

Redstone Rocket

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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

BRAC impact

Huntsville and Madison are growing with newcomers from Base Realignment and Closure moves – the Huntsville metro area is now the second largest in the state. Redstone Rocket reporter Amy Guckeen Tolson investigated BRAC's impact on Redstone Arsenal and the local community. See her report on page 6.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

OVER THERE

The Aviation and Missile Command honors more than 50 workers who recently returned from deployments in support of servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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TRAINING DAY

Meeting with principals of Huntsville's secondary schools, Redstone officials provide information on educational outreach programs.

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FAMILY FOCUS

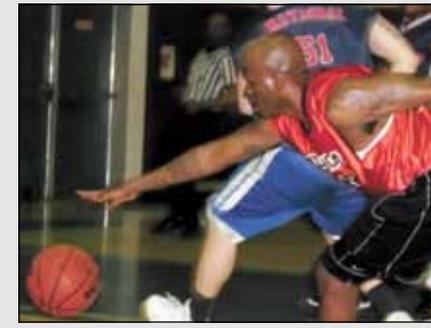
Redstone is among 22 Army installations chosen as a pilot site for enhanced delivery of services provided by Army Community Service.

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WIN OR LOSE

Bravo Company has a slow start but outscores the National Guard by 19 points in the second half for its third straight victory.

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RocketViews

What would you do with a million dollars?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Lester Crutcher

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

"I would give all of my family members an equal share of it. The reason why I would do it is because I know the benefit of each one of them having access to some finances. And something like that I just don't feel I'd want to be selfish about."



Jason Cutshaw

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

"I would travel around the world and bring joy to all the good little boys and girls. Because I have been fortunate enough to see interesting things and I would like to give that chance to others."



Connie David

Missile Defense Agency

"I would travel. I just enjoy traveling. I was married 20 years to a man in the Army. I was a Navy brat. I just enjoy traveling. And I would like to see what I've missed before it's too late."



Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn

AMC Band

"My husband (Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn) and I would like to set up a foundation for liver families. My daughter passed away when she was four and a half months old from liver complications. If I had a million dollars, that's one of the first things I would do is set up a foundation. And then I would put my kids through college. And one of the other things we'd like to do is help out older children in the system who had never had families or who had never had a family to go home to for Christmas. Unfortunately you can't do that without a lot of money."

Letters to the Editor

All of us can make the difference

The office's staff meeting seemed routine – until something memorable happened.

The supervisor related her philosophy about goals. It went something like this:

"I once went to a personal development workshop where each person in the workshop was given three ribbons. They were told to give two of their ribbons to someone who had touched their life in a positive way and tell that person to in turn pass it on.

"A worker thought about it and decided to give his two ribbons to his gruff boss. He went into his boss' office and thanked him for inspir-

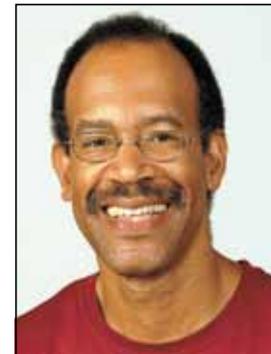
ing him. The boss was very moved because he thought no one liked him.

"The boss in turn went home and gave the last ribbon to his son. His son, unbeknownst to the boss, had been contemplating suicide because he thought no one cared about him.

"My point is this: Everyone makes a difference. Each of you has an individual skill which you can use to make the entire office better. Be the difference."

Skip Vaughn

Redstone Rocket editor



Skip Vaughn

Dumpster divers have worthwhile experience

Have you ever taken a moment to look at what you're throwing away or to think about where it will end up? Or have you ever wondered who will see your trash? Well, we have.

For one week, we braved the smell and dug through your trash. Our five-person team was knee deep in garbage to find pretty much anything you could imagine. You name it – food, paper, wood – we would check it off our list and video it. Most people would ask what person in their right mind would do this and why. Our reason is that we care about how Redstone Arsenal recycles. By better understanding what kind of waste we generate, we can come up with more efficient recycling plans. Our week of work is going to be used to represent Redstone Arsenal's annual waste generation.

We worked at Huntsville's Covanta Plant which is a waste-to-energy facility; Covanta heats and cools all of Redstone's buildings. This plant can process up to 690

tons of municipal solid waste every single day; and since its opening in 1988, it has disposed of approximately 3.3 million tons of MSW.

While we worked at Covanta, we performed a variety of tasks: recording what was in the garbage loads and videoing it, following a truck driver to record his route and where he picked up from, and interviewing the drivers to find out how much their loads weighed and various other questions. By far, the tipping floor is the worst place you can be while working there. Imagine 600 tons of rotting garbage stacked up in a room that's over 100 degrees; the smell is certainly something out of this world. Being there when a load of food was brought in was enough to make you want to skip eating meals for a week. Even through all the assaulting smells, we all knew that this work needed to be done so we could become a more "green" facility. As long as the end justified the means, we were happy.

Better knowing what kind of waste you have and where it's coming from really helps you create better ways to recycle. Our purpose of becoming dumpster divers for a week was to create a waste generation baseline; we want to know where our waste is coming from, what kind of waste it is, and where it's going. Knowing all these things will hopefully propel a better recycling plan for RSA.

Kara Chapman and Morgan Hutto

Editor's note: Student hires Kara Chapman and Morgan Hutto have returned to school.

Quote of the Week

I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something."

— Jackie Mason
comedian

RedstoneRocket

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Jordanian general officer thanks Ordnance school

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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A Jordanian general officer had good reason for making his first visit Thursday to Redstone Arsenal.

Brig. Gen. Saleh Tamimi wanted to personally thank 59th Ordnance Brigade commander Col. Lee Merritt for the training that Jordanian students receive here on the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

"We appreciate the type of training that has been given to our students here," said Tamimi, chief of the radar procurement committee for the command and control directorate of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

He was accompanied by four other Jordanian officers. They hoped to also meet with five Jordanian stu-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Col. Lee Merritt, commander of 59th Ordnance Brigade, receives a gift from Brig. Gen. Saleh Tamimi of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

dents who are in HIMARS training.

Said Merritt, "We appreciate your sending your students here so we have the opportunity to train them."

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Patsy Dupree

Job: Administrative assistant for Post Restaurant Fund, Garrison

Where do you call home?
Lawton, Okla.

What do you like about your job?
Oh the people I work with, and being able to serve the Soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to hang out with friends and family (including my parents, my siblings and my son).

What are your goals?
My goals are to be happy in life.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
I would like to travel, travel around the world. To see different places and learn different cultures.



Arrow hits ballistic target missile

The joint U.S.-Israel Arrow Weapon System successfully intercepted a ballistic target missile during a flight test Feb. 22.

This test, part of the Arrow System Improvement Program, was conducted jointly by the Israel Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency at the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division-Pt. Mugu Sea Range.

The target missile was launched from a Mobile Launch Platform off the coast of California, within the Pt. Mugu test range. The target was representative of potential ballistic missile threats facing Israel.

The Arrow Weapon System's Green Pine radar successfully detected and tracked the target and transferred information to the Citron Tree battle management control system. The Arrow Weapon System launched an interceptor missile which performed its planned trajectory

and destroyed the target missile. The test represented a realistic scenario and all the elements of the weapon system performed in their operational configuration.

The Israel Missile Defense Organization and U.S. Department of Defense officials conducted the flight test. The main contractor for the integration and the development of the Arrow Weapon System is the MLM division of the Israel Aerospace Industries. The "Green Pine" Radar is developed by ELTA Industries and the "Citron Tree" BMC is developed by Tadiran Electronic Systems Ltd.

The success of the test is a major milestone in the development of the Arrow Weapon System and provides confidence in operational Israeli capabilities to defeat the developing ballistic missile threat. (Missile Defense Agency release)

Advanced Patriot missile passes flight test

The Army conducted a flight test March 2 of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile segment enhancement interceptor at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Preliminary test data indicated all mission objectives were successfully achieved.

Test objectives of this mission included demonstrating system capability to engage, intercept and kill a threat representative tactical ballistic missile target with a PAC-3 MSE interceptor.

PAC-3 successfully completed operational testing and began fielding in 2002. It was first used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The PAC-3 MSE interceptor is the

newest addition to the Patriot family of PAC-3 missiles. The PAC-3 provides an agile, hit-to-kill missile to the Patriot legacy inventory. The MSE provides increased capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and other air-breathing threats.

The PAC-3 MSE program is managed by the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space and executed by the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, is the prime contractor responsible for the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Systems Company, the Patriot prime contractor, is the system integrator for PAC-3.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Feb. 24 through March 2:

Feb. 24: A juvenile was observed shoplifting a Nintendo game from the Post Exchange. He was processed and released to his sponsor.

Feb. 24: A civilian who had been barred from the installation was observed by Redstone police in the housing area. She was arrested, issued a court summons and escorted from the installation.

Feb. 25: An AWOL Soldier surrendered to Redstone police. He was processed and placed on a plane to Fort Knox, Ky.

Feb. 25: A resident of the housing area reported that a garage window was somehow broken.

Feb. 27: A deserter was arrested

by Gadsden police. Redstone police transported him to Redstone Arsenal where he was processed and placed on a plane to Fort Knox.

Feb. 28: A government civilian was involved in a traffic accident. An NCIC check revealed that his driver's license was suspended. He received a court summons.

March 2: A government civilian was stopped by Redstone police for speeding. An NCIC check revealed his driver's license was suspended. He received a court summons and the vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

Traffic accidents reported: one with injury, four without injury.

Violation notices: This does not reflect the numerous verbal warnings that were issued. Citations included 25 speeding, 3 license suspended/revoked, 4 stop sign.

Business booming at Redstone Tax Center

More than 1,460 returns filed within first month

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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It's another Wednesday morning at the Redstone Tax Center, and the phone rings at the front desk.

"Tax Center," answers Neshia Knight, who does the center's scheduling. "Can I help you?"

"Can you come in this Friday? I have 10 and 11, 2 and 3."

Since opening for the tax season Jan. 31, the center has already helped many members of the military community by preparing their taxes free of charge. Eligible clients include servicemembers (active duty and Reserve component), military retirees and their family members.

"Business is great," Rachael Yeoman, the paralegal who manages the center, said. "We are booming. We're solidly booked right now."

By the morning of March 2, the center's staff of mostly volunteers had prepared 1,461 federal and state returns. They'd saved the community \$187,121 by avoiding tax preparation fees. And the federal income tax refunds totaled \$1,258,028.

"And you can see our schedule is booked out so that's not near the end," Yeoman said.

But there are plenty of appointment opportunities for people who call 842-1040. The center, at building 3489 on the corner of Zeus Road and Ajax Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until the end of tax season.

The staffers from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and 18 volunteers are ready to prepare and e-file federal and state tax returns for all eligible clients.

"We're for military and dependents, and (military) retirees and their dependents," Yeoman reminded. "Civilians aren't authorized."

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Andy Young was among the clients March 2.

"It's great," Young said of the center. "I've been doing it here since I retired eight years ago."

Capt. Patrick Holly, chief of legal assistance in the JAG office, serves as the center's officer in charge.

"We do almost as much as Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., but they do it with 13 Soldiers and seven civilians," Holly said at the center's opening day. "We do that with volunteers and about four people on the payroll – an OIC, two NCOs, a civilian paralegal and a summer hire (who was extended). We do a lot. It's not me – it's the volunteers who do all the groundwork."

The 18 volunteers work anywhere from 4 to 40 hours a week, according to Yeoman.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Volunteer tax preparer Lancelot Latouche helps retired Staff Sgt. Thomas and Mary Phillips.

Clients must bring the following to their appointment: all W-2, 1099 and 1098 forms; brokerage statements; Social Security cards for spouse and family members; any documents for deductible expenses; voided check showing bank account number and routing number (used for direct deposit); last year's tax return or other applicable years; dependent care provider federal ID number, name, address, phone number and Social Security number; and if married and filing jointly, bring your spouse or a power of attorney from your spouse.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

Youth flag football

Child Youth and School Services is registering youngsters from now through April 1 for flag football. The league is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Registration for players that do not have access to Redstone Arsenal will be held from 5-7 p.m. March 28 at the NAF Personnel Office on the corner of Goss and Patton Roads. Bring a current sports physical. The \$40 registration fee includes uniform. For more information, call 313-3699.

Golf tournament

March Madness Mystery 2-Man Tournament, brought to you by Woody Anderson Ford, will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Links. Cost is \$35 plus greens fees if applicable. The format will be released the day of the event. For more information, call 883-7977.

Challenger bingo

"Luck of the Irish Bingo Extravaganza" will be held March 18 at Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. "Over \$13,000 guaranteed prizes in our session bingo," a prepared release said. For more information, call Challenger bingo 837-0750.



Come see what's new

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Rolling out welcome mat for BRAC transplants

Base realignment and closure expands Tennessee Valley

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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At 3 a.m., the alarm clock would ring. By 4, Yolanda McKenzie was out the door.

And so began her 100-mile commute each morning from her home in Martinsburg, W.Va., to her job as records administrator for the Army Materiel Command in Fort Belvoir, Va., a commute that on a good day was two hours. Somewhere between 4:30 and 8 each evening, after the work day was said and done, she'd get in her car and prepare for the 100-mile commute back home, and less than 12 hours later would hear the alarm clock's ring, beckoning her to do it all over again.

Today that commute from her brand new home in Owens Cross Roads to Redstone Arsenal is a mere 14 miles.

"I have more time," McKenzie said. "I'm finally able to sleep later, I can stay up later, I can read - I can do anything that I want to do."

No one ever thought that Barry Gangi, program analyst in the public and congressional affairs office at AMC, would want to make the move from Washington, D.C. to Huntsville, but it was Gangi that surprised everyone when he announced he would be continuing his 25-year employment with AMC at Redstone Arsenal.

"It's a good opportunity," said Gangi, who also purchased a new home in Owens Cross Roads. "After living in Washington, D.C. for 32 years it was time for a new adventure."

That adventure he has discovered, hasn't been all that different from life back on the East Coast - the affluence, social and entertainment possibilities still exist, with a taste of Southern hospitality and a slower pace of life thrown in for good measure. And of course the things that are lacking, like traffic and a high cost of living, didn't hurt his decision to make the move either.

"Buying a house here is like going to a candy shop," Gangi said. "And traffic in D.C. compared to here - there's no comparison. Even on the worst day, there's no comparison."

They are stories being echoed across the Tennessee Valley as newcomers relocating to the area for BRAC discover that Huntsville and the surrounding



Photo by Ellen Hudson

As the pride in being part of the Redstone Arsenal family has increased, so has the population in the Tennessee Valley of people wanting to be part of that family. "Companies tend to want to be near power," Joe Ritch, chair of the Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee, said. "They want to be seen as part of the Redstone Arsenal family."

area isn't just good for an address on a business card, but rather, it is a community to live in and quickly come to love. Long gone are their days of lengthy commutes and traffic jams, and having to pinch pennies to meet the high cost of living - a home that would cost \$668,633 in the D.C. metro area is a mere \$226,779 in the Huntsville metro area, and something as simple as a dozen eggs carries a 46 cents difference between the two, according to the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association - is a thing of the past.

"When you have 97 retired general officers who decide to live in Huntsville, it tells you something," Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle said. "These people have been all over the world, they've looked at every section of the United States and everywhere else, but they've decided to come live in Huntsville and there's a reason for that. The reason gets down to the people, the quality of life, and your economic engine, which is Redstone Arsenal."

That economic engine is poised to pick up steam, as the balance of the 4,700 Army and federal agency jobs moved to Redstone Arsenal as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure are filled by Sept. 15. With those positions, another 5,000 defense and aerospace jobs have

opened up in the surrounding area as a direct result, and yet another 9,000 indirect jobs as a result of that, making the Tennessee Valley a hotspot for population growth, with an estimated 20,000 people coming into the area for one reason or another related to BRAC, according to Joe Ritch, chair of the Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee.

"Companies tend to want to be near power," Ritch said. "They want to be seen as part of the Redstone Arsenal family."

As that Redstone Arsenal family has grown and continues to grow, area leaders have been busy preparing, like any new parent, to welcome that new life and to ensure that individuals are given all the keys to grow successfully in the community.

"We are a community where 90 percent of us are from somewhere else anyway, so when you start talking about embracing newcomers, we were all embraced at one time ourselves," Battle said. "That's one of the magic things of Huntsville. Huntsville is a very easy town to come into and to be accepted into, just because we're all from somewhere else. So we're used to that. We're used to that process."

Census data released at the end of February makes evident just how effective the Huntsville and Madison communities have gotten when it comes to

rolling out those welcome mats. Madison, now the fastest growing city in the state and 10th largest, saw a 46.4 percent growth from the 2000 census, with today's population hovering near 43,000. Huntsville saw the largest population increase over the past 10 years, increasing by 21,889. Now the second largest metro area in the state, the welcome however, has not been without its challenges for leaders paving the way for a population and economic growth that seems almost unheard of in today's economy.

"We recognize that we're very lucky here compared to the rest of the nation," Madison mayor Paul Finley said. "We're one of the few places that's trying to fill jobs. We're one of the few places that continues to expand. What I'm looking forward to is continuing to struggle with such a positive need of additional infrastructure to support this growth. When you're working to try to fill jobs, when you're having trouble trying to keep up with the number of schools that you need, when you're focused on bringing more infrastructure, it means that you're prosperous and in this day and age, that's something that not every city is struggling with."

While the commute and cost of living has been an easy sell, newcomers have raised a magnifying glass to other issues, such as education, and Huntsville natives themselves can attest to the need for improvements to infrastructure and area roads as traffic has increased with the population. While the newcomers' questions could have been an opportunity to dwell on what is wrong with the Tennessee Valley, it has instead allowed for a thorough evaluation and call to action.

"The conversation started with people coming in and us doing some self-examination of our own systems and saying, 'What do we need, what do we have and what can't we provide?'" Battle said.

Community leaders' response and willingness to address what they need to do and provide as the area has grown with the Arsenal has not gone unnoticed by those that pass through the Arsenal gates every day. Battle and Finley both attribute a large part of the area's success in preparing for the BRAC growth to their close work with Col. John Hamilton, Garrison commander, and Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Redstone Arsenal commander, as well as their predecessors, Col. Bob Pastorelli and Maj. Gen. Jim Myles.

Smartphones for all 'makes sense in long run'

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON – It's not written in stone that every Soldier will get an Android phone or an iPhone – but signs are pointing to it.

During a bloggers roundtable Feb. 24, Lt. Gen. Michael Vane, director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, discussed the latest developments in how the Army is evaluating smartphone technologies and software applications to provide Soldiers the ability to learn anytime and anywhere.

The general said it was too soon to say for sure if Soldiers would all one day carry smartphones to enhance both training and operations, but he did say that in the next six to eight months, the Army would have had time to look at assessment results from pilot programs it is currently running involving smartphone technology.

"Whether or not we recommend that all Soldiers carry a smartphone would be sort of out in front of the conclusions," he said. "Though many people are already suggesting that that's a possibility. Even I have said there's a long-term vision here that would say if we can figure out the smart cost-beneficial way of doing this, this probably does make sense in the long run."

Vane did say, however, that successes with smartphone technology are more evident in the training environment than in the operational environment. He said in six to eight months the Army would finish cost-benefit assessments and be able to provide recommendations to Army senior leadership.

Challenges with smartphone technology are twofold, Vane said. First, there are cultural challenges. Decisions makers – those who decide how to spend money in the Army – are not nearly as savvy with the technology as those who want to be able to



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

The Army is running pilot programs now to see how smartphone technology can be used in the force to enhance both training and operational needs.

use it, those he describes as "digital natives."

"People that haven't grown up with that have a cultural challenge with the use of these technologies and the ability to pick one of these things up and operate them very quickly, to look at a smaller screen, use a different sort of keypad – all those sort of kind of things... there's a cultural challenge that is part of the issue for the more senior people," Vane said.

There's also concerns about security, Vane said. "It's both a technology problem and a discipline problem, or challenge for us on the network."

The security issue, he said, is one thing the Army might work through, however, because in some cases the value of perishable data now, outweighs the risk posed of handling it over an unsecure network, like cell phones might provide.

In Afghanistan, the enemy is already using cell phones successfully, Vane said. The Army can make the "risk decision" associated with information assurance to decide when is the right time to use an unsecure network to transfer a particular kind of information.

"One of the most significant feedbacks you get from Soldiers in theater is they look at their Afghan army compatriots or the Taliban guy, who has a cell phone, and then the Army guy looks at his MBITR or his 117G radio and we want to deny that capability to our own Soldiers even through the enemy is using them?" Vane asked.

"Can we operate quickly enough with just that kind of data that is perishable and not classified, and reduce the risk – that's what we're experimenting with in these pilots," Vane said. "We think that may be a risk worth taking for perishable battlefield data."

Vane said that the Army isn't specifying a particular brand of smartphone, or software – just "mission command-essential characteristics" within which the Army can quickly purchase commercial off the shelf technology.

Union officer positions up for election

Local 1858 of the American Federation of Government Employees will hold nominations for election of new officers at its monthly membership meeting March 14 at 5 p.m. at building 3202 on Mauler Road.

The method of nominations will be from the floor and may include by telephone for employees located at Kwajalein, Fort Bliss, SMDC/HELSTF, SAMD employees overseas, Moffitt employees and AMCOM LARS worldwide.

Employees on TDY or hospitalized can submit nominations in writing by mail to the AFGE Local Office by 4:30 p.m. March 14. Each person nominated must accept or decline the nomination at the time of nomination. This may be done verbally or in writing.

The election will be held April 11 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Local office, building 3202. All dues paying members in good standing as of March 14 will be eligible to make nominations and vote in the election. In accordance with the AFGE Local 1858 Constitution, Article IV, Section 3 and the AFGE National Constitution, Appendix A, Part I, Section I (e) to be qualified as an officer or candidate for office, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a member in good standing.
- Be a member of Local 1858 for one year immediately preceding the closing of the nomination

process.

- Must not be a member in any labor organization not affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

No write-in candidate will be accepted on the election ballot. The voting on April 11, 2011 will be by secret ballot.

The Election Committee will handle absentee votes under Appendix A, Paragraph 7 of Local 1858's by-laws which states: "Members who, for acceptable reasons, will be unable to attend the election meeting, upon written request to the chairperson of the Election Committee, shall be furnished ballots and properly marked envelopes in which to send their ballots to the Election Committee chairperson. The absentee ballots shall be opened and counted with the remainder of the ballots."

All requests for absentee ballots need to be addressed to: AFGE Local 1858, ATTN: Chairman, Election Committee, P.O. Box 8362, Huntsville, AL 35898. All absentee ballots must be received by the Election Committee at the Local union office by 5 p.m. April 11.

The Election Committee includes Juan Mendoza, Steven Geaschel, Karen Moten and alternate Gregory Noble.

The following officer positions will be filled for April 2011 to April 2013: president, assistant president, executive vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, fair practices coordina-

tor, AMCOM non-professional vice president, AMCOM professional vice president, OMEMS vice president, PM TMDE non-professional vice president, Garrison non-professional vice president, Garrison professional vice president, HELSTF professional vice president, SMDC non-professional vice president, SMDC professional vice president, MEDDAC/DENTAC vice president, PEO STRICOM non-professional vice president, AAFES vice president, TECOM non-professional vice president, TECOM professional vice president, Commissary vice president, LOGSA vice president, Corps of Engineers vice president, PEOMS non-professional vice president, PEOMS professional vice president, CPO non-professional vice president, DISA professional vice president, DISA non-professional vice president, NAF vice president, Kwajalein non-professional vice president, Kwajalein professional vice president, Printing Plant vice president, AMRDEC non-professional vice president, AMRDEC professional vice president, Army Contracting Command vice president, Network Enterprise Center vice president, PEO-C3T CRAM non-professional vice president, PEO-C3T CRAM professional vice president, PEO-C3T DFT-A2C25 vice president and Command Post Systems Integration vice president. (AFGE Local 1858 release)

Law enforcement officers of year recognized

Redstone Arsenal police sergeant among local civic club's honorees

Redstone Police Sgt. Christopher Cooper was among the honorees Feb. 24 at the annual law enforcement appreciation banquet sponsored by the Exchange Club of Greater Huntsville.

Cooper was recognized for his selfless service to the Redstone Arsenal community and the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Lt. Mark Thompson announced Cooper's nomination. And the award was presented by former congressman Bud Cramer and Exchange Club president Carey Rosenblum.

"Sgt. Cooper creates an environment for the officers that allow them to excel," Thompson said. "He is quick to recognize individual achievements as well as crediting the entire team for mission accomplishments."

Cooper began his law enforcement career as an Army civilian police officer at Redstone in 2005, after serving as a military policeman from 1999-2005 here and overseas. His father, Harvey Cooper, served as a U.S. Park Police officer and retired as



Courtesy photo

Redstone Police Sgt. Christopher Cooper receives his award from Exchange Club of Greater Huntsville president Carey Rosenblum, center, and former congressman Bud Cramer.

an adjunct instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Other law enforcement officers and agents of the year included Trooper Glen Odom, Alabama State Troopers; Cpl. Joseph Parrish, Alabama Bureau of Investigation; Special Agent Francis John Harnen Jr., Drug Enforcement Administration; Deputy Chris Martin, Madison County Sheriff's Office; Special Agent Jamie Gordon, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms; Deputy U.S. Marshal Curtis Yates, U.S. Marshal Service; Officer Adam Beasley, Madison Police; and Officer Joshua Bates, Huntsville Police. (*Garrison release*)

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rite of spring

Justin Pflueger of Environmental Management Division does a prescribed burn Thursday on the south end of Redstone Arsenal. The division's natural resources branch did this burn in pine stands within the boundaries of Matthews, Warehouse and Buxton roads for hazard reduction and wildlife habitat improvement in pine forests.



National Guard pilots set simulation record at lab

Kentucky guardsmen fly 36 missions in 2 weeks

By **RANDY SINIARD**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

The formula is Soldiers helping Soldiers helping Soldiers; and it works.

Aviators of the Kentucky Army National Guard provided critical subject matter expertise during experiments here at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Advanced Prototyping Engineering and Experimentation-2 Laboratory's Battlefield Highly Immersive Virtual Environment Laboratory to support the Program Executive Office Soldier, Air Warrior Product Office.

The Air Warrior Product Office manages aviation life support equipment for the Army.

"Basically it is anything that an air warrior can wear, consume or carry," said Maj. Jay Maher, assistant product manager for air warrior.

"The potential Air Soldier System situational awareness technologies the guard aviators evaluated, if implemented, will increase the Army aviation's ability to operate in degraded visual environments and enhance mission execution with 'heads up eyes out' flight," Maher said. "The Air Soldier System is the next generation of life support equipment for the air warrior."

The Kentucky National Guard pilots' dedication shown through as they set a BHIVE record.

"The pilots flew a record 36 missions



Army photo

Kentucky National Guard aviators fly one of the record 36 mission runs for the Air Soldier System situational awareness technologies being tested in the Battlefield Highly Immersive Virtual Environment Laboratory. The co-pilot here was helping the pilot land the aircraft during a "brown-out" landing. A "brown-out" landing is a landing in sand and dust that creates a degraded visual environment and hinders the pilot's ability to land the aircraft visually.

during an aggressive two-week schedule," said Jody Creekmore, lead engineer and lab manager, APEX-2 Lab.

The pilots who flew the missions in the BHIVE have more than 60 years of combined military service.

"Without the pilots' participation and vast knowledge of aviation operations, the experiment would not have been a success," Maher said. "The Kentucky National Guard pilots were incredibly enthusiastic and executed each mission with incredible skill and professionalism."

There were four technologies tested during the experimentation but the one that they felt would better benefit the air warrior was the 3-Dimensional Heads-Up Display.

"The Advanced HUD is without a doubt the most important of the situational awareness technologies we evaluated and being able to have a three dimensional environment in the approach and landing phase of flight is without saying the most important contribution they could make for pilots flying in a degraded visual environment," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Keith, 1st Detachment, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, Medical Evacuation, Kentucky Army National Guard.

The pilot with the least aviation experience echoed his fellow aviators.

"The 3D HUD will allow me to sit my helicopter down with more accuracy



Army photo

Guard aviators navigate their helicopter through remote patrol bases and landing locations in the simulated terrain created in the Battlefield Highly Immersive Virtual Environment Laboratory. Computer technicians sit behind the cockpit monitoring the experiment functions.

Big thank you goes to deployed work force

AMCOM commander delivers appreciation

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Recognizing employee performance is a “big deal” to the Aviation and Missile Command’s Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

So, when it came to planning his first AMCOM deployed work force ceremony, Rogers was right with the game plan.

On Thursday, Rogers was able to express the Army’s appreciation to a select group of more than 50 civilian and contract employees – with a few Soldiers sprinkled in the mix – who have recently returned from deployments in support of servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Deployed Workforce Ceremony, held in Bob Jones Auditorium, was the sixth in a series, continuing a tradition started with previous AMCOM commanders.

“This is a big deal,” Rogers said. “We never recognize people enough. And we always have to recognize those who take the extra effort.

“These employees deployed to serve our Soldiers and their families, and to be away from their own families so that we can get done what we need to get done to protect the United States of America.”

One of those Rogers mentioned was Jim Higgins, an Integrated Materiel Management Center employee who has deployed five times to assist with equipment inventory and accountability.

“That’s unbelievable,” Rogers said. “The deal is we couldn’t do it without you.”

Higgins deployed the first time in the Global War on Terrorism in 2004 to Kuwait, and then in 2005 to Kuwait, 2007 to Mosul, Iraq, and 2009 to Kabul, Afghanistan. His last deployment in 2010 was to Iraq.

“I had 22 years in the military and it’s in my blood, they tell me. I really do enjoy it,” said Higgins, who also served three tours in Vietnam as a Soldier and retired from active duty as a first sergeant.

In stressing the importance of in-theater civilian and contractor support to the war fighter, Rogers mentioned the work he was involved in earlier in the morning to address real-time aviation challenges that had arisen.

“There were civilians on the ground who knew exactly what was going on and told us what we need to do to fix it,”

he said.

He also talked about the recognition Soldiers often receive when wearing their uniform in public, especially at airports. While those uniforms often draw “thank yous” from the general public, civilians who have deployed are overlooked because they don’t look like Soldiers.

“We want to recognize the successes of your deployments,” he said. “There are a lot of you who wear civilian clothes that don’t get the privilege of hearing ‘thank you.’ So, we want to say ‘thank you’ from the Army, AMC and AMCOM. We appreciate the sacrifices that you and your families made when you deployed.”

Higgins, 62, knows what those sacrifices are all about. During his fifth deployment, he was injured by a car bomb that exploded into a mushroom cloud near the fenced border of an Iraqi airstrip near the Pakistani border in the early morning hours of June 29, 2010.

The force of the explosion threw Higgins to the ground. Once he got back up, Higgins was surprised to find himself a target of the enemy.

“Eight of them were on the airfield and they were aiming right at me,” he recalled. “The bullets were ping-pong, and the ping-pong reminded me of Vietnam. I was unarmed, so I ran back into the passenger terminal, and then there was a 30-minute firefight between them and the Soldiers at the terminal. A helicopter came in and killed all eight.”

It wasn’t long before Higgins started feeling the effects of that incident. He began stumbling frequently and he noticed short-term memory loss.

“I didn’t want to tell anybody,” he said. “I didn’t want to get anyone involved. It was ‘eat it up and keep going.’”

Higgins went on to complete his deployment, returning to the U.S. at the end of September. He is now undergoing cognitive testing at the VA Hospital in Birmingham.

“This wasn’t the first time for something like this to happen. I’ve seen all kinds of things during my deployments,” he said. “In Mosul, when we’d have rocket attacks, while everyone was running to the bunker, I’d go out and watch. I know I did dangerous things.”

Higgins worries that his injuries will lead to poor performance in his job now that he is working in the inventory branch at the IMMC offices at the Sparkman Center.

“I want to do a good job. I feel bad that maybe my problems are causing me not to do the kind of job I want to do,”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Team Redstone employees wait in line for recognition during the Deployed Workforce Ceremony on Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. It was the sixth such ceremony hosted by the commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

he said.

Despite the cost to his physical health, Higgins is proud of his service.

“I enjoyed the responsibility and the Soldiers I worked with,” he said. “The more responsibility they gave me the more I enjoyed the decision making process.”

Higgins is especially proud of the inventory accountability procedures he helped establish and that are still being used in theater today.

“I was the responsible officer for theater-provided equipment. I had \$5 billion worth of equipment that I had to keep inventoried,” he said. “When units came in, we had the equipment ready for them.”

Higgins worked to establish an inventory system that required units to submit monthly reports of equipment on hand. The reports are important for accountability as equipment is often moved from one unit to another to meet specific needs.

“There were 400 units in Bagram and there was always 40 to 45 company commanders out of that 400 who would not turn their reports in. That was a problem because there were a lot of lateral transfers of equipment and if

the reports weren’t turned in then we wouldn’t know where the equipment was,” Higgins said.

“So, if we didn’t get a valid accounting of equipment every month from a unit then we would freeze transfers of equipment in and out of that unit, except if it involved life support or arms for the Soldier. By doing that, company commanders got their inventory reports in every month, and the accuracy and accountability became much, much better.”

The ability to contribute and make a difference for Soldiers is often the reason civilians and contractors decide to volunteer for deployment.

Walter Nettles and his co-worker Kenneth Burt have each deployed four times opposite each other, working much like a tag team in providing support as the logistics lead for the C-RAM program. Since 2005, they each have deployed three times to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

“We established the logistics footprint, served as the liaison for the major Army commands and served as the contracting officer representative,” Nettles said.

Though recognized at the deployed

See Deployed on page 17

3rd Special Forces Group Soldiers get valor awards

By Capt. JENNIFER BOCANEGRA

Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – In the second largest award ceremony since the reactivation of the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), 37 Soldiers were recognized for their valorous actions in combat in Afghanistan, in a ceremony Feb. 25 at the John F. Kennedy Auditorium here.

Five Soldiers from 3rd SFG (A) received the Silver Star, 19 Soldiers received the Bronze Star with V device, 18 Soldiers will receive the Army Commendation Medal with V device, and five Soldiers received the Purple Heart.

During the ceremony, four battles involving members of the group were highlighted in vignettes presented by a team member who witnessed and recounted what occurred and the actions performed by each man receiving a medal. One engagement with enemy forces led to the entire operational detachment's receipt of an award for their heroic actions during a firefight.

Army Special Operations Command deputy commander Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller and the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) commander Col. Mark Schwartz presented the awards to each Soldier.

Schwartz said during his remarks at the

ceremony that it is not the nature of the members of the Special Forces regiment to seek recognition for their actions in combat.

“Every valor award recipient who came across the stage today will tell you they are simply doing their job,” Schwartz said. “As your commander, there is no greater honor than to recognize these men. All of them are warriors who represent the finest caliber of noncommissioned officers and officers that make up the ranks of our (Special Forces) group.”

The following servicemembers received awards for valor during the ceremony:

Bronze Star with V Device – Capt. Timothy Driscoll, Capt. Patrick Macri, Warrant Officer Joe Vasquez, Master Sgt. Sean Berk, Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Burt, Staff Sgt. Eoin Oriada, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Plants, Sgt. 1st Class James Rooney, Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Ysaga, Staff Sgt. Jamon A. Tibbs, Staff Sgt. Timothy Walsh, Staff Sgt. James Benjamin, Staff Sgt. Robert Bradford, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Geesaman, Master Sgt. Mike Vetra, Staff Sgt. Brett Grossini, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Garland, Staff Sgt. Casey Parker, Staff Sgt. Justin Schaffer and Staff Sgt. David Stearns

Purple Heart – Capt. Timothy Driscoll, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Myers, Sgt.



Photo by Trish Harris

Soldiers from Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) receive awards for their valor on the battlefield while serving in Afghanistan, during the group's Valor Award Ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Auditorium, Fort Bragg, N.C.

1st Class Dereck Strickland, Staff Sgt. Grant Derrick and Staff Sgt. Van Meredith

Army Commendation Medal with V Device – Capt. Timothy Driscoll, Capt. Matthew Golsteyn, Sgt. Maj. Patrick Rotsaert, Master Sgt. Lani Ringeisen, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Garland, Sgt. 1st Class

Charles Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Martin, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Pawlewicz, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Plants, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wagmer, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Carroll, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Geesaman, Staff Sgt. Silas Palance, Staff Sgt. Casey Parker and Sgt. Sean Tapia.

School lessons in building partnerships

Redstone officials reach out to secondary principals

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Team Redstone solidified some educational partnerships March 1.

Reaching out to the principals of Huntsville's secondary schools, Arsenal officials provided information on the educational outreach programs that they hope will grow an interest in science and engineering careers among the city's school students.

As the first-ever such meeting held on the Arsenal, officials foresee it being one of many conducted with school officials from the area's city and county school systems. The Huntsville City Schools Secondary Principals Meeting was held in the Community Activity Center near Gate 10.

"We are pretty passionate about what we do, and we recognize we are partners in the future of this city and our schools," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton told the school principals and administrators as part of the event's opening remarks.

Hamilton mentioned the financial issues now facing Huntsville City Schools, which must find ways to reduce operations and services to overcome a debt of nearly \$20 million.

"We do challenge you to recognize the finances," he said. "But that's not the real problem. The real problem is fixing the

finances without changing the quality of our schools. It is going to take the entire community. We've got to continue to improve schools at the same time we're saving money.

"We face some real tough challenges. We're here to assist you in any way we can."

Hamilton mentioned federal programs that can be a source of revenue for school systems.

"I trust leadership in all local schools are pursuing those to get the finances available," he said.

He also thanked the principals for the work they do to educate "our children every single day."

Echoing the colonel's words, Kara Wall of the Aviation and Missile Command/Garrison Public Affairs Office, told the principals that more than 50 organizations at Redstone are prepared to assist with educational programs that encourage interest in science and math.

"We are really a diverse and thriving installation," she said. "We offer a lot of wonderful opportunities for educational outreach."

The public affairs office provides a speakers bureau, which can coordinate speakers to augment science and math instruction in the classroom, and coordinates tours that bring high school faculty and students on the installation to learn about career opportunities. The office works with Arsenal organizations to support educational needs in the community.

"We are all one team and we work



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton encourages educational partnerships during his welcoming remarks to Huntsville City Schools secondary principals March 1. The principals held their Secondary Principals Meeting at the Community Activity Center.

together," she said. "The (Arsenal) people here today are scratching the surface of this really big thing we have out here."

Among the speakers was Barbara Williams, the Arsenal's director of Youth Education Support Services and school liaison services, who's primary responsibility is to "level the playing field for transitioning military connected children and youth" and "reducing the impact of the mobile military lifestyle" for military connected school-age children.

Military-connected children move nine to 14 times during their parent's career.

Williams also represents the children of Department of Defense civilians and contractors who work on the Arsenal.

"I work to identify some of the barriers to academic success and find solutions," she said. "My main thrust is to coordinate partnerships in education."

Williams works to ensure that "innovative programs and partnerships" continue to enrich the educational experience of the Arsenal's school-age children. She mentioned the Girls Science and Engineering Day, National Education Partnership Alliance, Military Child Education Coalition and Association of

the U.S. Army Back-To-School supply program, and many other programs and partnerships. She attends school board meetings, Parent/Teacher Association meetings, educational community forums and school open houses in an effort to keep informed on issues and challenges facing the local school systems.

"Parents and families who move to this area want to choose a great school for their children. I enjoy telling them about your schools and what they offer," Williams told the principals.

Representatives of AMCOM, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and Marshall Space Flight Center explained their educational outreach programs to the principals.

"We like to be involved in anything that we see that would be a leveraging or partnership opportunity with the community that brings value" to educating students in science and math, said Gayla McMichael, AMRDEC's educational outreach manager, as she mentioned such programs as Mathcounts, Gains in the Education of Math and Science, and the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program.

Courtesy photo

West Point bound

Barret Crawford, son of Bill and Ann Crawford of Huntsville, has received an appointment to West Point and will play for the school's sprint football team. Sprint team players can weigh no more than 172 pounds. Barret was an outside linebacker and team captain for Grissom High. Bill, an engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is a 1980 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.



Schweinfurt MPs help contain Jalalabad bank heist

By CHARLES STADTLANDER

USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – Soldiers from Schweinfurt's 3rd Platoon of the 630th Military Police Company helped stop a bank robbery in Jalalabad, a city in eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan.

According to details released by the public affairs office of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, 12 armed men entered a Jalalabad branch of Kabul Bank at 11 a.m. Feb. 19. They quickly took over the four-story building and held several dozen civilians hostage.

Shortly thereafter Afghan National Security Forces surrounded the bank and along with the Afghan Uniformed Police, stormed the building. Elements from the 630th MPs, known as the Mavericks, supported the Afghan National Security Forces, or ANSF, and Afghan Uniformed Police, referred to as AUP, by forming an outer cordon around the bank during the siege.

Maverick Soldiers took small-arms fire from robbers positioned on the building's roof during this time, said Capt. Mariah Perez, commander of the

630th MP Company. In returning the fire, the U.S. Soldiers provided coverage for the ANSF and AUP to take over the first two floors of the building. The Afghan forces evacuated between 40 and 50 hostages while the 630th MPs provided suppressive fire, said Perez, who was on the scene with her Soldiers.

While the Afghan Soldiers and police moved higher in the building, driving the hostage-takers to the top floor, U.S. Soldiers treated the wounded on lower levels and helped evacuate them for further medical attention, Perez said.

The confrontation ended when the Afghan forces cornered the robbers on the fourth floor. The assailants then detonated two vehicle-borne explosive devices outside the building in quick succession, according to the official public affairs release from ISAF. At this point, the MPs cleared the building and waited for U.S. ordnance disposal units to arrive at the scene.

While waiting for these bomb removal squads, two large blasts were heard inside the building. The ISAF release described these as suicide-vest explosive devices, and their detonation marked the end of the robbery and hostage crisis. All

remaining attackers inside the bank were either killed or wounded, and despite some injuries, coalition forces suffered no fatalities, according to the report.

The civilian death toll numbered nearly 40, said ISAF Media Operations Officer Maj. T.P. James of the British Army. According to him, the armed men opened fire on innocent civilians.

The Schweinfurt-based MPs' assistance on the scene provided crucial support to allow Afghan forces to retake the bank, officials said, adding the U.S. Soldiers' medical aid and hostage evacuation surely saved lives in what could have been an even deadlier day.

The 3rd Platoon's co-operation and support of both AUP and ANSF forces during the bank robbery is keeping with ISAF's stated mission of supporting the growth in "capacity and capability"



Photo by Charles Stadlander

U.S. Soldiers survey the damage after a failed robbery attempt in front of a branch of Kabul Bank in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. The heist was attempted by a group of 12 armed bandits, who were surrounded and overwhelmed by a combination of Afghan and U.S. Army forces, including Soldiers who deployed from Schweinfurt, Germany, with the 3rd Platoon of the 630th Military Police Company.

of the native Afghan troops. The Schweinfurt Soldiers are slated to end their deployment to southeast Afghanistan during the first half of 2011.

Deployed

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work force ceremony, Burt was not present to receive his certificate due to his current deployment. His wife, Mary White-Burt, stood in his place for the ceremony.

“Both of us were used to deploying because we are previous military,” Nettles said. “The war fighter and the civilian side of the house are different. But, when we are deployed, we work in the same conditions. We work side-by-side and hand-in-hand.”

Both Nettles’ and Burt’s wives are also prior military and are familiar with how to live with the sacrifices of deployments.

“We kind of adapt and overcome. It doesn’t get any easier. It really gets harder with each deployment,” Mary White-Burt said. “But we understand it’s for a greater cause and for building a better place for all of us.”

Nettles said he would encourage other civilians and contractors to consider serving in a deployment.

“This is for someone who wants to get experience and knowledge firsthand. It is definitely a good learning experience,” he said.

The following employees received the Global War on Terrorism Medal at the

Deployed Workforce Ceremony:

IMMC – Norman Curry, Walton Walls and Roosevelt Rushton

AMCOM – Brittany Sikes and Renee Campbell

USATA – Bradley Fulton, Gilbert Atwood and William Gannon

AMRDEC – Kenneth Wegrzyn and Kirk Smith

PEO Missiles and Space – Brad Schroeder and Dru Jackson

LOGSA – Judith Mayhem, Rodney Steele and Paul Prichard

MSIC – David Foxall and Robert Satterwhite

PEO C3T – Kenneth Burt and Walter Nettles

The following employees received the Team Redstone certification of appreciation:

IMMC – Kevin Valentin, James Higgins, Mona Augustus, Phillip Wesley Cagle, George Malone, Henry Kight, Timothy Brimeyer, Michael Brewer, Anthony Brooks, Danny Crow, Charles Wright, Thomas Devine, Eddie Thomas, Lavonda Odum, John Mackusick, Michael Carpenter, Randy Johnson, Theodore Reynolds, Robert Doud, Kevin Traylor, Bobby Ingram, Dwayne China and Jerome Paul

SAMD – Dennis Mitchell

AMCOM – Eric Denson, James Achenbach, Clifford Binkley, Shanell Weissinger, Robert Brown, Elizabeth Preston, Rochelle Feltmeyer and Nora

Crawford

USATA – Urban Braemer, Eric Palmquist, Sun Bulak, Samuel Boller, Jeffery Kennedy and Richard Teske

PEO Aviation – David Pothier, Zachery Zimmerman, Timothy Bright, John Conyers, Scott Pollman, Michael Perkins, Ashley Williams and Reginal Warner

AMRDEC – Scott Krepps, Abner Merriweather, Diane Simpson, Robert

Alongi, Johnny Pritchard, Thomas Ebel, Travis Massa, Gregory Blue, Laurence Hoffman, Charles Overman, Traversia Viola, Robert Perreault, Coogan Preston, Eric Bale, Keith Myles, Phillip “Keith” Herndon, Marko Jokinen, Thomas Kelley and John Herring

MSIC – Kenneth Kirkland

PEO C3T – Ralph Repuyan and Sanford Thornton



Photo by Dave Macedonia

Catholic fellowship

Parish volunteers enjoy Chaplain (Maj.) Ray Kopec’s humor during the Redstone Arsenal Catholic community’s annual Parish Appreciation Dinner on Feb. 25 at the Bicentennial Chapel annex. About 100 members attended.

BRAC

continued from page 6

“The incredibly positive relationship we have with all the local communities is one of the keys to our success,” Hamilton said. “There has never been any doubt in my mind that this community sees growth on Redstone Arsenal as something that is positive for northern Alabama and southern Tennessee and it’s something that will not work if we don’t all come together to develop solutions for the tasks required.”

The future of the Tennessee Valley embodied in the generations to come has taken center stage in terms of those needs that need to be fulfilled. As new employees move in, so in turn, do their children, the offspring of a highly intelligent population with high academic standards.

“Across the nation, we’re all facing the same things,” Battle said. “We have done very well in the Madison County school system, we have done very well in the Madison City school system, and Huntsville City school system we’re working on. The good thing is the community is focused on that and there’s a commitment to get our ship in order. It’s probably a two-year fix for financial, to get financially in line, and academics come next – we’ll be working on academics in that time too. It’s probably a four-year fix to get us back to the very top of the academic level. The good thing is the community has looked at it and said, ‘This is a place we want to place our focus and we want to make sure it works.’”

On average, the Madison County school system grows between 300 and 500 students a year, according to Geraldine Tibbs, director of communications and public relations, which boils down to what would equal about a new school per year. At the conclusion of last school year the system housed around 19,000 students – today it is hovering around 21,000, an increase of approximately 4,000 students since the 2003-04 school year.

“The evidence is seen,” Tibbs said of the effect BRAC and the job-related growth is having on enrollment. “Throughout Madison County all of our schools are just booming at the seam. Even in areas where we have had the least amount of growth over the years we are seeing them begin to grow. We do the very best we can with the resources that we have.”

Test scores remain high in the system’s schools, and engineering, medical and construction academies are in place at select schools, in addition to

the offerings of Advanced Placement classes at both the middle and high school levels. The system received district-wide accreditation in January from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. In addition to academics, the system also offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities, allowing students to become well-disciplined and well-rounded.

“Madison County has always been known for its academics and the kind of student that it produces,” Tibbs said. “Our product is our students, and we look at producing students that will be able to leave us and will be able to go anywhere and succeed globally. We look at this as a business as far as producing. We produce a good product, and that product is our students.”

A similar good product is evident in the Madison City school system, currently in the process of building a second high school, where family after family seems to be finding its way into the city limits for the educational benefits their tax dollars provide.

“It doesn’t really matter where you live in the city of Madison, your return on investment in living here, for your children and their education, will be strong,” Finley said.

While the care and development of the mind remains paramount in the Tennessee Valley, the care of the body has also come to the forefront as a population both young and old have moved into the area, and with them, whatever health ailments they may be facing. Dr. Pam Hudson, CEO of Crestwood Medical Center, assures newcomers the Huntsville healthcare community is prepared to meet the needs of the increasing population. While some have claimed the area is facing a critical shortage of doctors, Hudson said it’s not necessarily a shortage, but more or less a challenge to try to keep up with the constantly growing Huntsville community.

“When you look and see where we stand compared to the rest of the country, we are far better off,” Hudson said. “We are ready to meet the needs of the community.”

Rarely does an individual need to leave the area to get the healthcare they need, Hudson said, and to best connect newcomers with doctors, both Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Medical Center have set up hotlines to help patients find available physicians, all the while continuing to recruit more doctors to the area. On average, Crestwood tries to add 10 doctors a year to the medical community in the Rocket City, with six already planning their moves for this year, including an ENT, general

surgeon, fellowship trained endocrinologist, and three family practice doctors. Since 2005, Crestwood has added 45 physicians – 25 primary care physicians and 20 key specialists.

“Crestwood is dedicated to great care and service excellence,” Hudson said. “We aren’t the biggest hospital in town, but we know we need to try to be the best, and that’s great for patients. For hospitals to be competing on quality outcomes and service benefits the community.”

But the community benefits can’t stop there – while a population can be well-educated, employed and healthy, Finley and company want to foster citizens that find happiness outside the hours of 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, as well.

“We’re focused on making sure that we don’t forget that aspect of things, because it can’t all just be about roads and schools,” Finley said. “That’s what gets you here, but then you live here and you want those additional quality of life pieces that people expect.”

With that has come new retail and recreation opportunities – greenways, a dog park and soccer fields in Madison, as well as the developing Shoppes of Madison off Highway 72 near the new Madison Hospital, which promises to bring in stores specializing in apparel, shoes and home décor, as well as sit-down restaurants and what is rumored to be a Target.

“The people really drive the growth of a community,” said Tim Knox, executive director of the Madison Chamber of Commerce. “They let us know what they want and we try to give it to them.”

Both Huntsville and Madison have made a concerted effort to hear exactly what it is their citizens want, inviting residents to speak up at growth plan meetings, respond to surveys and even comment on the “City of Huntsville Ideas Map” which allowed Internet users to pinpoint exactly what they want in their city, and where they want to see it. While some ask the question, “What will Huntsville look like in 2021?” Battle already has an idea of what it’s going to look like in the years to come.

“We will be known as a place of innovation, a place of high technology,” Battle said. “The Chamber probably puts it best – a smart place to live. Not only smart in that we have smart people here – we have more degree professionals and engineers per capita than anywhere else in the U.S. – you want it to be a smart thing to be here with the quality of life, where you have a world class art museum, botanical garden, the number one tourist attraction – the Space & Rocket Center, which dwells on science, technology, engineering – those items have to be the things that we’re

known for. That’s what one of our achievements has been, and we want to be known for our achievements.”

The free flow and exchange of ideas has been one of the reasons those achievements have been so numerous. As newcomers mix into the melting pot that is the Huntsville area, the lessons they’ve learned from where they’ve come from will be siphoned off and incorporated into the city they now call home, a process Battle and Finley encourage.

“Everybody comes in from someplace and they bring in the good ideas from those other areas,” Battle said. “Those good ideas are melded into what’s Huntsville. That has improved our community over the past 50 to 60 years.”

“We’re not set in our ways,” Finley said. “Don’t be afraid to get involved, because we welcome those who are doers in the community. This community’s success has come because people haven’t just sat back and watched somebody else do it, they got involved and helped make that next part of it that much better.”

The next part of it is key as growth doesn’t stop as BRAC 2005 comes to a close, but remains constant as Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding community adapts and evolves to meet the needs and missions that are required of it.

“This is a great place to live and work,” Garrison commander Hamilton said. “I see daily the efforts being put forth by all local leaders to ensure the infrastructure continues to expand to meet the growing demands. Of course these things never occur as rapidly as we all want, but from my position I see priorities in the right place, available resources are being wisely allocated, and leaders are pursuing the right projects further down the road. It’s important we continue the momentum in the areas of roads and schools that was started surrounding the BRAC 2005 decision process. None of that should slow down after September 2011.

“We see completing the tasks mandated by BRAC law as just a milestone in a much greater and longer growth story here. Simultaneous to executing the BRAC moves, we’ve been working hard to resource quite a few other stationing actions for federal activities coming to Redstone, both DoD and non-DoD organizations. We have to assume and be prepared for continued transformation of federal agencies that will need to operate on and around Redstone Arsenal. We will continue to improve the infrastructure in the region to ensure we are ready when our national security systems demand it.”

AMC official gives directions on road toward success

Guest speaker addresses professional chapters

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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To achieve success, you must first plan for success.

“In all aspects of your life, from providing for the common defense to your own personal endeavors, planning is critical to success,” Myra Gray, deputy G-3/5, strategy and concepts for Army Materiel Command, said.

Gray spoke to members of the Women in Defense and National Defense Industrial Association Tennessee Valley chapters Thursday at the Huntsville Marriott. Drawing from her experience in both her personal life and career, Gray highlighted the importance of having a strategic plan in an era of uncertainty.

“We have to maintain focus on the future, and the future is uncertain,” Gray said.

She pointed to the challenges and uncertainties facing individuals at work providing for the common defense, such as the defense budget, public debt, and unrest in places like Iran, North Korea, China and Egypt, likening the preparation needed to deal with those uncertainties to saving money for college well before you know the path your child will take.

“You start planning not the day they enroll, you will already have to be prepared,” she said. “You have to think ahead. You know it’s coming. You don’t know if they’re going to need tuition money or bail money, but you think of that.”

Identifying a road map – to determine



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Myra Gray, deputy G-3/5, strategy and concepts for Army Materiel Command, speaks Thursday to members of the Women In Defense Tennessee Valley Chapter and National Defense Industrial Association Tennessee Valley Chapter.

why a business exists and what it is trying to achieve will help in that preparation, Gray said. Including outside viewpoints as well as employees and stakeholders in that strategic plan, which must be a living document within the organization, will best prepare an organization or company.

“Success is never accidental,” Gray said. “You plan for success. It’s very hard to get to that road to success if you don’t know what it looks like. Without vision, people perish.”

That vision must also be transferred into one’s personal life, so they can prepare for the future while caring for the present. Thinking introspectively, identifying your core values, challenging assumptions and developing a personal plan – which includes continual education and seeking mentors – will help an individual find success in life.

“Don’t be a victim to uncertainty,” Gray said. “Uncertainty is everywhere. It’s not going away. Plan for your success.”

Guard

continued from page 11

instead of rushing to the ground,” said Warrant Officer 1 Joe Krestan who became a pilot two years ago.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Conley, a pilot with three years active duty in the Navy and five years in the Army National Guard, summed up the opinions of all the pilots because he too felt that “the 3D HUD would save lives.”

The BHIVE’s human factors engineers will use data collected from cameras mounted on the pilots’ helmets to

record data on eye movement during the experimentation.

“If a crewmember’s attention is drawn to a particular instrument display or control longer than it should be then the data will show it,” said Ben Schwartz, SAIC, technical data writer and human factors engineer, System Simulation and Development Directorate, AMRDEC.

The crewmembers were asked what they thought about the test, what worked and what didn’t, and this feedback is invaluable, Schwartz said.

The Kentucky National Guard aviators flew a record number of hours in the BHIVE so that Army aviators on the battlefield will be safer in the future.

Getting onto the pathway for smarter spending

Financial workshops to launch Thursday

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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Beginning Thursday, employees across the Arsenal will have the opportunity to learn a little bit more about the dollars and sense they need to have to ensure their money is spent wisely.

Financial Matters 2011, sponsored by Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program, kicks off Thursday with the first workshop of the year "Pathways to Financial Success: Spending Your Money Wisely" at Bob Jones Auditorium from 11 a.m. to noon. The event is open to all active duty, retired military, DoD civilians, contractors and their families.

"There is a tremendous need out there for people who want to get their financial situation stabilized," Kathleen Riester, Financial Readiness Program coordinator for ACS, said. "They want to get to the point of spending and investing, but before they do that they have to position themselves to save and invest."

This year, instead of hosting a work-

shop each month on a different topic, the same workshop will be held monthly at different organizations across the Arsenal, beginning Thursday with AMCOM. Employees of AMCOM, SMDC, PEO Aviation, PEO Missiles and Space, AMRDEC and MDA will all have the opportunity to participate in the hour-long financial seminars at their own locations, sometime between March and August. "Pathways to Financial Success: Spending Your Money Wisely" will provide participants with the education and resources to make smarter choices with their money.

Daniel Lord, education and public affairs for the Alabama Securities Commission, will be the featured speaker at Thursday's event. Lord works across the state to raise public awareness on enforcement activities and fraud prevention techniques. In addition to speaking on financial scams, he will also address strategies for using money wisely.

"They are like the police of the investment world," Riester said of the ASC. "They ensure that everyone is abiding by federal and state laws of investing. Their



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Financial Matters 2011, sponsored by Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program, kicks off Thursday with the first workshop of the year "Pathways to Financial Success: Spending Your Money Wisely" at Bob Jones Auditorium from 11 a.m. to noon.

focus is to promote savings, education and fraud prevention of securities."

Attendees will have the opportunity to provide the Financial Readiness Program with feedback on particular issues and concerns they have about money after each workshop. The Financial Readiness

Program will then provide opportunities for follow-up workshops within organizations if needed, depending upon feedback received, such as a desire to learn about how to improve credit scores. A large culminating event with all the organizations across the Arsenal will be held in August.

"The workshops will lay a strong foundation for the Redstone Arsenal community on successful strategies for spending money," Riester said.

The Financial Readiness Program provides financial counseling and educational resources to active duty Soldiers and their family members, as well as civilians, in areas such as budget development, financial planning, spending and evaluating assets and liabilities. The annual workshops are part of the program's outreach to ensure the community has the resources and education available to be financially healthy.

"We want to provide the resources for them to make smarter choices with their money," Riester said.

For more information about the Financial Readiness Program, call Riester at ACS at 876-5397.

Soldiers in Iraq take U.S. Oath of Citizenship

By Sgt. 1st Class JEFF TROTH
CAB PAO, 1ID

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance now means something more for five Soldiers assigned to the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

On Presidents Day, they joined with 48 other U.S. Soldiers stationed in Iraq and took the Oath of Citizenship of the United States of America.

Each of the 53 Soldiers, from 31 countries, had different reasons for joining another nation's Army, but on Feb. 21 their goal in Baghdad was the same — to say the Pledge of Allegiance as a citizen of the United States.

"I can't stop smiling," Sgt. Jennifer Estrella, of Headquarters Company, eCAB, said. "It is a very emotional thing becoming a citizen."

"It has been called the 'Great American Experience,'" Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, United States Forces-Iraq commander, said during the naturalization ceremony. "It is called that because it became a nation of immigrants on a foreign land and none of them knew at the time whether it would succeed or fail."

Austin went on to say that we gather

strength from diversity, and the Soldiers who became citizens at Saddam Hussein's Al Faw Palace are a reminder that our strength as a nation and as an Army comes from ethnic and cultural diversity.

"America is known for having one of the most diverse cultures in the world," the general said. "We are a diverse nation of men and women who have come from other countries around the world. The United States has citizens that represent nearly every country, language, religion and culture on this planet."

When Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1992, 12-year-old Estrella left the Philippines and moved to Ohio to live with her mom, who had moved there 10 years earlier.

Spc. John Wix, Headquarters Support Command, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, was a little bit older when he left the United Kingdom for America. At 26 years old, he followed his new bride, who was in the U.S. Air Force, to the states in 1994 when her tour at RAF Alconbury was complete.

"I followed her to the states and around the country — to Wyoming, Washington, D.C., New Jersey, Texas and Nebraska," Wix said.

When he first got to the states he went



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Sgt. Jennifer Estrella, center, Headquarters Company, Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, recites the Oath of Citizenship of the United States of America during a Presidents Day naturalization ceremony for 53 U.S. Soldiers at one of Saddam Hussein's former Baghdad palaces.

to college and became a certified mechanic, a job he knew he would be able to do wherever his active-duty wife was assigned. In 2007, now a father of two U.S. born children, he knew he wanted to do more.

"I was looking at doing something, and then the Army changed its age limit to 42, and I was 41 and a half," Wix said. "I wanted to become a U.S. citizen, but I didn't want to do it until I had felt I had earned it."

Estrella joined the Army and decided to become a citizen due to learning the value of family while growing up in the Philippines.

"I never met my father, but I had heard he was in the service, so I thought serving would bring me somewhat closer to him," she said. "There has been a flood and another volcano eruption in the Philippines, so becoming a U.S. citizen gives me the chance to go look for my family myself, instead of paying someone to do it for me."

Wix wishes that his wife and children could have been at the ceremony, but knew this was the time to do it, even though it meant staying in Iraq a couple of extra weeks.

"It was good to do it with this group," he said. "It surprises me the diversity that the U.S. Army has. There are people from pretty much every nation around the world serving in the U.S. military. If you look at other militaries around the

world, most require you to be a citizen to serve. The beauty of the U.S. military is that you can come in as a resident."

Wix may have not had his family with him at the ceremony but he did have fellow Englishman, Spc. Christopher Millard, who is not only in the same company as him, but is from a town about 15 miles away from where he grew up.

The eCAB's two other newest U.S. citizens did not have as far to travel to get to the States. Spc. Ryan Mclellan, Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, is from Canada. Spc. Carlos Villa Rivera, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, was born in Mexico. Other countries represented at the Presidents Day ceremony were Russia, Guatemala, Korea, Germany and Denmark.

The eCAB Soldiers and the other 48 had a chance to meet each other and trade stories of their journey from their homeland to Saddam's palace the week leading up to the ceremony. All were brought from their bases throughout Iraq to ensure that their citizenship and passport paperwork were in order prior to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as U.S. citizens for the first time.

"The strangest thing is going to be when I travel back to the U.K. with an American passport this spring," Wix said.

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Army opens door to unmanned aircraft

Symposium encourages industry to bring best ideas to the table

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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If you see engineers and marketing executives stepping off to the side during the annual Pathfinder Symposium for the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, don't think anything underhanded is going on.

Rather, it's likely they are making their way into a meeting to present their own ideas involving the latest technologies in unmanned aircraft systems.

For the second year in a row, the top engineers and scientists at the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation, will provide industry representatives a Technology Forum where they can "pitch" their newest technology solutions to make unmanned aircraft soar faster, longer, more efficiently and more accurately.

"The industry technology forum has been a great initiative for the UAS office to interface with and gain insight into our industry partners' science and technology efforts to create the path to our future for UAS and Soldier support," UAS technical chief Dr. Juanita Harris said.

In a meeting room adjacent to the Pathfinder Symposium on March 16 and 17 at the Von Braun Center, chief scientist Lars Ericsson and Harris will be joined by subject matter experts from the UAS office as industry representatives make their presentations on technological breakthroughs in unmanned aircraft.

"This allows industry to come in and present new technology to us. It gives them a door straight into unmanned aircraft in a way they might not have," said Jennifer Perritt, program integrator for Unmanned Aircraft Systems technical management.

"Last year, we had an overwhelming response."

Twenty-four companies made presentations in 2010 during a one-day technology forum. This year, presentations from 26 companies will be spread across two days. The appointment times were increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes each. Of that time, each company will get 20 minutes to make their presentation. The opportunity was advertised online at FedBixOps as a request for information. All time

slots were filled within 48 hours.

"At this point, we are just gaining knowledge," Perritt said. "We will be asking information gathering questions. We have asked each presenter to provide printed copies of their presentations. We are looking for any type of improvement on what we already have."

The technologies presented must be on a technical and manufacturing maturity level of five, meaning they have been produced, tried and tested.

"What they present must be a real thing. It has to have been tested or currently be going through testing," Perritt said.

The UAS project office is looking for technologies that address weight, size and power issues, and that can increase capability, speed and efficiency.

"Last year, there were some really gee-whiz things that came through the door," Perritt said. "A lot of what we get is improvement on the technologies we already have."

The Technology Forum is a win-win for both the Army and industry.

"The Army does not have research and development funds. Those are all on the industry side," Perritt said.

"We rely on industry to do the research and development. This forum gives the Army an opportunity to see what technology is out there and it gives industry a chance to present their best technologies. Before we had the technology forum, all this was strictly handled through the request-for-information process."

The Pathfinder Symposium, sponsored each year by the Pathfinder Chapter of AUVSI in the Tennessee Valley, draws an audience of about 300 military, industry and school representatives. The symposium's theme is "Unmanned Systems Road to the Future."

"The primary purpose of this symposium is to allow industry to hear where the military is planning to go with unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned aircraft systems and robotics. Our primary goal is to support UAS and this project office," conference spokesperson Phil Freeze said.

"The second purpose is to allow both companies and the government to interface with each other and to work together to make our programs going forward more successful. The third purpose is to serve as a means of raising funds to support K-12 education."

More than 50 exhibits will be on display at the conference.

"This is a growth industry. UAS is the program in the Department of Defense right now that's an area for continued growth," Freeze said. "These

aircraft represent big cost savings."

The first day of the Pathfinder conference will focus on unmanned aircraft systems roadmap, areas of concern and industry opportunities while the second day will focus on ground robotics and other unmanned aerial systems used by the Department of Defense, Homeland Security and other government agencies.

Afghanistan come down, the uses of UAS in other ways will be unbounded," Freeze said.

One of the critical issues facing growth in UAS is the need to determine how to fly manned and unmanned aircraft in the same air space. Freeze said the issue will be addressed at the conference.

Also during the conference, about

The Technology Forum gives industry "a door straight into unmanned aircraft in a way they might not have."

— **Jennifer Perritt**
Program Integrator
Unmanned Aircraft Systems

"UAS is probably an area that covers more of DoD, Homeland Security and commercial needs than any other product the Army has right now because UAS has a number of missions. Once the need for UAS in Iraq and

\$100,000 in scholarships will be presented to school-based robotic programs.

To register for the conference, visit its website at <http://www.auvsipathfinder.com>.

Prototype Integration Facility has satisfied customers

Special Ops Soldiers applaud modified assault helicopter

By MERV BROKKE
AMRDEC Public Affairs

Imagine working for an organization where you receive customer feedback like this:

“I can’t believe it; this is exactly what we were talking about.” “This is light-years ahead of what we have now.” “I love it! It’s great! I’ve wanted it for years.”

For the workers of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center’s Prototype Integration Facility, this is the type of feedback they have been receiving since going into operation in 2002.

This most recent praise was given by Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) who toured their newly modified helicopters once the members of the PIF had installed the new hardware and modifications that make up the MH-47G Weapon Auxiliary Solution Package project.

The MH-47G Chinook is a heavy assault helicopter. It is the first 160th helicopter equipped with the Army special operations aviation specific Common Avionics Architecture System. Additionally, it is equipped with a Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System for insertion of personnel and equipment and extraction of personnel; a defensive armament system with two M-134 “Minigun” machine guns and one M-60D machine gun; and an external rescue hoist, according to the Army Special Operations Command website www.soc.mil.

At any given time the PIF is involved in well over 100 projects, so when Maj. Jeffrey Rains, assistant product manager for sensors and weapons, Technology Applications Program Office, presented the PIF with a few requirements regarding the MH-47G 160th Special Operations Chinook, one more project didn’t slow down the process. In fact, this project was meant for the PIF.

“I think the PIF is a really good



Army photo

After members of the Prototype Integration Facility installed the newly designed parts of the MH-47G weapon auxiliary solution package, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) checked out the fit of the PIF’s work before it goes on to testing. Here a Soldier checks out the M240 machine gun.

fit for the 160th because they tend to try something out and then continue to explore other options if the first solution doesn’t suit their needs,” Emily Williams, PIF government project lead, said. “We can use our prototyping capabilities to give them the hardware to field test with no strings and no obligation to make more if they don’t like it.”

The first requirement identified by Rains involved the M134 Miniguns that currently have brass and link ejection tubes routed out of the front windows.

“The ejection tubes are necessary to prevent brass and links from getting caught in costly and crucial equipment and causing surface damage to the aircraft. However, the current tubes are stiff and are reported to dampen the maneuverability of the M134,” Williams said.

The second requirement involved the M240 Machine Guns used in the aft windows of the helicopter’s cargo bay.

“The Technology Applications

Program Office requested a new design for the ammunition cans and feed chutes that would accommodate a larger quantity of ammunition without jamming or interfering with cargo space,” Williams said.

“Many 160th Soldiers reported that, rather than use the current feed system as designed, they preferred to pull ammunition from the can with one hand and fire and stabilize the gun with the other. TAPO inferred that a product improvement would be beneficial to the crew.”

Additionally, the PIF was also asked to design an M240 ejection system comparable to the M134 ejection system to safely clear brass and links from the aircraft.

Knowing their customer’s needs, the way they fight and adapt, the PIF’s overarching goal for this project was to create designs and prototypes that would be versatile and evolving rather than provide them with a static solution.

“Special Ops Soldiers are so absorbed with the task at hand that they can’t afford fiddling with a

piece of equipment that could potentially slow them down or get in their way,” Williams said. “So they end up making changes as they go along to meet their immediate needs.”

The PIF’s solution to M134 ejection was a combination of the current technology and various elements inspired by the assembly used on the Australian Defense Force CH-47D.

“The PIF’s prime contractor, JVYS, was able to take advantage of their subcontracting capabilities to commission the design of a more flexible and more durable ejection hose from Flexfab, the company that made the original tubes,” Williams said.

The PIF’s concept for the M240 feed system featured a higher capacity slim-design ammo can with special jam-preventing technology, quick release capabilities, and an attachment for a factory feed chute.

“Although the PIF’s original M240 ejection concept roughly mirrored the M134 ejection concept, TAPO and the 160th Systems Integration and Maintenance Office determined that such complexity would be unnecessary. The PIF team quickly presented an alternate concept involving a short horizontal ejection chute and a protective covering on the exterior of the aircraft to shield against any possible blowback of the ejected brass and links,” Williams said.

“It’s so much more than what they’ve got now,” Jim Findley, program integrator, TAPO, said. “It’s so much better. They see it and they like it. It’s a definite winner.”

Not only the Soldiers are excited about the PIF’s work; the employees are excited and enthusiastic about the part they play in supporting them.

“It’s very rewarding to see a project go from design through prototyping, testing and on to integration,” Shelia Champion, Joint Venture Yulista Services aviation project manager, said. “This is the type of program that makes our jobs exciting, knowing there is a need to improve an existing system that will help our war fighters do their jobs.”

Huntsville Center engineer earns annual award



Levi Gabre

A mechanical engineer with the Army and Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville took the 2011 National Engineers Week Young Engineer of the Year award.

Levi Gabre with Huntsville Center's Directorate of Engineering principal is the reviewer of Quality Control Plans for major programs in the Installation Support and Program Management Directorate. Gabre also provides full-scale program/project manager and support for all projects under Defense Energy Support Center Environmental and Recurring Maintenance/Minor Repair programs.

Gabre provides training and support to project delivery teams with members from Engineering, Contracting, and Resource Management to effectively execute the DESC program. In addition, he led two acquisition teams in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 that awarded \$35 million

and \$3.5 million contracts in support of DESC programs. Gabre also performed as acting chief of the Operations Branch, Systems Engineering Division, when requested.

"His hard work to bring contracts into action have immediate and lasting effects on the overall quality of Army Refueling infrastructure, as well as a direct impact in saving man-hours dedicated to processing maintenance and repair requests," said Jim Tyrrell, DESC headquarters proponent.

In fiscal '10, Gabre personally developed and executed a new DESC Recurring Maintenance and Minor/Emergency Program. The program provides maintenance and repair services for DESC capitalized fuel facilities, systems and components in compliance with various codes, standards and regulations. The program is highly effective with significant cost savings

realized. Currently, the program is being executed at more than 55 Army and Navy installations.

His community service related to the engineering profession includes volunteering to serve as a quality assurance inspector as part of the Corps of Engineers' role in support of Hurricane Wilma in 2006. He received the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal for his efforts there. He also served as committee member for the annual Huntsville Center Engineering Day event. He has been a SAME member since 2004 and is a certified engineer intern and a member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Gabre, a Huntsville native, graduated from Buckhorn High School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville and his master's from Georgia Tech. (*Huntsville Center release*)



Photo by Ellen Hudson

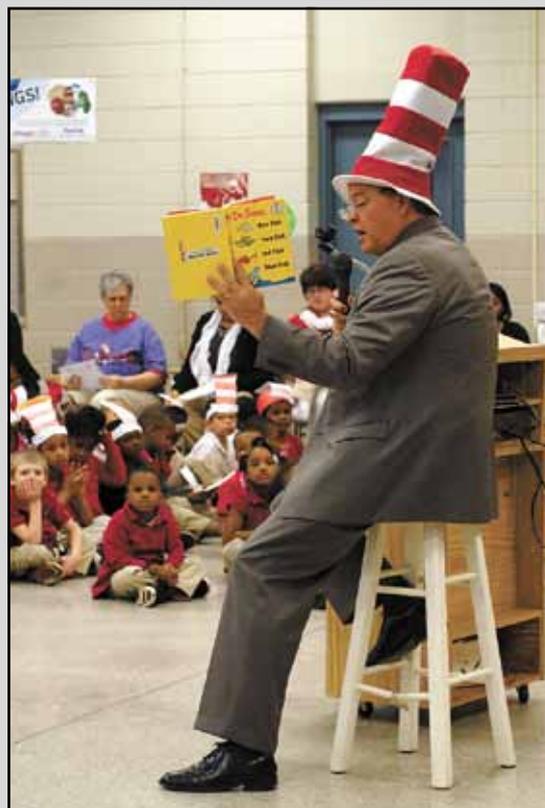


Photo by Ellen Hudson



Photo by John Pearson

Dr. Seuss time

Redstone Arsenal representatives take the fun of Dr. Seuss and his books into Huntsville elementary schools as part of Read Across America's recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday. At left, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton reads a Dr. Seuss book to students at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School on March 2. Center, Ronnie Chronister, deputy commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, reads a Dr. Seuss story to students at Montview Elementary School for the Read Across America program on March 1. At right, Mary Epps of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center, talks with children waiting in line for their Dr. Seuss story time at University Place Elementary. Epps is a senior logistics management specialist with Strategic Sourcing and Integrated Operations. Redstone's role in Read Across America was coordinated by the Army Education Outreach Program.

Redstone pilots new family service model

*Army Community Service
to give input for changes*

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Redstone Arsenal is among 22 Army installations that have been chosen as a pilot site for enhanced delivery of services provided by Army Community Service that will make it easier and faster for Soldiers and their family members to get the help they are seeking.

The pilot program, which began in February and continues through March 31, is the first step in an initiative that will transform ACS as directed by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Installation Management. If lessons learned from the pilot program prove to be successful, the transformation of ACS will be implemented at every installation.

“The results of this pilot will assist in determining the template for transformation,” Sue Paddock, director of Redstone’s ACS, said. “With that transformation, there will be no change in services. The change will be in the delivery of those services.”

At the end of the pilot program, each of the 22 ACS organizations involved will identify successes, challenges, the impact on service delivery, measurable targets and the resources needed to support the transformation.

“The pilot will assist in developing a solid process for transformation,” Paddock said. “The staff here is excited. The Redstone ACS was the first in (year) 2000 to pass the Department of the Army accreditation and we’ve taken the lead every three years to be reaccredited. We look at this as just another challenge for us to take the lead on. If there are going to be changes made and new challenges and opportunities for us, then we want to be in the lead on that.”

The ACS transformation is the result of input received from about 450 garrison focus groups and surveys involving Soldiers and family members that were coordinated during installation visits by Installation Management Command commander Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch in 2009 and 2010, following his assumption of the command.

There are 83 ACS centers throughout the Army with programs that include Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building, Army OneSource, Army Volunteer Corps, Exceptional Family Member, Family Advocacy, Financial Readiness, Information and Referral, Relocation Readiness, Sexual Assault and Response Program, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Spouse Employment, Survivor Outreach Services, Transitional Compensation, and Victim Advocacy.

Redstone’s selection as a pilot site puts it in a good position to provide transformation input that will be unique to the Army, Paddock said. With a diminishing Soldier corps on post, and a large and increasing civilian work force, the services that Redstone’s ACS provides reach beyond the traditional Soldier and their family.

“The services we provide support Soldier and family resiliency,” Paddock said. “And we also support retirees, Department of the Army civilians, contractors and their families.”

There are several organizations, resources and services available to Soldiers, Army civilians and their families. Such a large variety of assistance can make it difficult to determine which assistance is the best choice.

“It can become confusing when there are so many programs and services to choose from,” Paddock said. “Lt. Gen. Lynch wants to establish ACS as the central location for all services. The original intent of ACS is prevention and education. However, referrals are necessary when the extent of the concern or problem requires additional assistance. Bottom line, ACS serves as the front line.”

It is hoped that by making ACS a central location for services, those services will be delivered faster and easier, and at less costs.

“Duplication of services costs the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense unnecessary funds, which can be cut if ACS surfaces



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Army Community Service director Sue Paddock, right foreground, knows the hard work of her staff has made Redstone’s ACS one of the leading family organizations in the Army and, now, one of 22 ACS organizations to be chosen for a transformation pilot program. Taking care of ACS business behind the counter are, from left, Exceptional Family Member program manager Natalie Taylor, Family Employment Readiness program manager Debra Jefferson, Relocation Assistance program manager Mary Breeden and Social Services assistant Angel Solomon.

as the community integrator,” Paddock said. “The only way to do this is to focus on ACS and improve ACS’s visibility.

“And, by making ACS the community integrator, Army leadership will have immediate knowledge of Soldier, civilian and family concerns. This will improve resiliency. Therefore, transformation will effectively eliminate duplication of services and establish a central location or point of contact where all can come for assistance. This will eventually cut costs and improve efficiency.”

The ACS director feels staffing will become one of the main challenges of the transformation. Limited ACS staffs are now providing numerous services. The transformation is sure to increase demand for those services, Paddock said.

The transformation will also pull ACS out of the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation organizational chart and make it a direct reporting organization to Garrison commanders.

“We’ve always had a really strong relationship with FMWR and we are supported by FMWR in many ways,” Paddock said. “We’ve been told that support will continue.”

Besides faster service delivery, the Armywide ACS transformation, if launched in October, will also involve introducing an upgraded tracking system that allows staff to follow up with clients more efficiently and to ensure client needs are met when service is provided; and ACS satellite locations at units, garrison exchanges and commissaries, and off-post sites.

Besides Redstone, other installations participating in the pilot program are: Fort Carson, Colo.; Natick, Mass.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Detroit Arsenal, Mich.; Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.; Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Lee, Va.; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Brussels, Belgium; Baumholder, Grafenwoehr; Kaiserslautern, Germany; Vicenza, Italy; and Daegu, Korea.

Wounded warrior run hits patriotic stride

Grissom High JROTC sponsors fund-raiser

By ELLEN HUDSON
Staff photographer
lnudson@yahoo.com

Cadets in Grissom High's Army JROTC program joined forces Feb. 26 with students and friends of Grissom, the Patriot Guard Riders, Redstone's 832nd Ordnance Battalion, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, race officials, wounded warrior James West, and others for the Grissom Army JROTC Wounded Warrior 5K run.

The race was run on a cool morning at McGucken Park in southeast Huntsville on Bailey Cove Road to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and the Grissom JROTC program.

In the park were a CH-47F Chinook helicopter, Vets with Vettes exhibit and a large-screen television set up at the start of the race where runners communicated by webcast with sailors, Marines, and civilians serving at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, who ran the race with them. Battle and Formica, the commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, spoke at the event. The national anthem was sung while all eyes were on the Grissom JROTC color guard's flags. Then the race began.

Excitement seemed to stir in onlookers as they watched and clapped for the Soldiers of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion when they followed other runners

onto the race course. The cadences of the Soldiers could be heard in the distance throughout the race. They continued in cadence near the finish as they passed between two rows of Patriot Guard Riders holding large flags.

"Around her head she wore a yellow ribbon" one cadence went. "She wore it for the Soldier far, far away. Around the block she pushed the baby carriage, and if you asked her why she pushed it, she pushed it for the Soldier far, far away."

As the race came to an end, runners were followed past the Patriot Guard flag display by four Grissom JROTC cadets in full battle gear recreating the logo of the Wounded Warrior Project. JROTC military skills commander Chris Olsen carried symbolic wounded Soldier cadet Tanner Payne, and they were escorted by cadets Sam Kim and Marc Johnson.

This was the second year of this race organized by Stefanie Armstrong, with the help of her husband, Bob. This year's race was named The Dedication Run, dedicated to their son, former Grissom JROTC cadet Matt Payne, who carried the symbolic wounded Soldier last year. Payne died unexpectedly in October 2010, a few weeks before he was to enter the Navy's Special Warfare Operations program.

Grissom senior Blaise Binns won in 16:35. The sponsors were First Place Athletics, U.S. Army, Invariant, Publix, C&L Performance, Subway, Coldwell Banker, Dr. Michael Brown, Green Cove Pet Hospital and Whitesburg Baptist Church.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Grissom High JROTC military skills team commander Chris Olsen carries a symbolic wounded Soldier – represented by Grissom Army JROTC cadet Tanner Payne – between two rows of Patriot Guard riders with patriotic flags. The two is escorted by JROTC cadets Sam Kim, left, and Marc Johnson. The scene served to recreate the Wounded Warrior Project logo.

Soldiers to receive new precision mortar round

By KRIS OSBORN
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – In March, U.S. Soldiers in Afghanistan will receive a first-of-its kind, GPS-guided 120mm mortar munition that can pinpoint targets at ranges up to 6,300 meters, service officials said.

The program, called Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative, or APMI, emerged out of a request from the field commander in Afghanistan in February 2009. The precision rounds were recently test-fired at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

"The testing involved a significant amount of firing and safety requirements. The overall reliability of the round is meeting its requirement of greater than 90 percent. The testing,



Army graphic

This illustration depicts an XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative round closing in on a target.

which has been going on since last fall, has gone extremely well," said Bruce Kay, Department of the Army systems coordinator, Mortar Systems. "This provides the commander with immediate response precision indirect-fire capability."

Overall, the Army plans to deliver 5,480 APMI rounds.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Soldiers of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion cross the starting line during the Grissom High JROTC Wounded Warrior 5K Run on Feb. 26 at McGucken Park.

Lacrosse catches on as spring sport of choice



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

The Huntsville Lacrosse Association's girls varsity team, which practices on the Arsenal, gathers for a huddle.

*Girls team practices
on Redstone Arsenal*

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Lauren Jarreau was looking for a spring sport. Skylar Green heard about it from some friends. Imani Tucker had seen it on television.

And Brooke Calvert was just trying to keep up with her older brother.

Regardless of why they started or how they heard about it, three nights a week, the four high school seniors join girls like themselves in grades 4 through 12 from across the Huntsville area to unite for a common cause – lacrosse.

“Lacrosse is great for girls to learn respect for themselves and respect for others,” said Carla Landers, head coach for the Huntsville Lacrosse Association’s girls varsity team. “Honing personal skills and then learning how to adapt them with every other player on the team prepares the girls for real world small group and large group projects. Placing everyone’s differences aside, to all achieve one goal as a team is a constant lifetime scenario.”

Somewhat of a mix of soccer and hockey, the sport is all about utilizing the lacrosse stick to catch, carry and pass the ball in order to score, by shooting the ball into the opponent’s goal. While it’s not a sport typically found while channel surfing on a Saturday afternoon, the basics of the sport are relatively easy for newcomers to pick up. Since there are no high schools in the area that offer a girls lacrosse team, girls from schools like Grissom, Bob Jones, Sparkman and Huntsville High compete as part of the Huntsville Lacrosse Association, a volunteer organization dedicated to growing youth participation in lacrosse. The two girls teams, middle school for grades 4 through 8, high school for 9 through 12, practice on the FMWR Youth Activity Fields on the Arsenal during the week.

“The learning curve is easy for those that have played hockey or soccer,” Landers said. “It’s a lot more running for those that have played basketball. If you have eye-hand coordination that’s key.”

For the varsity girls, it’s the stick and teamwork that makes the sport fun.

“That’s what sets it apart from every other sport,” said Calvert, a senior at Huntsville High, who started playing lacrosse to keep up with her older brother who also plays. “I love that it takes the whole team to be good. You can’t just be a one man team.”

The season for the Huntsville Lacrosse Association begins in February and ends in May, with summer tournaments and skill camps offered for girls that wish to keep their training going year-round. Most of the competition comes from the Birmingham area, as the sport, popular in the Northeast and Canada, continues to gain momentum across the South.

“The popularity has grown with BRAC, from people moving in and asking if the sport is available,” Landers said.

Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the United States, according to U.S. Lacrosse, the national governing body of the sport. HLA’s middle school team, coached by Col. Kevin Michaels, has seen a 50 percent growth from last year to this year, with 12 of the original 13 girls comprising the team of around 26 girls. About the same number of girls makes up the high school team. It is a trend the players themselves are excited to see.

“We want it to grow, for it to be a high school sport,” Calvert said.

The lacrosse momentum isn’t just about the increased number of teams and players across the nation however. Landers and her assistant coach have noticed a different kind of impact the sport is making – one that’s helping the girls to grow as people.

“I can already see a difference from the first day all my girls met as a team,” Landers said. “Their confidence is boosted by gaining new friends, honing new skills and being part of a team. Acceptance for any high school student makes a difference in their youth and it will prepare them for their college transition that is on the horizon.”

For more information about the Huntsville Lacrosse Association, visit huntsvillelax.org.

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**For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office,
Storm Water Program manager at 955-8501**

Win or Lose

Bulldogs get physical against National Guard

Bravo Company outscores Patriots by 19 in 2nd half

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

The Bravo Company basketball team didn't panic when trailing 15-2 to the preseason champion National Guard.

The Bulldogs finally got even – and then some – in the second half.

Bravo Company beat the National Guard 57-44 on Feb. 28 at the Redstone Fitness Center for its third straight win. The Bulldogs trailed 22-16 at halftime and outscored the Patriots 41-22 after intermission.

“We just got off to a slow start,” Bravo coach Eugene Irby said. “Our shooters were a little cold. We were missing some easy shots. As the game went on, our shots started falling. We started relying on our defense. We got good defense and came back.”

Bravo trailed until tying the score 29-all with 15 minutes left. The Bulldogs got their first lead at 34-33 with 12:20 left.

Victor Evans' reverse layup put Bravo up 48-44 at 3:20. The Bulldogs led 49-44 and had the ball with 2:20 remaining when their coach told them to spread the floor.

“Slow it down,” Irby instructed.

Evans made a key offensive rebound on a missed free throw at 1:31 with Bravo up 50-44. Tristan Wilson sank a bank shot with 40 seconds left. Anthony Abrams added two free throws and a 3-pointer for the final margin.

Evans finished with 16 points, seven rebounds and two steals for Bravo (5-2). Abrams had 11 points and two steals. Wilson added 10 points, three rebounds,

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Bravo shooting guard Victor Evans, who finished with 16 points, reaches for a loose ball against National Guard forward Corey Cato during Bravo's 57-44 win.

one block and a steal. Anthony Leslie scored nine points on three 3-pointers. Don Hall had six rebounds, four points and two assists. Edwin Figueroa, the 6-foot-4 center, had four points, three rebounds and one block.

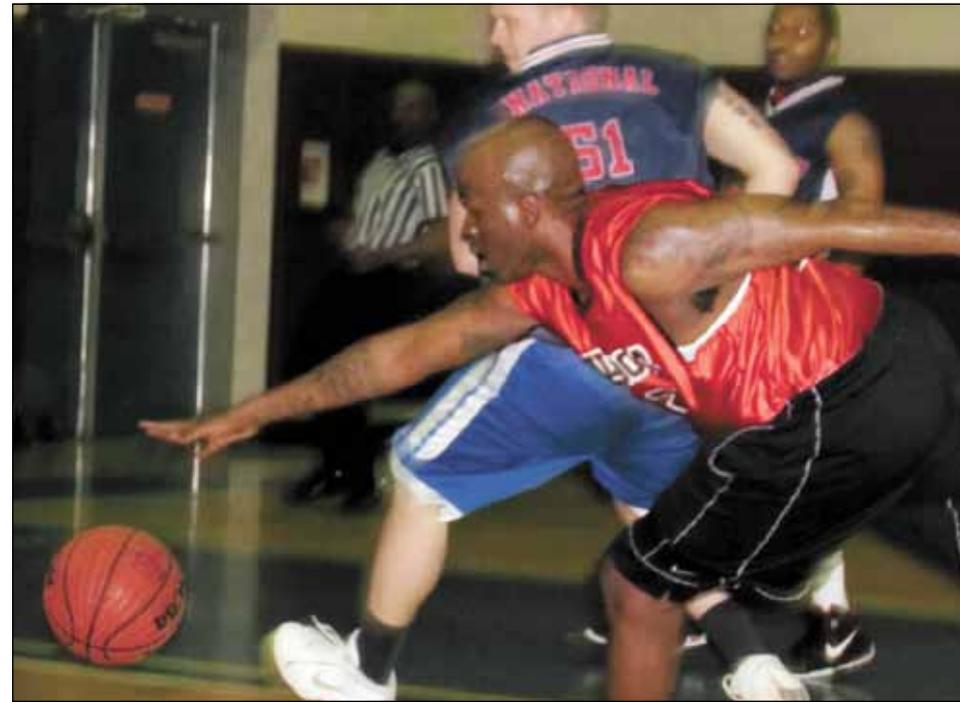
“Team defense,” Evans said. “Coming back – we were down 15-2 – we started playing good defense. Our shots started to drop and we came back. Team ball.”

Kenneth Moore had 16 points and Chris Mack had 14 plus 11 rebounds for the National Guard (5-4). Patriots player/coach Bryan Christa added eight points, five rebounds and three assists.

“Short bench, we ran out of energy,” Christa said. “We started off good, playing our game. And then we got tired, let them back in. They're definitely a physical team. When you've got a short bench it wears on you.”

In other games last week, 326th Chemical defeated the Marines 58-45 on Feb. 28; HHC 59th won by forfeit over the Marines and 375th Engineer stopped Charlie Company 55-49 on March 2; Bravo beat Headquarters & Alpha 59-36 and NCO Academy routed the Marines on March 3.

Standings after week seven had HHC 59th (7-2), Bravo Company (6-2), 326th Chemical (5-2), National Guard (5-4), Headquarters & Alpha (5-5), 375th Engineer (4-4), NCO Academy (4-4), Charlie Company (3-5) and Marines (0-11).



**ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF MAR 3 2011	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																			
SCBK11883574	Budget Analyst	10-Mar-11	US Army Space & Miss Def Cmd	GS-0560	12	12	69,930 - 90,907						X	X		X	X		
SCBK11877776	General Engineer	10-Mar-11	RDECOM	DB-0801	3	3	69,930 - 108,102						X	X		X	X		
SCBK1111802848	Safety & Occupational Health Manager	10-Mar-11	Aviation & Msl Res, Dev & Eng Ctr	DE-0018	14	14	83,156 - 127,743	X											
SCBK11887576	Business Analyst	10-Mar-11	AMC	GS-1101	14	14	98,265 - 127,743						X	X		X	X		
SCBK11900932	General Supply Specialist	10-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-2001	11	11	58,343 - 75,843	X	X										
SCBK11849117	Psychology Technician (Psychometry)	10-Mar-11	US Army Med Dept	GS-0181	9	9	48,221 - 62,683			X						X	X		
SCBK11894059	Secretary (OA)	10-Mar-11	ACC	GS-0318	7	7	39,422 - 51,253	X											
SCBK11845822	Logistics Management Specialist	10-Mar-11	AMC	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X	X		X	X		
scbk11886724	Program Analyst	10-Mar-11	AMC	GS-0343	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X	X		X			
SCBK11905535	Management Analyst	11-Mar-11	US Army Space & Miss Def Cmd	GS-0343	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK11802848	Safety & Occupational Health Manager	11-Mar-11	Aviation & Msl Res, Dev & Eng Ctr	DE-0018	4	4	83,156 - 127,743	X					X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10885484	Traffic Management Specialist	11-Mar-11	US Aviation & Missile Cmd	GS-2130	11	11	58,343 - 75,843	X											
SCBK11883643	Administrative Support Assistant	11-Mar-11	US Army Space & Miss Def Cmd	GS-0303	8	8	37,631 - 56,754	X											
SCBK11889331	Logistics Management Specialist	11-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK118916682	Human Resources Technician (HRD/OA)	11-Mar-11	AMCOM	YB-0203	2	2	38,599 - 69,037							X		X	X		
SCBK11841959	Secretary (OA)	11-Mar-11	AMC	GS-0318	6	6	35,475 - 46,116							X		X	X		
SCBK11849137	Budget Analyst	14-Mar-11	US Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0560	7	11	39,422 - 75,843	X											
SCBK11CRP3010312	Project Manager	14-Mar-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0301	12	12	69,930 - 90,907							X		X	X		
SCBK11872312	Electronic Publications Specialist	15-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0301	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11860470	Lead Logistics Management Specialist	15-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	13	13	83,156 - 108,102	X											
SCBK11882961	Logistics Management Specialist	15-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11889598	Intern Coordinator	15-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0301	12	12	69,930 - 90,907	X											
NEAL10541178	Acquisition Management Specialist	15-Mar-11	Program Executive Office (PEO)	YA-0301	2	2	48,221 - 119,935							X	X		X	X	
SCBK11CRP80005	Engineer, Phy Scientist, Architect	15-Mar-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-0810/1301/0808	13	13	83,156 - 108,102									X	X	X	
SCBK11853895	General Engineer	15-Mar-11	AMC	GS-0801	14	14	98,265 - 127,743							X		X	X		
SCBK11694522R	Program Analyst	15-Mar-11	AMC	GS-0343	14	14	98,265 - 127,743	X											
SCBK11652128D	Program Support Assistant (OA)	16-Mar-11	US Army Res, Dev & Eng Cmd	DK-0303	3	3	39,422 - 56,754												X
SCBK11877166	Mgt & Technical Specialist	16-Mar-11	US Army Res, Dev & Eng Cmd	DE-0301	2	2	31,285 - 62,683					X	X	X		X	X		
SCBK11860852	Mgt Services Specialist	16-Mar-11	Expeditionary Contracting Cmd	YA-0341	2	2	47,214 - 108,102							X		X			
SCBK11901568	Supervisory Business Mgt Office	17-Mar-11	AMCOM	YC-0301	3	3	96,211 - 157,779	X											
SCBK11895562	Business Mgt Specialist	17-Mar-11	USA Engr & Spt Ctr	GS-1101	11	12	58,343 - 90,907	X											
SCBK11874454	Secretary (OA)	18-Mar-11	AMCOM	GS-0318	6	6	35,475 - 46,116	X								X			
SCBK11794559	Program Analyst	18-Mar-11	PEO IEWS	YA-0343	2	2	47,214 - 108,102	X											
SCBK10631319OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102										X		X
SCBK10631270OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102			X				X	X	X	X		
SCBK10482838OC	Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	13	13	83,156 - 108,102							X		X	X		
SCBK10482845OC	Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	7	12	39,422 - 90,907			X			X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10482850OC	Supv Contract Specialist	1-Apr-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10631324OC	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X				X		X	X		
SCBK10631337OCE	Contract Price/Cost Analyst	27-Apr-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907									X			X
SCBK10674714OC	Contract Specialist (Price/Cost Analysis)	9-Jun-11	ACC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779							X	X	X	X		
SCBK10724481OCE	Contract Specialist	29-Jun-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907									X			X
SCBK11733651	Logistics Management Specialist	5-Jul-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	11	13	58,343 - 108,102							X		X	X		
SCBK10444988OC	Contract Specialist	17-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X	X							X	X		
SCBK1044488OC	Contract Specialist	18-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	2	2	47,215 - 108,102	X	X							X	X		
SCBK104828500C	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743						X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10482841OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
SCBK10482823OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X				X	X	X	X		

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sports & Recreation

Ten-Miler tryout

Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler Team, which will compete in the 27th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 9 near the Pentagon, will hold an open tryout for runners April 2 at 7 a.m. The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center. Redstone is the four-time defending champion in the government agency division and two-time defending champ in the all-comers division. The team will have members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and contractors. For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or coach Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

Golf tournament

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

Golf benefit

Health Establishments at Local Schools will hold its second annual "HEALS on the Green Pro-Am Golf Tourney" May 2 at The Ledges. The shotgun starts are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cost is \$250 per person or \$1,000 per team.

Sponsors, players and volunteers are wanted. For more information, call Lauren Mosley 428-7560 or e-mail Lauren.Mosley@healsinc.org.

Bass tournament

The second annual Homeland Security Bass Tournament is April 23 at Ingalls Boat Harbor in Decatur. First place is \$1,000. Retirees and veterans are also invited and may sign up now. For more information, call David Whitman or Ed Whitman at The Boathouse 652-3446 or 337-0909.

Baseball bus trip

Civilian Welfare Fund Council will hold its annual Baseball Bus Trip to Atlanta for the Atlanta Braves/St. Louis Cardinals games April 29 to May 1. The ballgame tickets are for Friday, April 29 at 7:35 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 at 4:10 p.m. The CWFC bus will depart Redstone Arsenal at 11 a.m. that Friday and will return Sunday. They will be staying at the Embassy Suites-Galleria in Atlanta. Stadium seats will be in Section Field Box for Friday night's game. For Saturday evening's game, the seats will be in the All-You-Can-Eat-and-Drink section. The cost for this event is \$300 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes bus transportation, hotel room, tickets to both ballgames, plus lunch, beverages and games on the bus. To make your reservations for this adults only fun and relaxation event, e-mail Mike Wright at michael.john.wright@us.army.mil to get your name on the list. Provide your name and daytime phone number. A non-refundable deposit of \$150 per person must be received by March 17 to

Rocket Announcements

confirm your reservation.

Association golf

Redstone Arsenal's Sergeants Major Association will hold its second annual Golf Tournament on May 12 at 8 a.m. at the Links. There are still some sponsorship and team slots available. The tournament is open to everyone that has FMWR access and their guest. Sign up at the Links from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 2-23, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 509-2473 or e-mail reginald.battle@us.army.mil.

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registrations for the 2011 spring season on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon; and players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2011 are invited. Players age 12 are eligible to sign up as well under the Local Swing Player Option. Registration forms will be accepted after March 12 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the park representatives for registration locations. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones 990-5902, e-mail ejones@wilsonlumber.net; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180, e-mail timothy.t.harrison@nasa.gov; Eastern Division, Optimist Park, T. Poe 527-8763, e-mail wyatt.poe@gmail.com.

Senior baseball league

A Huntsville/Decatur men's recreational baseball organization, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players for its upcoming season. The SSBL seeks players age 25 and older, with a special emphasis on players 40 and over. Weekly spring training practices will begin March 13 and be held each Sunday into late April. The practice field location/schedule is being finalized. The league plays a 20-game season (from mid-May through August), normally with two games per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information contact either the Over-45 Division commissioner Bill McArdle at SSBL48s@comcast.net, the 25-35 Division commissioner Jim Crum at JimCrum10@yahoo.com, or e-mail joinssbl@comcast.net.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Wor-

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

Bible studies

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

Sergeants major

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

Men's ministries

Men's Ministries, "addressing the needs of men and planting seeds for spiritual growth in Christ Jesus," meets every second or third Saturday – for exact monthly date, call Harry Hobbs at 425-5307 – at 8 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for \$5. For more information, call Hobbs 425-5307.

Test week

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



Rocket Announcements

Toastmaster clubs

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

Tricare briefings

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

Engineer extension

The North Alabama National Society of Black Engineers Alumni Extension invites the community to its 18th annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 401 Williams Ave. The keynote speaker is Dr. Dorothy Huston, president of TMT Group Inc. Tickets are \$28 per person. Reserved tables are available. For more information, call Derrick Cameron 656-3591 or Chris Beatty 679-5757.

Space development

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

Weight watchers

Weight Watchers at Work meetings are held Thursdays at the Sparkman Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Weight Watchers new PointsPlus program makes it easy to lose weight without that dreaded four letter word 'diet,'" a prepared release said. "The Weight Watchers PointsPlus

program works because it's not a diet. You'll learn how to eat right and live healthy. The PointsPlus program is based on the latest nutritional science, and factors in the way your body actually processes food. Combined with the proven advantages of the Weight Watchers approach, the program helps you make healthy choices for long term success." For more information, call Pat Sandy 313-5655 or e-mail pat.sandy@us.army.mil.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Jim Swan of Nashville will speak on "Chicago's Irish Legion in Dixie," including capture of three Confederate capitols and its march to the sea with Gen. Sherman. Visitors are welcome. Call 539-5287 for information.

Women in defense

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women in Defense, an affiliate of NDIA, will hold a Mentorship Luncheon on March 21 at 11:30 a.m. at SAIC, 6725 Odyssey Drive. Irma Tuder, founder and board chair of Analytical Services Inc., is the guest speaker. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 per person, payable at the door. Reservations are required by contacting cindy.m.kurt@usa-spaceops.com.

Systems engineers

The International Council of Systems Engineering, Huntsville Chapter, will feature Dave Swinney, professor of systems engineering at the Defense Acquisition University, on March 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Jacobs Conference Center, 1500 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 100. Swinney will speak on "Why should Systems Engineering be Different in the Department of Defense than anywhere else?" If you plan to attend, e-mail to Sam Loo by noon March 16 at weeloo@mdnt.com.

Women's coalition

National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Greater Huntsville Chapter, will hold its 2011 SISTER Conference featuring actress/author Victoria Rowell, "Embracing Education Empowers the Mind," April 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Von Braun Center's East Hall. Tickets are \$50 until April 1, \$60 April 2-8. No tickets will be sold on event day. Call 859-4141 or 682-6230.

Information systems security

North Alabama Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association will have a luncheon March 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SAIC, 6725 Od-

yssey Drive, Patriot Room (Building I). Raphael Mudge will speak on "Penetration Testing with Armitage." Cost is \$15 for members; \$25 for non-members. Registration will open for members. You can register via PayPal at the website <http://northalabama.issa.org> or contact the treasurer to pay by check at treasurer@northalabama.issa.org.

Parkinson's support

The Parkinson's Support Group of Huntsville will meet Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road. Dr. Taleen Yacoubian from UAB will discuss "Non-Motor Symptoms of PD." Family, friends and caregivers – as well as those with Parkinson's disease – are invited. For more information, call Fred Seeley 534-6767.

Logistics society

SOLE-The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will have a luncheon March 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville. Dr. William D. Lewis, director of Aviation Engineering, will speak on "U.S. Army Airworthiness Throughout the Lifecycle." Cost is \$20 for non-members, \$15 for SOLE members. Make reservations by Thursday by calling Jon Liddie 642-9145 or e-mailing jon.s.liddie@saic.com.

Small business workshop

The Women's Business Center of North Alabama launched the Government Procurement Assistance Center to help the growing number of small businesses wanting to do business with the government. A workshop, titled "8(a) Certification Process: What is it, and is it Really Worth it?," will be held March 29 from 1-5 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, 225 Church St. The workshop is sponsored by BID Designs. Cost is \$50, payable at the door with cash or a check made payable to WBCNA. Reservations are requested online at www.wbcna.org.

War fighter's perspective

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, the National Military Intelligence Association, the Air Force Association, and the Tennessee Valley Chapter of NDIA have joined together to bring retired Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula to Huntsville to discuss the current and future challenges in Joint ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance). Deptula was the first deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance at headquarters Air Force. The luncheon will be held Thursday at Von Braun Center North Hall. Corporate tables (eight) are \$300 and individual seating is available for \$30. The doors will open at 11 a.m., and lunch will be served at 11:30. You can register and pay through PayPal at [\[ponent/content/article/25-huntsville-afa-chapter/109-admin1980\]\(http://ponent/content/article/25-huntsville-afa-chapter/109-admin1980\).](http://www.hsv-afa.org/index.php/com-</p>
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Fellowship program

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

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Motorcycle safety

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

Reading with Taka

The Post Library presents the "Tales with Taka" reading program on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Children age 5 and older are encouraged to read to Taka, a registered

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therapy and Reading Education Assistance Dog. The program is available to anyone who has access to the Post Library. All children who participate in the program will receive a gift bag from Taka. Under "Taka's Frequent Reader Program," children who read to Taka five times will receive their own "pawtographed" copy of one of Taka's favorite books. Sign up to read to Taka at the library's front desk. For more information call the Post Library 876-4741 or Jamie Ward, Taka's owner and handler, 233-3962.

Surplus sale

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

Officer recruitment

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

Flight training

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

Fraud hotline

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

Chapter scholarships

The 100 Black Men of America's Greater Huntsville Chapter announces its 2011 scholarship awards. As a part of its "Four for the Future" cornerstone programs (mentoring, education, economic development and health and wellness), the 100 BMOA-GHC is committed to the growth and development of America's youth. Scholarships will be awarded to individuals who maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system. The program is for high school graduates who plan to enroll in fall 2011 at an accredited two- or four-year col-

lege or university, regardless of race, sex, creed or religious preference. Scholarship applications must be received or postmarked in the 100 BMOA-GHC business office by 5 p.m. March 14. Notification of awards will be sent by March 31. Scholarship awardees will participate in the 100 BMOA-GHC Scholarship Awards program scheduled April 17. Applications can be obtained from local high school counselors or by calling Freeda McDowell 536-8050 or e-mailing Gerald Moore at gmoor6@bellsouth.net. For more information about the scholarships or the awards program, call Gerald Moore 233-2334.

Education test center

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

Prior service military

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

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is now open and accepting appointments. You may call 842-1040 to schedule an appointment. Federal and state returns are prepared and e-filed free of charge. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Its location is building 3489 at the corner of Zeus Road and Ajax Road. Visit <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html>.

CFC agencies

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2011. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications continues through March 24. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. The Tennessee Valley CFC serves charitable agencies in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties. A copy of the 2011 CFC package may be acquired by calling the CFC office 876-9143, the PCFO office 518-8214 or by visiting the website <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

Health fair/forum

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. will sponsor the North Alabama Communi-

ty-wide Health Fair and Forum on April 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, University Center Exhibit Hall. This public event is free. For more information, call 656-7797.

Army civilian of year

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award Dinner at 7 p.m. April 5 at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local Army civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. AUSA will recognize nominees from three groups: Management/Executive Award, Professional/Technical Award and Supporting Staff Award. These outstanding civilians will be nominated by their commands or agencies in February. "Plan to support these outstanding civilian nominees by attending the award dinner," a prepared release said. Individual ticket cost is \$35; corporate tables of eight are \$280. For more information, call AUSA event coordinator Jerry Hamilton 652-7437 or e-mail AJH72USMA@mchsi.com. For reservations, due by March 29, visit www.ausaredstone.org/Events.aspx.

Give blood to troops

The Armed Services Blood Program will hold a blood drive March 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fox Army Health Center's Fox Den. For more information, call Dan Morgan 876-4990.

Photography exhibit

Discover north Alabama's wildlife through the nature photography of Joe Romans in an exhibit of his works at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 511 N. Water St., Tusculumbia, through Friday. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-3 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5 adults and \$3 students, with Sundays free and group rates available. Romans, a Shoals native and lifelong wildlife enthusiast, photographs Shoals and North Alabama wildlife with his wife, Valerie. For details, visit tvaa.net or call 383-0533.

Alcorn State scholarship

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University announces its 2011-12 TVA ASU William E. James Memorial Scholarship application. For anyone who may be interested in attending Alcorn State, you must be a graduating high school senior/incoming freshman from the greater Huntsville community/North Alabama or Vicksburg/Warren County, Miss., school district. The amount of the Wil-

liam E. James Memorial Scholarship is \$1,000, with an application deadline March 21. A copy of the scholarship application may be picked up at your local high school senior counselor's office, or you may call Melvin Mayo 721-9336 or Sam King 694-1403 to request a copy.

Systems engineering master's

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now accepting applications for the Master of Systems Engineering offered through the Huntsville campus, located on Redstone Arsenal. There are two informational briefings scheduled Thursday. The first session will be held at noon in building 3324, across from the ERAU office/Army Education Center on Snooper Road. The second session will begin at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Space Center, 4801 Governors House Drive, near Landrys. Dr. Bruce Conway, Engineering Sciences Department chairman, will answer questions about the program. "The Embry-Riddle Master of Systems Engineering Program has been developed in response to the growing need by industry and government for engineers and managers who are not only specialists in a particular area, but who have a systems perspective in order to more effectively practice engineering and manage within the aviation, aerospace and other business enterprises," a prepared release said. For more information, call the ERAU Huntsville campus 876-9763.

Employment overview

Need help understanding how to apply for federal jobs? Reserve a seat for the Federal Employment Process overview Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct this session. Topics will cover various recruitment sources, application procedures, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. This session is open to all military ID and Common Access Card holders and their spouses. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397 or e-mail debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil.

Florida Tech sign-up

Florida Institute of Technology is registering for the summer semester. FIT is in the Progress Center building 7, Suite 720, 6767 Old Madison Pike. Florida Tech Redstone offers nine master level certificate programs including Acquisition and Contract Management and Logistics Management. For more information, call 971-9353 or 971-9354.

Marine Corps fellowships

The Marine Corps History Division

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seeks applications for its 2011 Marine Corps master's theses and dissertation fellowships on topics related to some aspect of Marine Corps history. The fellowships are funded by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation to help encourage contributions to the field of Marine Corps history and, more generally, military and naval history. Deadline for applications is May 1. Additional information and application materials can be found on the division's website www.history.usmc.mil, or by contacting the coordinator of grants and fellowships (703) 432-4884 or charles.r.smith9@usmc.mil.

Indoor flying

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

Microsoft courses

Oakwood University Technology Certification Program announces its 2011 Microsoft Certification courses. MCITP classes began March 1, and students have the potential of receiving full MCITP Certification in as few as eight months. For more information, e-mail Patricia Beale at pbeale@oakwood.edu or leave a message at 726-8284.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will hold the following blood drives this month: March 10 from 7 a.m. to noon at building 4488. ... March 17 from 7-noon at building 5400. ... March 18 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. ... March 24 from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center. ... March 31 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency.

Dance benefit

"A Cause to Dance," a charity benefit for the Marines of Huntsville currently deployed in Afghanistan, will be held Friday from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. at Cactus Jacks, 1117 Jordan Lane. Cost is \$10 per person; and all proceeds will be donated. Entertainment will be provided by Lady Lace, DJ Esteem, Hostile, and Slick Shawn. For more information, call Gracena 520-7296.

Contracting seminar

A 2011 National Education Seminar on risk management for complex U.S. government contracts and projects will be held March 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Research Park, 5903 University Drive. Huntsville Chapter of

the National Contract Management Association is the sponsor. Cost is \$300 for members, \$350 for non-members. Register at <http://ncmahsv.org/>.

West Point society

West Point Founders Day will be celebrated March 25 at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, One Tranquility Base. Activities include "Benny Havens" from 6-7:30 p.m., dinner and guest speaker at 7:45, and dancing and partying to the Metropolitan DJ from 9 until midnight. Dress is formal (mess or dress blues, tuxedo, business suit or cocktail dress). Cost is \$65 for West Point Society members, \$75 for non-members. For more information, e-mail Bill Crawford at bill-crawford256@comcast.net. Register by March 14 at <http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-tenn-valley/>.

CFC volunteers

Preparations are being made for the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign. Federal volunteers are needed to serve on the Local Eligibility Review Team to review the applications received from local charitable organizations for participation in the 2011 CFC. The team will convene on April 4-7 at the CFC Office, building 3708. "This will be a great opportunity for the federal donor to learn more about CFC and the eligibility process," a prepared release said. "This will also be a great opportunity for new federal employees to learn about the fund-raising arm of the federal government." If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, call the CFC Office 876-9143.

Sheriff's rodeo

The Morgan County annual Sheriff's Rodeo, hosted by newly elected Sheriff Ana Woodard Franklin, will be held March 25-26 at 7 p.m. at the Priceville/Morgan County Celebration Arena, 67 Horse Center Road. Call 351-4800 for advance tickets. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children; and children under 4 are admitted free. At the gate the cost will be \$12 for adults, \$10 for children, and free for youngsters under 4. "There will be lots of fun, food and excitement for all ages," a prepared release said. "There will be a booth set up for professional face painting, Western wear, T-shirts, cowboy and cowgirl hats, and much more."

Children's space workshop

"Build a Monkey Workshop," for ages 3-12, is Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "Come and learn all about Able and Baker, our first successful monkeynauts as well as create and go home with your

very own stuffed space monkey," a prepared release said. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Call 721-7114 or e-mail josandram@spacecamp.com for reservations. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.spacecamp.com/store/Workshops/.

Scholarship gala

Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, is the keynote speaker for Alabama A&M University's 11th annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala on March 24 at 6 p.m. at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Various awards will be presented in a number of categories, and entertainment for the formal event will be headlined by jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany. Holders of newly-instituted VIP tickets will be able to attend a special pre-Gala VIP reception at 5:15. VIP tickets are on sale for \$100 advance. Individual tickets are \$65. For more information, call Linda Elliott 372-8344 or Jacqueline Hurt 372-5671 or visit http://www.aamu.edu/public_relations/BLACKTIE2011.aspx.

Celtic music

North Alabama's own Celtic band SlipJig is bringing the luck of the Irish back to the Flying Monkey Arts Center on St. Patrick's Day on March 17 for a 7:30 p.m. performance. "The five talented multi-instrumentalists combine tight melodies and rhythms with rich vocal harmonies to make the music of Ireland, Scotland and Cape Breton come alive," a prepared release said. Joining SlipJig for the evening will be Kinvara, the Huntsville Irish Dancers, and Erin Maguire. The cover charge is \$7. For more information, call Mike Lyon 564-7386.

Parenting class

Learn the developmental stages of young children, why it is important for parents to understand these stages and the relationship between nature (what you are born with), and nurture (environment). The presenter is Nancy Schramm, Healthy Families. The class is offered free to the Redstone community March 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. at ChildWise building, 1413 Nike St. (upstairs). The sponsor is the New Parent Support Program. Free child care is available with pre-registration. To register or for more information, call Army Community Service 876-5397 or e-mail mary.charlene.cox@us.army.mil.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop staff members ask that their patrons and consigners have patience as they transition from fall/winter to spring/summer in the store. This is the last week to consign St. Patrick's Day items. Easter items are still welcome, as well as all donations in resalable condition. Consignments are taken

from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before coming in. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 to 5. The Thrift Shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road.

Arts update

See the art exhibition "Helen Turner: The Woman's Point of View" on Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Huntsville Museum of Art, 300 Church St. This exhibition brings together more than 40 paintings and works on paper by one of America's premier Impressionist painters. For more information on this and other art oriented events, visit www.ourvalleyevents.com or www.artshuntsville.org.

Latin party

DJ Ed will spin salsa sounds March 19 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave. Cost is \$10. You must be 19 to party, 21 to drink. For information call DJ Ed 651-9626.

Flight fund-raiser

Valor Flight Inc. will present an award-winning film screening of "CHOSIN," a movie based on an epic battle in Korea as told through some of the survivors, during two showings Thursday at the Monaco Theater at Bridge Street. The event is a fund-raiser for Valor Flight, a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting local Korean War veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of remembrance and gratitude for their service. The showings will be at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. A minimum donation of \$25 per person is requested. For more information, visit www.valorflight.com.

Call for artists

If you are an aspiring artist – oil painting, jewelry, photography, sculptures, etc. – Artisans Cove (220 Old Highway 431, Hampton Cove) is where you want to be for "Second Saturdays." On every second Saturday of the month, Artisans Cove sponsors an outdoor art festival that allows artisans and craftsmen an opportunity to showcase their work. Upcoming event dates include April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. There will be children activities as well. Application deadline is March 14. For more information, call Christina Wegman 509-2004 or e-mail christinabwegman@aol.com.

Scholarship offer

LogiCore Corporation is giving away \$1,500 and a Dell laptop to five lucky high school seniors in the north Alabama area. These scholarships are for students who have made a commitment to attend a four-year Alabama college or university. For more information on this college scholarship, go to www.logicorehsv.com.