other women.

Logistics professionals

The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will hold a luncheon June 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton will speak on "The Logistics of Natural Disaster Relief." Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. RSVP by June 24 with Sharon Adams 533-5789, ext. 271, or email to sadams@logicorehsv.com.

Reserve officers

The Reserve Officers Association, Department of Alabama Local Chapter 20, will meet Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redstone Arsenal Golf Club Restaurant. The goal of the meeting is to reactivate Chapter 20 and elect officers. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ruby Lardent 799-1246 or email ruby.lardent@us.army.mil.

Miscellaneous

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 Lisa Glenn 876-2082. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Survivor outreach picnic

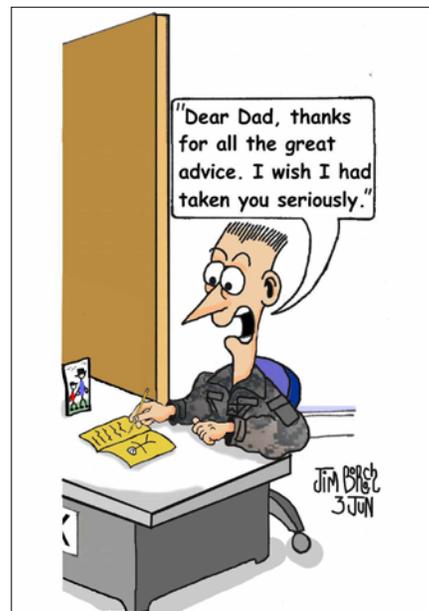
Army Community Service's Survivor Outreach Services will hold its second annual Survivor Meet and Greet at the River from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area. The event will include a barbecue picnic, fun for kids and relaxation time for spouses, parents, grandparents, siblings and all loved ones of a lost Soldier. For more information, call SOS coordinator Emily McFall 842-8375 or email emily.mcfall@us.army.mil.

Brunch benefit

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation Inc. presents its fifth annual fund-raiser "White Linen Brunch" on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Ernest L. Knight Recreation Center at Alabama A&M University. Tickets are \$50 each or \$600 for tables. June 16 is the last day to purchase tickets. For more information, call 468-9749 or 603-5573.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is accepting summer items for consignment. It is also accepting healthy plants in good soil and containers. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5 and the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. "Remember us when looking for that special summer outfit for the beach for adults and children," a prepared release said. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. If you are interested in volunteering, stop by or call 881-6992.



Alabama A&M picnic

The Huntsville-Madison County Alumni Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association Inc. invites all alumni, family and friends to its fifth annual "Picnic on The Hill and Membership Round-up" on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. on A&M campus on the Quad. There will be games for all ages, free barbecue ribs, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, fried catfish and other fixings. Enjoy Moon Bounce, Let's Make a Deal, card games, music by WJAB and more. Show your school spirit: dress in maroon and white and bring your lawn chairs. Everything is free. The rain date is June 25.

Turn in old drugs

The Redstone Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program, Fox Army Health Center and the Redstone Police will give the Redstone community an opportunity to prevent medication abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your medications for disposal to the Post Exchange. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Housing website

"Army Housing OneStop," formerly known as AHOS, has been replaced by the "Army Housing Online User Services" website. This new site is the official access point for Army Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing and off-post housing inquiries. The "Army Housing Online User Services" website can be accessed at <https://www.housing.army.mil/ah>.

Ride needed

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

Exchange service news

For the second consecutive year, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has been recognized by CivilianJobs.com as a Most Valuable Employer for military members. The MVE list serves to help military-experienced job seekers identify the top employers to target for civilian careers.

Military appreciation

A Military Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the American Red Cross and Army Community Service will be held June 28 at 11 a.m. at the Community Activity Center. RSVP by June 20. To attend, call Carie Green of ACS at 842-6572 or email carie.green1@us.army.mil.

Veterans supermarket

Alabama veterans will have the opportunity to "shop" for benefits and services at the 2011 Supermarket of Veterans Benefits Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 23 at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is holding the SVB Fair as part of a statewide outreach campaign to help veterans and their families obtain information, and receive state and federal benefits and services that are designed specifically for them. The ADVA is partnering with other state and federal agencies for a "one-stop-shop" opportunity to assist veterans and their families with VA programs, health care benefits, job opportunities, claims, counseling and many other services. Medical VA professionals will also provide free health screenings throughout the day. For more information, call Mike Beard 650-1793/1703 or the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (334) 242-5084.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center will close July 1 and July 4 for Independence Day and a training holiday. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Senior volunteers

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

