Redstone Rocket
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Redstone restored to full power

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton talks about bringing Redstone Arsenal back to life with electrical power during a meeting with on-post public affairs officers May 3. The Arsenal was without power following a series of storms and tornadoes that plowed through North Alabama in the early evening hours of April 27 and left most of the Arsenal without power until May 4.

Garrison team works around clock to return post to full operations

By KARI HAWKINS
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Reopening Redstone Arsenal has been a team effort.

With the majority of electrical power shut down for a week due to the destruction caused by a series of storms and tornadoes that passed through the area on April 27, the Arsenal was only open to basic services and closed to the work force for just over a week. During that time, the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Logistics, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and Directorate of Emergency Services along with the Aviation and Missile Command/Garrison Public Affairs Office worked countless hours based at the Installation Operation Center/Emergency Operation Center to bring the Arsenal back up to full operating power, provide safety and security during the power outage, and inform employees about their work status.

Besides employees and contractors from throughout the Garrison working on electrical outage issues, tenant organizations also pitched in to support efforts, and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided free meals to all those called in to work during the power outage.

"Everybody has really been great. Our major tenant customers have been coming to briefings and working with us," said Greg Calvert, chief of Base Operations and Integration Division, Directorate of Public Works. "It's been a phenomenal effort where we've all come together.

"We've all gotten to know each other and we have lessons learned from this that we will be able to apply in other situations if needed. We've never had anything of this magnitude and I've been here since 1986. We never imagined we'd have anything close to this."

The Garrison/tenant team sacrificed time away from their own families during a tragedy to support Arsenal operations.

"We all have lives outside Redstone Arsenal to take care of. Somehow we all

See Power on page 12

Ongoing recovery effort takes teamwork

By Col. JOHN HAMILTON
Garrison commander

Are things back to normal? That is the common question I've received the last few days as friends and family call from outside the area. My answer is "No, not yet."

There remains much work to do in the community for all those families most severely impacted and I believe the Tennessee Valley community has already demonstrated the resolve to take on that task. We continue to see an incredible outpouring of generosity and commitment to restoring our neighborhoods and most importantly our neighbors. And I would ask that as we all seek a return to more routine activity, personally and professionally, that we continue to find opportunities to reach out to our neighbors to assist in any way possible. There are a number of civic groups leading large, organized efforts through which you can direct your time or resources but don't forget that the simple gestures of charity to those immediately around you make huge differences in the restoration of families and community.

As we look for a return to normal, the reality is that things will not be completely as they were before. A community as profoundly impacted as this one was will arrive at a new definition of normal. Certainly if your home was destroyed or you lost a loved one, the restoration of daily life, both physically and emotionally, will take time and your journey will not take you in a complete circle that ends up right where you started on the morning of April 27. If you are in this situation, know that the leadership of the Arsenal stands ready to assist in any way we can.

As we look at damage caused by the storms directly on Redstone Arsenal, it wasn't on the scale seen in the surrounding communities. We were very fortunate that direct damage to facilities and infrastructure was very small. We had a small number of buildings impacted by wind and falling trees but overall the damage was light. Speaking of "light," the lack of it was where we, like most of Northern Alabama, felt the impact. We operated for the better part of nine days on extremely limited amounts of electricity and the ability of our various commands to fully-execute their missions was very limited.

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FAMILY FOCUS
More than 30 families displaced by the April 27 tornadoes have found long-term temporary housing at Redstone.
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TO YOUR HEALTH
Less than 24 hours after the tornadoes hit, Fox Army Health Center opened its doors to those beneficiaries in need.
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HELPING HANDS
For the Directorate of Emergency Services, there was no second thought about returning to work in the days following the April 27 storms.
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WIN OR LOSE
Army women's tennis player Annie Hang is named to the Academic All-Patriot League Team.
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RocketViews

How were you impacted by the tornadoes April 27?

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Chris Bock
Alutiiq LLC
"My family was without power. And it doubled my workload at work."

Vicki Brewer
Redstone 911 Center
"Professionally we're the 911 Center, so we have a lot of impact. We were trying to get the giant voice (sirens) out that there were tornadoes and then checking the safety of our officers and our firefighters. Personally of course, most of us lost power to our homes. I had two dispatchers that had damage to their homes. And then some of us are still without power."

Lt. Col. Diane Richie
Logistics Support Activity
"From a physical standpoint, we lost power. That was about it. But to go out and check on the work force and see the devastation (in places like Toney and Harvest), it was astonishing to see the sense of the community within those areas that have been so hardly hit."

Hal Green
Army Materiel Command
"It destroyed our home and all of our possessions. Took it all. The community just came out in force. We've had hundreds of volunteers to help us (in Anderson Hills). Folks have been just wonderful. We're truly blessed."

Letters to the Editor

Poem about power outage: 'Blackout in Alabama'

As the thunderstorm roar;
The tornadoes soar;
One by one and more.

Sirens alarming the city of danger.
People rushing home with anger.

Not knowing how badly it would be.
Waking up to darkness, not being able to see.

Listening to portable radios and seeing by candlelight.
Thinking how we're going to handle the sight.

Waking up to hear of life lost.
Not worrying about the cost.

Gas lines, grocery lines, batteries lines,
Is this the sign of the times?

No working street lights, closed restaurants, grocery stores, movie theaters,
or shopping at the mall.
Oh! How we take things for granted; by all.

I've never experienced a city blackout.
What a terrible feeling, as I move about.

Looking at destroyed homes, life dreams and land.
Thanking city officials, media, volunteers, neighbors and friends for lifting a hand.

A day of horror that we'll all remember in every way.
Let us all take time to reflect and pray.

Trying to pick up the pieces and not mope.
Thanking God for tears of relief and life of hope.

Rosie Douglas
Redstone employee

Redstone Rocket to stop publication temporarily

As a result of litigation involving award of the current *Redstone Rocket* publisher's contract this past November, publication of the *Redstone Rocket* in its current form will be temporarily halted following the May 18 edition.

In the interim, our articles and weekly columns will be distributed in the form of a "Redstone Newsletter" by email, on the AMCOM/Garrison Public Affairs Office websites, and a limited number of hardcopy editions distributed at key facilities on the installation. We regret any inconvenience, but our readers can be assured the *Rocket* will return to publication as soon as possible.

Quote of **the Week**

'The most important work you and I will ever do will be within the walls of our own homes.'
— Harold B. Lee
U.S. Mormon clergyman (1899-1973)

Getting to **know you**

Name: Lorenzo Bodie Jr.

Job: Assistant business manager, Java Café

Where do you call home?
I was actually born in Germany. I grew up most of my life in Alabama, here in Alabama. My parents are from Mobile. I'm a military brat.

What do you like about your job?
It's a new opportunity. I've never been given a chance like this. It's a new experience. I never would've thought I'd get the opportunity to be where I am today.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to travel. And just spend it with the family (like my mom and my dad, my son and my brother and my sister).

What are your goals?
My goal is to finish my degree (in computer information systems). Right now I've been enrolled at Alabama A&M.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
Seeing my son (Jaylyn, 6 months) grow up and achieve his goals.

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Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raising events include the following:

Throughout drive – Candy sale, sponsored by Business Management Office at the Integrated Materiel Management Center. For information call Jan Pickard 842-6625.

Through May 17 – Four autographed footballs will be auctioned online. Each football has a team's logo – for Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Auburn – and is signed by its coach. For more information call KC Bertling, the AER chairperson for Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, at 955-4082. Submit your bid to kum.bertling@us.army.mil.

Today – Run/walk, sponsored by IMMC's Business Management Office, at 2 p.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

Thursday – A Disc Golf Tournament will be held 2 p.m. at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is $15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email paul.sieja@us.army.mil.

Saturday – A golf tournament, sponsored by IMMC's Maintenance Directorate, will be held at 8 a.m. at FoxRun Golf Course in Meridianville. For more information, call Celeste Billings 313-2041 or 278-9617 or call Ralph Miller 652-2829 or 876-5806.

May 17 – Homemade cupcake sale, sponsored by Automation, MMD, at 7 a.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

May 18 – Pizza lunch, sponsored by IMMC Program Management Directorate, at 11 a.m. in the hallway of building 5300. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

May 19 – Chicken and biscuit/pastry sale, sponsored by Systems Management Division, MMD, at 7 a.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

May 19 – AER Picture Day, sponsored by Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at building 3202 on Honest John Road. The cost is $15 for single (three poses) and $20 for group up to six (three poses). Call for an appointment; and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call Phyllis Spears 313-0866.

May 20 – The IMMC Golf Tournament will be held at 8 a.m. at the Links.

For more information about Army Emergency Relief call Kathleen Riester, the acting AER officer at Army Community Service, at 876-5397.

Teamwork

continued from page **1**

Fortunately, we were able to quickly restore some of our critical family and Soldier support facilities like the dining facility, Exchange and Commissary. We were also able to house some of our families displaced by damage to their homes off-post. But sufficient electrical power just wasn't available to bring all our mission facilities on line until the Tennessee Valley Authority restored some power lines coming into the region. As Huntsville and Madison gained power, we did too. Then the significant task of bringing buildings back to functional levels, including environmental controls, information technology systems, and life-safety systems, began. This was no small feat accomplished by impressive teamwork between our Directorate of Public Works and the many facilities managers from all the Redstone-based organizations.

From this event we learned much. It is all these lessons we must learn and apply that should shape a new normal in terms of Redstone's readiness. I know all our organizations are looking internally at how they performed and will certainly each get better. In addition to a long list of facilities management tasks, areas we should all address include systems for quickly gaining accountability of the work force and communication of requirements and status. Realizing that the storm directly impacted some of the infrastructure required to communicate efficiently, we all needed to be aggressive in pursuing connection to our co-workers and supervisors. Understanding the importance of personnel accountability in the wake of a catastrophic event and working to ensure communication with your supervisor is everyone's responsibility. We each can make a difference in this area.

We each will also have a role to play in the continued recovery of our electrical power resources in the coming months. The damage that occurred to TVA's distribution systems was significant and widespread. They are working around the clock to fully-restore the capacity and protective-redundancies provided by their power grid when fully functional. We expect it will take several months for that entire infrastructure to be fully rebuilt. So what does that mean for each of us?

It means we must work to conserve electricity. The reduced capacity and redundancy puts our electricity at greater risk. The system will be far more sensitive to lightning storms and power surges. It will be stressed on particularly hot days where peak demand in the afternoon could cause brown-outs. It means we should all be doing those things that we were already supposed to be doing. Turn off unnecessary lights, unplug unused appliances, shut down your computer at the end of the workday, and turn your air conditioner up a couple degrees are just a few examples. If you are a facility manager, be particularly diligent in managing your power usage and communicate requirements for large spikes in demand to DPW. Each and every one of you really does make a difference in this fight.

Just as the immediate recovery efforts took great teamwork in the days following April 27, the months and weeks ahead will require a dedicated, collective effort. At all levels of this community-recovery effort we each can and will make an impact as individuals. Resolve to make your impact positive.

Staff judge advocate updates court actions

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate provided the following information about court actions.

U.S. vs. George White: On April 26, White was found guilty in Federal Magistrate Court of driving under the influence of alcohol on Redstone Arsenal last Sept. 28 in violation of Alabama Code 32-5A-191. The case was tried before a jury in Huntsville with Judge Harwell C. Davis presiding.

White was arrested on Redstone Arsenal for driving under the influence of alcohol after a gate guard witnessed his slurred speech and he performed poorly on multiple field sobriety tests. He was informed that failing to provide a blood or breath sample would result in his license being suspended for 90 days. But he refused to provide a chemical breath analysis.

A jury found White guilty of driving under the influence without the chemical breath analysis. The U.S. Attorney's Office presented the court with testimony from Mark Pevey of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences who described the scientific basis and reliability of the field sobriety tests performed by the arresting officers. The jury was presented expert testimony from Dr. Matthew Habel, the chief optometrist at Fox Army Health Center, who testified regarding observable involuntary jerking of the eye due to impairment by alcohol.

The jury also heard the testimony of security officer Robert Caudle, a Gate 9 security guard. Caudle initially observed White driving, witnessed his slurred speech and called Redstone Police. The jury also heard evidence from officers James Deen and Michael Adams of the Redstone Police regarding both the accused's general behavior and his performance of the field sobriety tests.

Sentencing for White is set for Sept. 8.

U.S. vs. Annjessica Lane: On April 5, Lane appeared before Judge Harwell C. Davis in Federal Magistrate Court for sentencing following her Oct. 12, 2010 guilty plea for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a suspended license while on Redstone Arsenal.

Lane was sentenced to six months confinement; ordered to pay a $500 fine; and ordered to serve one year of supervised release with enrollment in the Drug and Alcohol Intensive Counseling and Aftercare Service Program upon release from confinement. Lane was immediately remanded into the custody of the U.S. marshals to begin her sentence of incarceration.

U.S. vs. Kenneth Arnett: On March 22, Judge Harwell C. Davis revoked the probation of Arnett in Federal Magistrate Court, Huntsville. Davis based the revocation on evidence presented by the government showing Arnett violated the conditions of his probation to which he was sentenced following a 2010 conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol on Redstone Arsenal.

On April 26, 2010, Arnett appeared before Davis in Federal Magistrate Court where he was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol on Redstone Arsenal and failure to appear in court as required by conditions of release. His sentence included probation for two years. Like anyone else on probation, Arnett agreed to a number of general conditions of probation. One of these general conditions was that he not violate any state or federal laws while on probation. On Jan. 21, Arnett was arrested for violation of a protection from abuse order.

Davis found Arnett's commission of the new offense violated his probation. He sentenced Arnett to six months confinement, in addition to punishments already served. Arnett was immediately remanded into the custody of the U.S. marshals to begin his term of incarceration.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retiring general

Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury wears the Distinguished Service Medal presented to him by Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody during his retirement ceremony Friday in Bob Jones Auditorium. Pillsbury's 38-year career included an assignment as commander of the Aviation and Missile Command during the early years of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations that brought growth to Redstone Arsenal. His last assignment was deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command where he oversaw a logistics modernization program, lead materiel integration for the entire Army and the transfer of equipment from Iraq to Afghanistan during the Operation Iraqi Freedom drawdown. He and his wife, Becky, will reside in Huntsville. Dunwoody thanked Pillsbury for "38 years of incredible service, dedication and commitment" and described him as "an impact player and a dynamic leader," and the "godfather of life cycle management."

Families find shelter from storm at Redstone

Displaced employees, retirees at home away from home

By KARI HAWKINS
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The April 27 tornadoes that brought destruction to Alabama have left several Redstone Arsenal families with damaged or destroyed homes.

Some of those families continue to live in homes with minor damage while others have had to move on. Those with severely damaged or destroyed homes have found shelter with friends and family. More than 30 families have come to Redstone Arsenal, where long-term temporary housing is being provided through the efforts of Garrison Housing and Redstone Communities. These families have also been assisted by Army Community Service and local groups, such as the Arsenal's military wives who have collected donations from the Commissary and its vendors for the displaced families.

Here, a few of those families tell their stories of the tornado that changed their lives forever. Each family has expressed gratitude for making it through the storm and appreciation for the giving spirit that has surrounded them since the evening of April 27. They speak of church groups and various volunteers, and local efforts to provide them food, shelter and comfort during their time of need.

"You don't realize how much help there is until you need it," said Erica Green. "The physical presence of people helping you makes a big difference and really impacts your life."

Photo by Marlene Jackson

There is not much left standing at the home of Hal and Almeida Green at 115 Mustang Drive, Anderson Hills. The two Redstone Arsenal employees returned home shortly before an EF-5 tornado struck their neighborhood on April 27.

"We've got our family. We are alive. The material things can be replaced. We have each other and that's what matters," said Almeida Green.

"We are truly blessed. We have our lives and we are blessed," said Joseph Kalsic.

Planning to survive disaster

For Hal Green, all the signs were there – the weather forecasters on television were showing massive storms headed for the area, the weather sirens were blaring, some 20 weather emergency calls had come through on his cell phone, and outside a nearby window he could see the shifting winds and horizontal rains.

And, yet, Green couldn't get himself to go into the family's safe place – an inside bathroom. He was stuck, watching out the window as the destructive clouds raced toward his house.

It was his daughter Erica who yanked him into the downstairs bathroom.

"As we slammed the door, we started to hear things hitting the house," Green said. "About five seconds later, the lights went out. And, five to eight seconds later, all we heard was a boom and then there was silence."

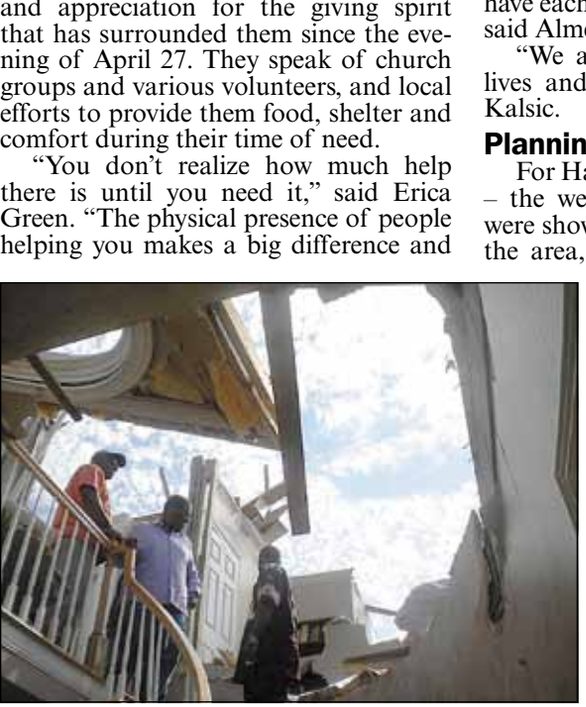

Photo by Marlene Jackson

Hal Green, center, stands at the top of his home's staircase that now leads to nothing. With him are family members who came to help clean up the debris at his home in Anderson Hills.

Slowly they left their safe place on the evening of April 27 to find their home nearly blown away by what they would later learn was an EF-5 tornado.

Green, who works for the Army Materiel Command and who has also worked for the Aviation and Missile Command, and his wife, Almeida Green, who works for the Army Aviation Maintenance Division for AMCOM, and their family – daughters Erica and Stacey, son Anthony and granddaughter Sydney – are living in temporary housing at Redstone, spending their days working back to normal. They hope to move into a rental property in Madison until they decide how to pick up what remains of their lives.

Their time in the bathroom the afternoon of April 27 was the second time of the day they had gone for shelter. Earlier that morning, they went to shelter because of a storm that passed through. At that time, the family made a plan, assigning places in the bathroom and deciding what kinds of things they should grab on their way to shelter if it happened again.

With everyone at work, Erica was the only one at home during the day.

"During the 12:00 storm, I saw rain that was horizontal and trees bending down to the ground," she said. "When I went to school to pick up Anthony, I saw tree limbs down everywhere. All day, the storm radio was going off and the TV station (Channel 31) was calling our phone with weather alerts. I was a little freaked out by the time everyone got home. Then, the things that happened at 12, happened again at 4."

Hal and Almeida arrived at their Anderson Hills home at 115 Mustang Dr. in the Harvest area at about 3:30 that afternoon.

"We had been on post and we, of course, had been through the sirens at work so we had missed lunch. We picked up some chicken on the way home," Hal said. "When we got home, we started watching the storms outside and the storm forecasters on the TV. I saw that the concentrated storms, instead of moving northeast as they normally do, were moving east, meaning Harvest would get hit a number of times."

As Hal watched the weather on TV, other family members were scattered throughout the house, with Anthony, Erica and Sydney upstairs. Hal started yelling for everyone to get in their assigned places in the downstairs bathroom. Only Stacey, who was at work, was not at home at the time.

"When it started getting closer, we saw outside that there was a dead calm," Hal said. "It was so still that it was just unbelievable. It was just still.

"About five minutes before it hit, I said to Erica, 'Come look at this.' The winds were low and I could see from the clouds that they were moving left to right over our house but also right to left about a quarter of a mile away. We said to each other 'This is going to be bad.' We started for the bathroom. But I looked out the window again and I saw two garbage cans, like Soldiers, take off down the driveway and trees bent way over and the rain horizontal."

That's when Erica grabbed him from the bathroom.

"I was saying 'Daddy, you need to come in. This storm is moving way too fast. I was here earlier and this looks a lot worse,'" Erica recalled. "As I grabbed him, I heard things slamming through the house. I slammed the door behind us and we all just huddled. In less than five seconds, it was quiet, it was dark and I could smell the earth."

When it was over, Hal looked out the door and, at first, thought things were okay. But as he walked out of the bathroom, the destruction became more and more evident. The roof had fallen in, all of the third floor and most of the second

See Families on page 20

Power outage sheds light on energy consumption

Monthly utility bills burden taxpayers

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Electrical engineer Arthur Barnette, who works for contractor Chugach, stands in front of Unit Substation 16 at the corner of Fowler and Morris roads. One of the first of the more modern substations here, it was built in 1998.

Redstone's electrical power had been restored by the time energy manager Mark Smith greeted a visitor in his darkened office last week.

With sufficient light coming in through the windows, he kept his lights off on purpose. He was practicing what he likes to preach: the gospel of energy conservation. And besides, "it makes it cooler (temperature-wise), too," he revealed.

And perhaps there is a bright side in the aftermath of the April 27 severe weather that left Redstone Arsenal and surrounding communities in the dark without electrical power for several days.

"Our power bill is not going to be as much next month," Smith quipped. "That's one way to save energy, I guess. Turn it off."

But seriously, monthly utility bills are just as burdensome for a sprawling Army post like Redstone as they are for most homeowners. Last year's total utility cost for Redstone Arsenal amounted to about $53 million. That fiscal 2010 price tag included $29.7 million for electricity, $2.7 million for gas, $17.4 million for steam, and accompanying expenses for water and sewage.

The bills are paid out of the Garrison budget from the Installation Management Command, but ultimately of course by the taxpayers. Each month, the Tennessee Valley Authority charges for power. And the Defense Energy Supply Center manages a contract for Redstone with BP, or British Petroleum, for natural gas. Redstone buys steam from Huntsville's Solid Waste Disposal Authority.

The utility cost can fluctuate from year to year because of two factors: how much energy is consumed, and the price of the commodity. Both attributed to last year's more than $6 million reduction from 2009.

"We saved a good bit on our steam through a project we did," said Smith, whose office is in the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. "But I think the price fluctuated too somewhat on electricity."

Redstone's energy conservation goal is to reduce consumption 3 percent annually, based on a baseline year 2003. That's mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independent Security Act of 2007.

But the reasoning for energy conservation goes beyond federal statutes and executive orders.

"Just being good stewards with the resources we have available to us, by saving the energy when we don't need it," Smith said. "When you don't need it, turn it off. If you don't need it full speed, slow it down."

At work, this means workers should turn off the lights when they leave the office. And they should turn off their computer monitors when not in use; and shut off their computers for the nights and weekends.

At home, TVA recommends turning off lights; replacing standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; turning up your cooling system's thermostat to 75-78 degrees Fahrenheit; and turning down your heating system's thermostat to 68 degrees. You can take a Home Energy Audit online at www.EnergyRight.com.

Under a utility energy savings contract, Patrick Holmes does quality assurance and engineering for Smith in the Garrison's Energy Office.

"If you work out here, it (energy conservation) is going to save the taxpayers dollars and that's your dollars too. We're all taxpayers," Holmes said. "And it could be national security because we buy a lot of our oil and stuff overseas. And the less energy we have to buy overseas the less we're dependent on them to buy that.

"Just saving energy at home, family by family, that's going to put more money in your pocket. Also it makes it easier for

See Energy on page 23

Redstone retail responds with storm relief

Exchange, Commissary see increase in sales

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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When the Tennessee Valley went dark April 27, not a single generator was for sale at the Post Exchange. By the end of the day May 1, 543 had made their way from Redstone Arsenal into the surrounding community.

"We cleaned Atlanta out of generators," Post Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said of the store's nearest distribution center. "In AAFES history they have never sold that many generators."

It wasn't just generators that flew off the shelves as area residents tried to cope with the power loss – flashlights, batteries, tarps, ice, charcoal, grills, gas cans, and of course, gas – were among the popular items sold to patrons over the weekend, as some 16 trailers made their way from AAFES distribution centers to keep the shelves stocked. Burger King alone sold approximately $11,000 of burgers, fries and the like between April 29 and April 30; a normal day at the fast food chain is somewhere around $4,800.

The Shoppette opened the day following the storms at 9 a.m., selling approximately 75,000 gallons of gas between Thursday and Monday, according to Tammar Tracey, Express manager, who at times needed extra deliveries to meet the demand. Customers were limited to 10 gallons for the first two days after the storms, and to 15 gallons in the days following that until May 4. Lines for fuel at times reached as far as the Links on Goss Road, a half a mile long, as Gatorade, bottled water and chips were sold to those waiting to fill their tanks.

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Vicmayra Colon restocks pickles at the Commissary May 5. Some items, such as meats, condiments and other frozen and refrigerated items were being purchased faster than staff could stock the shelves.

Without power at the Shoppette, patrons were allowed in five at a time to purchase what they needed, while staff kept track of bar codes and totaled prices on calculators to maintain accountability. Generators were sold at the Shoppette Friday and Saturday, where they sold out each day within two hours, and at the Exchange on Sunday – eager for electricity, people lined up as early as 5:30 a.m. to obtain one.

"Everybody had a sense of urgency of just trying to get the essentials," Tracey said.

While they had a limited staff, volunteers came to help with the crowds, including troops from the NCO Academy, who helped load generators into vehicles, and Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper, who did pretty much everything but ring up sales, according to Arbo. Team Redstone's commitment to the community did not go unnoticed by its customers.

"They were very appreciative," Tracey said. "They kept coming up and thanking us, hugging us."

In the days after power was restored, business remained constant, as sales hovered around 1,000 customers a day, and reached as many as 1,250 on May 4, compared to a typical good day at the Exchange of about 800 patrons. Groceries overflowed in carts at the nearby Commissary, where sales were up by

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Customers line the aisles of the Commissary May 5 as they attempt to replenish the food items they lost during the power outage.

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Veterans salute World War II airborne unit

Son of decorated Soldier attends annual ceremony

By STACI JILL-BURNLEY
PEO Soldier Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Among the white, marble markers dotting the landscape of Arlington National Cemetery, a group of veterans gathered May 1 to pay tribute to a group of warriors who made airborne history during World War II.

Members of the Col. Reuben H. Tucker Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association hosted the ceremony, an annual event that honors the contributions of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, activated May 2, 1942 at Fort Benning. Ga.

Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Christopher Tucker, far right, commander of the Security Assistance Command, and members of the Col. Reuben H. Tucker Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association honor the contributions of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Arlington National Cemetery.

The 504th has a captivating and storied past. The unit moved from Fort Benning to the 82nd Airborne Division, which was under the command of then Maj. Gen. Matthew Ridgeway. The unit arrived in Casablanca, French Morocco, on May 10, 1943 and the 504th began the grueling preparations for the drops into Sicily from their base in North Africa. After one jump, the plans changed. To counter Hitler's invasion of Italy after an uprising against Mussolini, the 82nd Airborne's mission changed to attacking Rome itself. The 504th would jump and seize key airfields around Rome, preventing the Germans from taking control.

But, as often happens in war, a counter-attack was in the works and on Sept. 9, 1943, the amphibious landings at Salerno began. The Allied hold on the beach was starting to slide and the Germans took advantage. What they didn't count on was the determination, creativity and courageous acts of the "Devils in Baggy Pants," as the 504th were later dubbed.

On the night of Sept. 13, planes loaded with 1,300 members of the 504th took off and parachuted on to a drop zone a mere 1,200 yards long and 800 yards wide, near Salerno. The sight of the paratroopers floating down gave the defending troops on the beach a morale boost, as well as badly needed reinforcements.

As the enemy counterattacked, the 504th was short one battalion. The commander of 6th Corps, Gen. Ernest J. Dawley, suggested the unit withdraw. And in response to that, one of the most notable rally cries of World War II was uttered by an undeniably heroic colonel: "Retreat, hell! Send me my other battalion!"

And that scrappy commander was Col. Reuben H. Tucker, for whom the chapter is named.

Victory at Salerno was followed by an even more punishing victory in Anzio, which resulted in the 504th becoming the first U.S. parachute unit to receive a Presidential Unit Citation. Following these victories, the 504th was firmly written into Army history as heroes and forever known to the Germans as the "Devils in Baggy Pants," a name proudly carried by the 504th until this day.

Each year at Arlington Cemetery, where a tree and plaque mark the memory of these legendary Soldiers of the Sky, the Col. Reuben Tucker Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association gathers to remember and honor the members of 504th. What made this year unique, and a bit more of a family affair, was the presence of the Tucker's son, Brig. Gen. Christopher Tucker, commander of the Security Assistance Command.

The Tuckers are not a family foreign to military service. A graduate of West Point, Reuben Tucker went on to earn the rank of major general before his retirement. His eldest son, Maj. Bruce Tucker, was an Infantry officer killed in action in Vietnam. His next son, Jeff, served as an active-duty Soldier from 1964-70, and in the Army Reserves until 1976. In the middle came Glenn, who enlisted in 1968 and served until 1972. Then came Scott, who served in the Air Force from 1970-72. Christopher, the youngest of the family, has served the Army on active duty

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To Your**Health**

Army health center stays open for storm victims

Fox pharmacy fills void during off-post closings

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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Col. Celethia Abner-Wise didn't have power – but she had her family and she had her home, and that was enough to bring her to work in the days that followed the April 27 tornado outbreak in the Tennessee Valley.

"I am just thankful and happy that I'm healthy, my family is healthy, and that we were able to come in and to assist like we're supposed to," Abner-Wise, deputy commander for nursing at Fox Army Health Center, said. "That's what we do as Soldiers and as health care personnel."

Less than 24 hours after the tornadoes hit the Tennessee Valley, when it seemed like all of Alabama was shut down, Fox Army Health Center opened its doors to its patients, providing acute care and pharmacy services to those beneficiaries in need.

"You hear Redstone is closed but yet there are critical infrastructure and organizations that are key to supporting the beneficiaries and those that live on Redstone," Fox commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson said. "I'm glad that everybody was able to step up to the plate, to include the Commissary and the PX. We're not closed. We can provide the critical services that we need to provide."

Providers saw around 10 patients the day after the tornadoes, and between 15 and 18 the day after that, according to Dr. Michael Cooke, as Fox provided acute care and other services as it was able in the days that followed the disaster. While a majority of patients came to Fox in need of medication they had lost in the storms, some sought help for the emotional trauma the day's experiences left them with, others came in for the bruises, abrasions and scrapes they sustained both from the actual storms and while assisting in the recovery efforts, others for tetanus shots.

"We opened the next day," said Dan Morgan, facilities emergency manager. "What Col. Johnson's

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Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Lanell Cianciola, chief of pharmacy at Fox Army Health Center, and Col. Celethia Abner-Wise, deputy commander for nursing, stand outside a Fox pharmacy window that helped to provide relief to beneficiaries across the Tennessee Valley that were without power after the April 27 storms and needed their medications.

Power

continued from page 1

managed to be here to do our job while also taking care of our home life," Calvert said.

"It's been a challenge. It's been unbelievable how we've all worked together. And, (Garrison commander) Col. (John) Hamilton and Mr. (Curtis) Clark (deputy commander) have supported us and backed us every step of the way."

One of the challenges was communicating the Arsenal's open/close status to its community, which includes active duty Soldiers, employees, contractors and retirees along with their families, Hamilton said.

"I know how hard it is to get even a viable portion of our work force to know our status every day (during this tragedy)," he said. "We need to provide enough information so they understand what the status is and to encourage all others to call their supervisor to find out what their status is."

Because communication with the Arsenal's 35,000 employees is crucial to its operations, Hamilton was a regular contributor to the community press conferences held each day from April 28 until May 6. In addition, employees were communicated with through the Team Redstone Facebook, Twitter and website pages. And supervisors were required to keep their employees updated on the Arsenal's status.

The Arsenal received only minimal damage from the violent weather of April 27, and most of that was in the Gate 10 area.

"We had very focused, very brief blasts of straight line winds that caused some roof damage, and some damage to the gate, the high bay buildings and the post library. There were some trees blown down. It was really minor damage," Hamilton said.

The real damage to Redstone came in the form of no electricity for several days due to severe damage to Tennessee Valley Authority equipment and facilities throughout North Alabama.

"The first few days, TVA gave us a very limited amount of power," Calvert said. "We used it to light up Goss Road and housing, and then started working a plan to use once TVA started giving us more power. We had several Garrison employees working on a grid plan that divided the Arsenal into zones."

Beginning April 28 and continuing through May 3, the Arsenal was closed, except for basic services. Some mission essential employees, such as those Marshall Space Flight Center employees supporting the scheduled space shuttle liftoff on April 29, were working thanks to the use of large generators. What little electricity that was available was used to power the Shoppette, the Arsenal neighborhoods, the Post Exchange and Commissary, and the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

As the power outage stretched onward, the pressure to get Arsenal buildings operating mounted.

"There are some important missions out here and we've got to get back to work," Hamilton said. "And, quite frankly, part of the healing process, part of getting back to normal, is getting back to work … There are 10 to 12 huge customers with factories who may not get back on for two to three weeks. There is a phenomenal amount of pressure on TVA to solve the problem. TVA has never experienced anything like this before. It's going to take a lot to recover from it."

But, power did return, slowly at first and then quite quickly. Between May 2 and May 4, Public Works contractor employees began turning on power in more than 600 occupied buildings (there are a total of 1,800 buildings in the Arsenal inventory). By May 5, most of the Arsenal was back to working conditions.

"It's not as easy as flipping on a switch when you decide to turn the power on," Hamilton said. "You have to run the buildings for 24 hours to get the humidity out and make them comfortable, to get that building truly functioning and get the people back in."

Before the buildings could be powered up, all internal systems had to be turned off. Many things, such as computers, coffee makers, refrigerators and copiers, were left on when employees left in a rush on April 27 to return home between the day's numerous bad weather systems.

"We have to turn on buildings in the smart way, otherwise we will make everything crash and we'll be back to square one," Hamilton said.

Each building's fire safety and alarms, and security systems had to be checked as well as their heating and air conditioning systems.

"We went through the buildings to turn off coffee pots and clean out refrigerators," Calvert said. "There are a number of issues that happen once you turn the power off. There are a number of things that have to happen before you can safely occupy a building."

Contractor employees with Chugach Federal Services and Alutiiq turned power back on in Arsenal buildings, and custodial services, provided by Phoenix Services, were called in to prepare buildings for the Arsenal work force.

"They are the work force behind our civilian Garrison force," Calvert said of the contractor companies. "They have been super in providing us support. They are the men and women that did the physical work to get Redstone Arsenal back to life."

The Arsenal's reliance on steam power meant contractor employees had to shut off all valves throughout the steam pipe system that crisscrosses the Arsenal, going from location to location to physically shut them off. With the steam plant not running, the steam in the pipes cooled and turned to condensation. To return the steam pipe system to operation, contractors returned to each valve location, slowly turning on the steam to push the condensation out and reheat the pipes. Once the pipes were fully heated, the steam could be turned up to full operation.

"It's a gradual process that has to be followed so that we don't damage the pipes," Calvert said.

During the return to power, the Garrison had to work closely with TVA to only turn on the number of buildings that would not exceed the amount of electricity being provided. At one point, the Arsenal, which usually runs on 65 megawatts a day, had only 4 megawatts. That number increased to 10 and then to 17, and reached close to 65 megawatts by May 4.

"The criticality of your organization's mission is not the only thing that will have us decide which buildings to turn on first," Hamilton explained. "Also, where a building is physically located matters and specific power requirements matter."

Soon after April 27, the Arsenal was receiving 10 to 11 megawatts. But then that crashed and there was no power for a few hours. Then the Arsenal got back up to 4 megawatts on April 29 and to 10 and then 14 megawatts on May 2.

The Garrison divided the Arsenal into grids, checking them off as they received power. Zone 1, which includes neighborhoods and basic services, received power first on April 28. Then, Zone 2, where OMEMS is located along with the Army Contracting Command/Expeditionary Contracting Command and several smaller organizations, got power.

"It is critical for OMEMS to get Soldiers trained and out, and they have critical BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) requirements," Hamilton said.

Then, the Garrison reached down into Zone 6, where the Army Materiel Command and Security Assistance Command are located in temporary offices.

"They had no backup and they had low usage that would fit into the 10 megawatts we had at the time. So we got them up," Hamilton said. "Then, as we got up to 14 megawatts, we went on to MSIC (Missile and Space Intelligence Center) because of their command priority."

Both the Sparkman Center and the Von Braun Center require about 4 megawatts each. They were next on the list along with "users who are lower priority but who are also smaller consumers that can fit in," the colonel said.

"We are being cautious because the power is very fluid, and we don't want ups and downs in the system."

As Redstone got to 17 megawatts, the extra power was used to heat up substations so they were ready for full electricity and to power smaller buildings around

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Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chugach employee Chris Payne monitors electrical output as he turns on the switch gear for electricity at the Prototype Integration Facility. The facility is one of more than 600 occupied buildings at the Arsenal that had to be powered up once electricity was made available.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chugach employee Jim Cawthron uses a wrench to slowly turn on steam at one of many valves scattered throughout the steam pipe system at the Arsenal. The system had to be slowly reheated before it could be brought up once again to full steam power. Cawthron and co-worker Morris Wilbanks traveled along the steam pipe system to turn the valves off once power was down and then to turn them back on once power was restored.

Storm

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major complexes. By May 4, Redstone was receiving enough megawatts to power up most of its buildings.

But Hamilton urged employees living throughout North Alabama to conserve energy and to be aware that the area's electrical system is still not up to full capability.

"TVA's huge transmission lines, each carrying 1,500 megawatts, every single one was cut down. Now, TVA is down to using their smaller ones. Because of that the system becomes very sensitive. TVA is scared of thunderstorms and what they could do to the system. There is no redundancy and the system is extremely sensitive to thunderstorms," he said.

For that reason, TVA may require planned brownouts during the summer to conserve energy and to prevent electrical spikes in the system. It may be August before TVA has replaced all the equipment and infrastructure damaged by the tornado and is back up to full operating capacity.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chugach lineman Chris Weems reaches to the top of a power pole to switch on electrical power to buildings at the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, which is part of the Aviation and Missile Command.

"This will have a fairly significant impact on the economy locally," Hamilton said. "If we have to reduce power consumption on the Arsenal, we will work with our tenants to trim that off. But, as a direct customer to TVA, we are in a little bit better position to manage our grid while TVA restores their network and their redundancies."

The Garrison does have a main control room, manned by Chugach employees, that operates 24/7 to respond to utility emergencies on the Arsenal.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center was the last Arsenal tenant to receive power.

"They asked to not be put back on commercial power until they ask us to do that," Hamilton said. "They have systems that are very sensitive to the switch over."

In fact, the Army offered power to Marshall on April 28, knowing computer systems in the Huntsville Operations Support Center's Payload Operations Center had to be kept running in support of the planned April 29 shuttle launch. But it was decided the power was too unstable to provide the support needed, and the Huntsville Operations Support Center remained on generator power through the shuttle launch cancellation.

"We have a couple critical missions that must remain online," said Bob Devlin, deputy director for Marshall Space Flight Center operations.

"The Payload Operations Center supports science on the space station and it maintains 24/7 communications with the space station. We also do a series of things for the shuttle launch with our critical mission being with the shuttle's propulsion systems."

In the Marshall labs, other critical science projects must maintain electrical power, including the mixing of tile adhesive that is done just prior to a shuttle launch because of its limited shelf life and then shipped down to Cape Canaveral, Fla., to be applied right before launch. With the Garrison's assistance, Marshall had 12 buildings on generators before the shuttle launch was delayed.

"This whole situation shows the good assistance we get from the Army and the great relationship we have with the Garrison," Devlin said.

"The Army assisted us in getting generators going so that the 150 to 300 people we had here in support of the shuttle launch could continue the mission. We had everything we needed. People don't understand how big a role our community has with the space station and the shuttle. But this situation shows the great team effort we have here. This is a big success story with everybody working together for the mission."

Storm hits close to home for emergency responders

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Ed Herbster, a firefighter with Directorate of Emergency Services, helped in the search and rescue and recovery efforts in five Alabama communities after the April 27 tornadoes.

Redstone police, firefighters help victims in community

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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For the firefighters, law enforcement and others that make up the Directorate of Emergency Services, there was no second thought about returning to work in the days following the April 27 storms – it was simply the call to duty.

"This is one team, one fight," Redstone police chief Art Riley said. "It's times like these that are the true test of the organization. You wonder whether everything you have in place, your recall, your people, your training, whether those things are going to come through for you. I'm here to tell you that during this thing we lost phones, we lost contact, but we didn't lose having the people we needed to have here doing the job on Redstone Arsenal. Our people were spot on. They were here before we even tried to call them, and that's a true testament to this organization.

"We had some who lost homes, we had some who had damage to homes. All of us lost power, but everyone showed up for work. We have a mission and we're here to do that."

While the rest of Alabama cleaned up from the storms and coped with the massive power outage, Directorate of Emergency Services worked extra hours and extra missions not only to ensure the Arsenal remained a safe and secure place, but that Team Redstone also met the overwhelming needs of the Arsenal family. Throughout the power outage there was no loss of services, and no major incidents that DES was not able to respond to and take care of on its own.

"There was a big shift in how we handled business during this period," said Jack Rush, kennel master of the military dog working branch. "Even though we had services down, we still had a public there that needed assistance. Every effort was made to assist the public."

In the days that followed the storm, in addition to their usual duties, DES employees fielded phone calls from people who lost their homes and others who had questions on what parts of the installation were open, provided additional patrols, kept the peace at the Post Exchange and the Shoppette as customers came to the Arsenal for generators, gas and other basic essentials, and prepared to help the outside community in the event they were called upon.

"Because of the power outage we had catastrophic systems failure in our intruder detection system," said

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Fox

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perspective was, 'Look, pharmacies, acute care facilities downtown will be impacted. If we can be open, we should be open, because people will still be seeking care.'"

The largest service Fox provided in the days following the storm has been pharmacy services. The pharmacy windows opened the morning following the storm, and continued to provide service all the way through the weekend – from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, days when the pharmacy is typically closed.

"The question at the 6:00 meeting Saturday morning was – can the pharmacy be open?" Johnson said. "Realizing none of the pharmacies off post were open, the hospitals off post didn't want people going in other than emergency care, I got with the chief of pharmacy and asked can we at least get one window open and take the burden off the community and be able to support the beneficiaries?"

Over the weekend alone, the pharmacy filled around 357 prescriptions. While on a typical day they may fill more than 1,200, the numbers they did fill in the days following the tornado outbreak meant a lot to the beneficiaries, not just for their peace of mind, but for their health as well.

"It is a huge impact because our beneficiary population is mostly elderly," Abner-Wise said. "If they don't have their medication, because a lot of things are chronic disease processes, then they could easily have a relapse of some sort and become even more severely ill by not having their medications to take."

Abner-Wise greeted beneficiaries as they came into Fox, walking them to the pharmacy, ensuring their families were OK and asking what else Fox could do for them in this difficult time.

"We reassured them that we were here for them," Abner-Wise said. "They loved it. They're still thanking me in the hallway for opening up, saying, 'You just don't know what you've done for us by being open.'"

Fox's impact in the days after the storm went beyond the four walls of the health center. Preventive medicine performed the inspections on the Child Development Centers, School Age Services and Youth Center buildings to ensure they were ready for children and staff alike to return. Going over an extensive checklist that covered food and how it is protected, training records, ice, garbage disposal, lighting, ventilation, toilets, as well as making sure that everything was functional and it was rodent and insect free. Inspections of the CDCs were completed May 4, so children could return to care on May 5.

"They really go into detail to ensure that it's ready for the children and staff members," Abner-Wise said of the inspectors.

Johnson credits the success of Fox's response to the storm victims to the willingness of her staff to do whatever it took to reach out to others in need.

"My staff was great," Johnson said. "There was never an attitude of, 'Oh we can't do that.' It was always, 'What can we do to support the community?' It was very heartwarming to be able to have a staff with that attitude."

"From our perspective, I think we did everything we could do," Morgan said. "You can't become something you're not. You can't become an emergency room, we just don't have the equipment or the personnel to do that, but we certainly wanted to make sure we could do anything that was asked of us, and we did."

That effort began around 11:15 a.m. April 27, when Morgan was alerted of the first tornado warning of the business day, which brought patients, staff and anyone else in the building to the Fox Den in the building's basement. As the warning wore on and people grew both weary and hungry, the silver lining of the day presented itself. With a retirement ceremony complete with potluck for the day originally planned for the afternoon, the celebration – and most importantly, the food – extended to everyone that took shelter at Fox, as all were invited to go through the lunch line. In the days following the storms, Fox's Exchange Café's hot cups of coffee were a welcome relief for patrons.

"Team Redstone really isn't lip service, it really is Team Redstone," Johnson said. "It really is an awesome organization to be part of. The Fox staff has really stepped up to the plate, provided what they could provide, been flexible and just done a great job."

Social media platforms provide support during crisis

By GRANT THOMPSON
For the Rocket

When Lisa Oliver, administrative support specialist in the AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs Office, was without electrical power in the aftermath of the April 27 storms that ravaged the Tennessee Valley, she knew there was one form of communication she could count on.

"I knew I could log on to Facebook on my iPhone to find out if my friends and family were all right, and to learn about what was going on around me," Oliver said. "Once I knew that, I checked in with our Redstone Facebook page to make sure the post was OK and whether I was supposed to come into work."

In the case of Redstone and the Army, this is not your teenager's Facebook page.

During the week of recovery, repair and response, Redstone's official Facebook "Fan" page (www.facebook.com/teamredstone) and Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/teamredstone) became clearinghouses for up-to-the-minute news and information pertaining to Redstone's status in the wake of the storms. Media advisories, videos, press conference notes and news clips were constantly updated on each platform, serving as a valuable communications tool for Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton to "speak" with the public.

"A critical component of all the things we had to do in the aftermath of the storm was to communicate with our work force," Hamilton said. "Of course, the storm's damage to the local infrastructure made that much more difficult, but we have found that sending messages across a wide variety of media helped mitigate the challenge. Social media, like Facebook and Twitter, that are accessible from handheld devices are incredibly valuable resources in these type situations."

Team Redstone's official social media platforms include:
Facebook, www.facebook.com/teamredstone
Twitter, www.twitter.com/teamredstone
YouTube, www.youtube.com/teamredstone
Flickr, www.flickr.com/teamredstone

And the public appears to agree. From April 28 until May 4, the Team Redstone Facebook page – managed by the AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs Office – saw a 300 percent increase in the number of "fans" (users who chose to have Team Redstone updates appear on their Facebook home page). In addition, the page averaged 99,950 post views each day over those seven days.

The Team Redstone Twitter feed, which provided the same content as the Facebook page, saw a 63 percent increase in followers (users who chose to have Team Redstone updates appear in their news feed) over the same period. The microblogging site, where posts are 140 characters or fewer, is a popular tool for forwarding links and truncated messages to other official user sites.

These official platforms, along with the video-sharing site YouTube (www.youtube.com/TeamRedstone) and the photo-sharing site Flickr (www.flickr.com/teamredstone), all serve as tools to quickly and efficiently update our troops, work force, and the general public on Redstone news. Each Team Redstone platform is accessible to users whether they have an account for the site or not, and serve as tools the Army embraces as innovative and engaging channels for information, especially in times of crisis.

"Our public relies on social media to receive information in our near-instant news cycle, and Redstone's presence there gives us the opportunity to give the audience the information in a way they are accustomed to receiving it," Kim Henry, deputy for public and congressional affairs at Redstone, said. "During the recent storms, recovery and the process of the work force returning to Redstone, it was an instant way to keep communication open and flowing to the people that needed it whenever they wanted it. It gives our audience a chance to interact, provide feedback, ask questions, receive command messages and become part of an online community."

The U.S. Army's Online and Social Media Division was formed in January 2009 at the Department of the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. The division provides support, guidance and operational security training to public affairs specialists and commanders throughout the Army, along with managing all the official social media platforms for the service.

In February 2010 the Department of Defense issued guidance for Responsible and Effective Use of Internet-based Capabilities, which included social media platforms and recognized those tools as integral command communication channels. That memo empowered DoD networks to configure their systems access to those sites while continuing

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Responders

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Kevin Dykema, chief of the Physical Security Division. "We had to increase security patrols, call people in that should've been home taking care of their families and issues to come and take care of our mission requirements."

"It's an increased mission requirement for us from a standpoint of we have things out here on the Arsenal that need to be secured. They need to be checked on," Riley said.

That checklist extended to DES employees who were severely impacted by the storms, as co-workers went out to check up on each other and help wherever they could.

Redstone police Lt. Kenny Renew was monitoring the weather situation April 27 from the Redstone police desk when the tornado struck his community in Harvest. Contacting his wife Pha, he was able to determine his family was OK, but physically getting to his home was not as easy.

"I left work and was unable to drive anywhere near my house," said Renew, who was forced to stop on Lockhart Road, two miles from his home, due to debris blocking the road. "Lockhart Road was devastated. I was wearing my duty uniform and people were coming to me for help. The only help I could give those people was to write down the location of the injured in my notebook and promise that I would try to get help to them."

It was only moments later that Renew needed help himself, after a decision to walk through the woods to get around a pile of debris left him chest high in water in a ditch.

"I managed to get out of the water and climb over several downed trees to get to the roadway," Renew said. "As I sat in the roadway trying to catch my breath, a thought went through my mind that I didn't need to become a casualty myself."

Lucky for Renew, an EMT and Harvest firefighter were nearby to help get him back on dry land. Eventually he was able to reach his home, only to discover a hole where his chimney was supposed to be, and the home behind his leveled, where Katie Cornwell, 15, lay lifeless in the debris of her grandparents' home. Working to save her grandfather, Harold Fitzgerald, Renew and his son Kevin, and daughter-in-law Beatriz, transported the 65-year-old to the roadway in the bed of an old pickup truck, performing rescue breathing until HEMSI was able to reach them on foot, and neighbors were able to carry him a quarter mile to the Railroad Bed Road intersection. Fitzgerald later died at Huntsville Hospital.

"I only wish I knew all the names of the people who helped Harold's family," Renew said. "They are all heroes."

DES workers are quick to point out that it is the men and women like those Renew encountered in his own backyard that are the heroes, not them.

"Within our work force, as you talk to folks you'll find a lot of those folks will think what they did wasn't really all that extraordinary," said Bobby York with the Special Reaction Team. "It's just one of those things that goes along with the job. We don't look at it as being anything out of the ordinary. It's what we do."

The instinct to serve was hard to ignore for Ed Herbster, a firefighter who spent his free time over the past two weeks helping the search and rescue and recovery efforts in Harvest, Phil Campbell, Hackleburg, Mount Hope and Hatton. Many of those that work within DES aided in the community recovery efforts in their off hours.

"As a first responder, when something like this happens you've got this feeling inside, 'I've got to do something,'" Herbster said. "That's what we rely on and act on."

The destruction was so bad in Hackleburg that Herbster had to rappel from a helicopter just to reach the areas that needed search and rescue. The images he saw as he reached out to others – homes destroyed, a car balancing on top of a telephone pole – remain with him forever. While the damage has not been the worst thing the firefighters and law enforcement have responded to in their careers, DES workers agree it has certainly been the most widespread.

"I've heard and seen so many incredible things," Herbster said. "It's just unreal, the damage."

Media

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to stay vigilant and protect against malicious activity from all parts of the Internet.While that access is currently available on some parts of Redstone and is being implemented on others, a majority of the audience for those platforms is outside the gates.

"We encourage everyone to get connected to one of these forums now so we are more ready for any future events," Hamilton said.

And for Oliver, those forums and connections gave her piece of mind in the wake of tragedy. "My friends and family were all right, and I knew when I needed to come to work to continue to serve our Soldiers," she said. "I'm part of that community."

Firehouse Pub answers call during weather crisis

Renovated facility serves free meals

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Chef's assistant Ruby Kent helps serve meals last week at Firehouse Pub.

In the aftermath of the April 27 deadly tornadoes, the folks working in the Installation Operations Center had a place nearby for free meals.

The Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Road, is just across the street from the IOC's building 111. The recently-renovated pub is one of the oldest buildings on Redstone Arsenal.

"This is one of the first brick-and-mortar buildings on Redstone," Robert Schumann, general manager of the Officers and Civilians Club, said while eating behind the pub's counter. "It's got a 1943 cornerstone on it.

"The pub, it was about done – it was in such bad shape – and DPW (the Directorate of Public Works) came in and gave it a whole new life. It's just wonderful this building was here to take care of all these people during this crisis."

Because of its location near the IOC, the pub cooked up free meals for the workers since April 28. The diners included members of the Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Emergency Services and many other organizations.

"And (for) anybody who just happened to come by – what I call pilgrims – anybody just trapped out here while this is going on," Schumann said. "Free hamburgers, free hot dogs, a place to cool off, get a soft drink, and catch up on the news (on the television)."

The pub staff would show up with coffee in the mornings starting at 7 and shut down around sunset or late afternoon throughout Redstone's days of limited electrical power. On May 3, Schumann said he didn't know how long this service would continue and the planning was day-to-day in coordination with Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

"What I like about it is seeing the 'old lady' step up again," Schumann said. "And take care of the community just as she did as a firehouse originally when Redstone was a young community."

The staffers included chef Ben Howard, chef's assistant Ruby Kent, facility manager Nina Cutts, and facility engineers Bob Beeble and Jerry Ortiz.

"I enjoy it," Kent said. "It's a blessing to be here to do it. If I had to do it all over again, I'd be 100 percent willing because you never know what's going to come your way in the future."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Storm volunteer

Security Police Officer Michael Martin of NASA Protective Services is among many volunteers who have helped victims in the aftermath of the April 27 tornado that struck in the Harvest area. Several Redstone Arsenal employees have participated with volunteer efforts in the stricken area. But Martin was one of the first to arrive after hearing on a police scanner that the tornado had hit Harvest. During the days following the tornado tragedy, Martin worked full days at Marshall Space Flight Center and then volunteered time during his off hours to search houses and provide police security.

Storm damage claims may include spoiled food

In preparing your storm damage claim, do not forget to include food that had to be discarded. Spoiled food in your refrigerator or freezer is a permissible claim under most homeowners and rental insurance policies.

Some insurance companies charge a deductible for food but several do not. For example, USAA does not have a food spoilage deductible and will reimburse up to a certain amount for food without requiring evidence of cost.

Additionally, for personnel in on-post housing, one may file a claim against the Army under the Personnel Claims Act for the loss. The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act authorizes payment for personal property lost, damaged or destroyed incident to service. This may include spoiled food, if purchased for use by personnel while living in government quarters on-post at Redstone Arsenal.

Before filing a personnel claim for such an on-post loss, a claimant must first file a claim with their own insurance company under his or her applicable personal property or renters policy. If the insurance does not pay full value or imposes a deductible, one may seek the difference through a personnel claim. The Claims Office will make a separate valuation and may pay the amount not reimbursed by insurance.

In substantiating the value of damaged or lost property, as a rule of thumb the claimant will be required to prove the value of items whose value exceeds $100. Again, the best way to do this is with a purchase receipt; however, it can be proven by other means such as using the Internet to get the pricing for the item. Photographs before discarding the food would be the ideal way to establish the loss, but statements to the amount spoiled will be considered. In the absence of acceptable proof of value, claimants may only be paid reasonable value, which could be lower than the actual value of the item.

For a claim, you may download the appropriate forms and get other valuable claims information at the Claims website, www.redstone.army.mil/legal/claims.html, or visit the Claims Office located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 111 on Goss Road. For more information, call the Claims Office at 876-9006. *(Office of the Staff Judge Advocate release)*

Courtesy photo

Customers wait in line to purchase a generator.

Retail

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approximately 40 to 50 percent, according to store director Robin Daniel, as customers worked to replenish the food they had lost during the power outage.

"People are buying faster than we can stock the shelves," Daniel said.

Some of the more popular items included meats, mayonnaise, relishes, mustards and other condiments that had been refrigerated, as well as other frozen food items. All across the store, employees worked hard to restock where there were bare shelves.

"I'm just glad we're up and running and able to help," Daniel said.

Any AAFES inventory that was delivered to the Arsenal especially for the storms that was not sold will be sent to Eglin and Tyndall Air Force bases to be used for hurricane relief. Water and tarps have already been delivered. The Exchange will backfill emergency supplies, such as generators, in the event of another disaster.

Courtesy photo

The Shoppette sold approximately 75,000 gallons of gas between Thursday and Monday after the storms. At times the lines reached all the way to the Links, a half mile away.

Families

continued from page 4

floor was gone, the front door was laying in the foyer with the deadbolt still locked and all the windows were blown out. There was debris everywhere.

"When I looked up the back stairs, all I saw was gray sky. Everything was open to the elements," Hal said. "Our box of chicken was still sitting on the counter. The dishes were still in the cupboards. But, the chairs and everything was blown everywhere."

The family walked out with only the clothes they were wearing at the time.

"The neighbors were coming out. But then we were told another cell was coming through in 15 minutes and we needed to take cover because there was going to be a lot of rain and wind," Hal said.

The Greens went to a neighbor's home down the street.

"We were so in shock that the second one seemed like nothing," Almeida said.

When the weather cleared, they went to the nearby Publix and stocked up on candles, batteries and other items, and returned to their neighbor's house for the night. It took Stacey three hours, rather than the normal 15 minutes, to return to her neighborhood and find her family. The next day, in daylight, they discovered that more than half their home was gone.

The Greens are now staying on Redstone and searching for a rental property in Madison.

"I don't know if we're going back to Anderson Hills," Almeida said, mentioning the 1995 tornado that also leveled parts of Anderson Hills. "I've heard lightning doesn't strike in the same place twice. I've learned that's not true about tornadoes. But, I do love the neighborhood and the neighbors at Anderson Hills. If it's going to happen, it's going to happen wherever you are. It's just too early for us to make a decision."

Added Hal: "We're not sure if our best option is to rebuild on the same spot."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Joe and Veronica Winston, who both work on Redstone Arsenal, are happy to have a home at Redstone Arsenal following the destruction of their home in Anderson Hills by an EF-5 tornado on April 27.

Riding out tornado in garage

Veronica and Joe Winston left Redstone Arsenal in separate cars on April 27. Work kept Joe just a little longer than his wife, who left at about 4 p.m.

"We had been back and forth all day to the first floor of Building 4488 (Garrison headquarters) because of the weather," said Joe who is the Garrison's director of Human Resources. "So, I stayed behind to try to get some work done. Veronica said we needed to get out of here and she left ahead of me going home."

Veronica, who works for the System Sustainment Management Directorate, Integrated Material Management Center at Redstone, was especially concerned about getting home because the couple's son – 16-year-old Joseph – had been at home all day in Anderson Hills because of illness. The Winston family home at 117 Maverick is next door to the Green family home.

"Every time I called him to tell him to watch the weather, he was sleeping and didn't want to be bothered," Veronica said.

Joe left about 10 minutes after his wife and got caught in a storm that threatened both himself and his family.

"As I approached Anderson Hills, the wind, the rain, the lightning were so intense. I could hardly see. I followed the tail lights of the truck in front of me," Joe said.

"At Jeff Road, I saw the Piggly Wiggly and the Shop-N-Save just go. As I approached the subdivision, trees were down and I drove over tree limbs to get to my house. I finally got home. The garage was all caved in. The front of the house was caved in. The front of Veronica's car was all beat up and the windows were busted out. I called for Veronica and Joseph. But nobody answered. I was panicky."

He forced the kitchen door open, hollering for his family. He walked through the damage to the basement door and opened it.

"They were there. Veronica had bruises on the right side of her body where she had been hit with debris and rock. I had to try to compose myself before I could go on," Joe said.

Veronica had arrived home just seconds before a tornado blew through their home. She fought against the winds to get out of her car and rush into the garage toward the kitchen door.

"I never made it into the house," she said. "I made it through the storm in the garage. I tried to get in, but the winds pushed me back. Everything started coming into the garage and the garage door caved in and went away. I was just praying 'Lord, save my baby.'"

Inside, Joseph heard the tornado and got into a closet on the first floor in the nick of time. After the storm passed, he and his mom found each other and went to the basement.

"We had a difficult time getting through the house. I was covered in mud and I couldn't stop coughing because of all the stuff that had gotten in my mouth," said Veronica, who had nicks, cuts and bruises. She also stepped on a nail, and later discovered a brick had flown into her purse and a two-by-four was lodged in the wall just above where she had stood during the storm.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Green family includes, from left. behind the stair railing, Erica, Almeida and Hal; Stacey with daughter Sydney sitting on the stairs; and Anthony standing in foreground. The family is living in temporary housing on Redstone Arsenal until they find a rental in Madison. Both Almeida and Hal Green work on the Arsenal.

"God put her in the right corner of that garage," Joe said. "On the south side of the house, it looks like someone took a knife and sliced it off."

"Yet, a carton of eggs was not touched on the kitchen counter," Veronica said.

The fire department soon came to the house and told the family they had to leave right away because another storm was coming. Veronica, who was trying to change her muddy clothes, left the house in a robe, riding in the back of a police car.

But once out of the neighborhood, Joe convinced the police to allow him to quickly return for his wife's purse and cell phone. They then stayed with family members nearby.

The Winstons are now living on Redstone Arsenal, but they hope to find a house to rent in Harvest so that their son is close to school. They don't know if they will rebuild in Anderson Hills.

"We'll just pray about it and when we pray we'll know what we're going to do," Veronica said.

'God, please save us'

When the tornado came through their neighborhood in Harvest, retired Master Sgt. Edsel Hogan was afraid he had left his wife too vulnerable to the storm.

The couple, who had been watching the storm's approach on their back deck, had hurried back into their home when they realized a tornado was bearing down on them. Hogan made sure his wife was secure in a tiny closet under their stairwell before he ran for safety in a guest bedroom closet.

See Shelter on page 21

Shelter

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But, during the tornado, he could hear his wife screaming, and his mind went to the worst. Rochelle Hogan was indeed in trouble.

"The tornado ripped the roof off. It blew the French doors open that we had just run through and it sucked my closet door open," she said. "I saw the stainless steel grill pushing into the house and into the recliner. I saw metal roofing coming at me, and I managed to close the door again."

"I could hear her scream," Edsel said. "I was sitting there praying 'God, please save us. This is really bad.' I was praying up a storm."

Hogan, who works for the Integrated Materiel Management Center as an employee matrixed to the Program Executive Office for Aviation, had been home all day. Neck and spine surgery on April 14 had him on sick leave, so he was there as the 12 noon storm came through.

"It got really bad outside. We've been here since 2002, so we've been through this kind of stuff a hundred times," Edsel said. "But this time the hail got so heavy and thick, and the winds were so strong. There were dark clouds right over our neighbor's house and the clouds came down between our neighbor's houses."

Rochelle, a Monrovia Middle School bus driver, was kept at school most of the day because trees were down on the roads from the day's earlier storms. Soon after arriving with her busload of students at school, it was decided to close school but to not allow buses to drive children home. Rochelle helped the teachers as they waited for children to be picked up by the parents, and then she returned home at about 4 p.m.

"I was trying to relax. But then we heard there was a tornado on the ground on Wall Triana," Edsel said. "We both went to the back door to see. We went out on the back deck. All the sirens were blasting. There was a white cloud of hail and rain, and it sounded like a train – clunk, clunk; clunk, clunk. It was three football fields from us. But as soon as we got back inside and closed the French doors, it hit."

Rochelle rushed to the stairwell closet and Edsel went as quickly as he could to the guest room closet, falling down on the way.

"I could feel the pressure. The house felt like it was moving. The roof was ripping off. I felt the house lift," Edsel said. "The fourth time I felt that lift I prayed 'God you said anything we ask for in your name you would do and this house will not last much longer.' About two minutes later, I heard Rochelle scream out 'Are you okay?'"

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Master Sgt. Edsel Hogan and his wife Rochelle along with their two youngest children are the first family displaced by the April 27 tornadoes to seek shelter at Redstone Arsenal. They are living in a furnished home while their Harvest home is rebuilt. Hogan works on the Arsenal.

Furniture, glass, insulation and debris were tossed everywhere. The Hogan's front porch was gone, and two to three inches of water were on the floor. Next door, the neighbor's house was demolished to the ground. Everywhere there was destruction and silence.

"Our neighbor had some older trees along the house and it laid them down like matchsticks," Rochelle said.

The couple's two younger children, Jeremy, 23, and Ashley, 20, were not home at the time of the tornado, and they are very thankful for that.

"If our son had been there he would have been in his bedroom upstairs and he would have been literally sucked through the roof. If our four grandkids had been here, they would have been sucked away, too," Edsel said.

"When this tornado touched down, it was on top of us before we could react. There was no way we could have run from it."

The home of Rochelle's sister, who lives four miles away, was also destroyed.

"It took us 2 and a half hours to get to her because of all the downed trees. And the last mile we had to walk in to get her," Rochelle said.

Unfortunately, Rochelle's sister had not renewed her house insurance because her husband's unemployment has made it difficult for them to pay their bills. They will have to rely on FEMA for a low interest loan. For the Hogan's, USAA insurance has already visited their home to make an analysis of the repairs needed.

"They will have to remove what's left of the upstairs and rebuild. The bottom portion will need to be gutted and rebuilt," Hogan said.

The Hogan family lived with relatives in Athens for a few days before they called Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie for assistance.

"The in-laws didn't have any electricity and there were a lot of people there. Rochelle said 'Call your Army family.' We did and Chaplain Luckie, (retired) Col. (John) Olshefski and (retired Chief Warrant Officer 5) Harry Hobbs went into action. We were the first family brought on to Redstone from the tornado."

Hogan's 24 years in the Army took him to Operation Desert Storm/Shield, and to Italy during the earthquake there in 1983-84. But nothing compares to the tornado he and his wife lived through.

"This has been really traumatic," he said. "Our God blessed us because He let us get through this. I never want to go through that again. I'd almost rather go to war than go through another tornado. When a tornado is up on you like that you can't run."

The Sunday after the tornado – May 1 – was the Hogan's wedding anniversary. They started the day like every Sunday, in church at Bicentennial Chapel. The only difference in the day is that they went home to their furnished rented home on the Arsenal, thankful for a place to live while their house is rebuilt.

Waiting storm out at Walmart

Retired Sgt. Maj. Joseph Kalsic and his family came to North Alabama in the summer of 2010 because of Redstone Arsenal and the employment opportunities associated with the military.

They didn't plan to move into an area that would be destroyed by a tornado.

"My roof caved in. My entire ceiling came down on the kitchen," Kalsic said of his home at 144 Bridge Crest Drive in Harvest that was heavily damaged by an April 27 tornado.

Kalsic and his family, including wife Sarah, 18-year-old daughter Gabby and 18-year-old niece Ji weren't home when the tornado struck.

"I was listening to the radio and I decided I needed to get them away from here," Kalsic said. "I've been through a tornado before and I didn't want them to have to live through that. When the girls got home from school, I took them out to eat."

While they were out, Kalsic was able to get enough information about the storm system to know it was passing over the family's home.

"The girls wanted to go home and I said 'No, I've got to go to Walmart (on University Drive) for some things.' I just didn't want them to experience a tornado," he said. "I stayed in the car while they were shopping. But then I saw these black ugly clouds and it got darker than dark. So, I went inside Walmart. They put all of us in the service area and we stayed there for 45 minutes."

Once the storm passed, it took the family about 1½ hours to get home, a drive that normally takes 20 minutes. Many of the roads were blocked by fallen trees, but Kalsic's volunteer work as a basketball, volleyball and soccer referee made him familiar enough with back roads to allow him to eventually get his family home.

Despite the destruction, the family slept at home that night. The next morning, Kalsic, who served as a chaplain's aide in the Army, woke his family up "put them in formation and we went to work. I've been preparing my girls since they were little for something like this."

He kept them busy picking up shingles in the yard, which he used to patch the roof that was still left on his house.

Kalsic, who works for defense contractor Strategic Defense Solutions, is now busy getting his family resettled with a Madison family that made their two-bedroom suite available to a military-connected family through Garrison Housing. He is also getting ready for a civilian deployment to Afghanistan, which was originally planned for April 28 but has been moved to today. His family will also be leaving the area in June, when they will travel to visit family in Korea.

"All we needed was a place to stay for a couple months," Kalsic said. "Hopefully, when we all get back our house will be repaired and we can go back to normal. We are so very blessed."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Sgt. Maj. Joseph Kalsic talks about the challenges he faces with getting his family resettled after their home was damaged by an April 27 tornado while at the same time preparing for a civilian deployment to Afghanistan that is scheduled for today. With him is his wife Sarah Kalsic.

Win or**Lose**

Hang named to Academic All-Patriot League Team

Army Athletic Communications photo

Annie Hang excels in the classroom and on the tennis court at West Point.

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. — Annie Hang, a senior on the Army women's tennis team, was voted to the inaugural Academic All-Patriot League Team as announced by the conference May 3. To be eligible for the award, players must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average and be a starter or key reserve. Freshmen or students in their first academic year are not eligible for the honor.

Hang, a chemical engineering major, owns a 3.276 GPA and has been a constant member in Army's top-six lineup. The senior has split her time in singles play at the No. 3 and No. 4 spots, owning a 6-9 dual match record, including 2-0 against Patriot League foes. In doubles contests she ranks second on the team with 20 wins overall and 13 in dual matches. The second-team All-Patriot League honoree teamed with sophomore Erin Colton for 12 of her 20 wins, including an 8-4 record in dual matches

Lehigh sophomore Patricia Muething was named the 2011 Scholar-Athlete of the Year, as voted on by league's sports information directors. The business major boasted a 3.77 GPA and went 3-3 against Patriot League opponents in singles play.

Muething and Hang were joined on the Academic All-Patriot League Team by Holy Cross' Emily Marr and Jessica DeSimone and Lafayette's Allie Seranko. *(Army Athletic Communications release)*

Wagner sets career mark at Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Army track and field's final day at the 117th annual Penn Relays featured a career record-setting performance by junior Tom Wagner. The Black Knights competed in three events on Day 3 of the nation's oldest and largest track festival at Philadelphia's Franklin Field.

Competing in the Eastern Division of the triple jump, Wagner placed fourth in a field of 22 with a distance of 15.14 meters. The distance ranks fifth-best on Army's all-time list, bumping Wagner up five spots from where he stood entering the weekend's competition. The junior's previous best was 14.92m, ranking 10th all-time at the Academy. He is the Black Knights' leader in the triple jump this season.

Classmate Fred Beebe also competed in the triple jump, earning 15th place for his distance of 13.76m.

Sophomore Nick Snoad entered in the hammer throw, placing 16th in a field of 33 with a distance of 53.40 meters.

In Army's final event, the men's 4x800-meter relay unit placed 19th of 28 with its finish of 7:39.12. *(Army Athletic Communications release)*

Army Athletic Communications photo

Tom Wagner, shown competing in the high jump, placed fourth in the triple jump in a field of 22 at the Penn Relays.

Energy

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utility suppliers, they don't have to provide as much electricity because it reduces the demand if you conserve."

Arthur Barnette, an electrical engineer for Chugach, has an old-school perspective of energy conservation. At age 80, he has worked at Redstone since 1964.

"From time to time, you look at it, you'd like to know: Do we have an energy conservation program or is it an energy conversation program?" Barnette said. "Because sometimes it seems we like to talk about it more than we do it. For an energy conservation program to work you've got to start when you buy new pieces of equipment. It needs to be the most energy efficient available."

He later added: "Instead of saying it starts with purchasing, really energy conservation starts when you're designing it."

Salute

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for 32 years and will retire this year. Dressed smartly in his Army uniform, the members of the chapter were delighted to welcome the son of one of the most decorated Soldiers of World War II. Tucker received two Distinguished Service Crosses for his service during that time, with one of them personally awarded by President Franklin Roosevelt.

For Tucker, the event was bittersweet. It was a chance to recognize the contributions of the 504th, but also an opportunity to honor his father's memory, Soldier to Soldier, one last time while still serving on active duty. It was his way of commemorating a man who set the example for him of who a Soldier should be. Christopher Tucker credits his father with helping shape him into the Soldier he is today, despite his father dying when he was a young boy. Christopher's service to the nation was a way for him to pay homage to a father who left a legacy so great, it inspired each of his five sons to serve their country in uniform. When Brig. Gen. Christopher Tucker retires in September, the Tucker family will close the chapter on 76 consecutive years of military service to this nation.

Courtesy photo

Pregame honors

Apache Helicopters project manager Col. Shane Openshaw presented this year's Bob Wylie AH-64 Maintenance Excellence Award to Sgt. Alan Hassett of the 1-82nd Armed Reconnaissance Battalion and Spc. Jeb Carico of the 1-10th ARB during the Apache Users Conference on March 31. The honorees received their plaques as part of the pregame festivities of the San Diego Padres. Hassett and Carico then threw the ceremonial first pitch for the baseball game. The Bob Wylie Award recognizes the Soldier/non-commissioned officer for excellence in contributing to the Apache maintenance efforts of their unit, exemplifying excellence and working to make the aircraft better through their efforts. From left are Openshaw, Hassett, Carico, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Darrin Ingram and Sgt. 1st Class Tony Cervizzi, both of the Apache Project Office.

Rocket Announcements

Sports&Recreation

Golf tournament

Redstone Test Center will hold its annual Commander's Cup Golf Tournament on Friday 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.

Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary provides a Boating Safety six-week course through May 26 each Thursday night at 6:30 at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687. Each session lasts about two and a half hours. The course is designed for all boaters and others interested in the safe handling of watercraft. There is a fee for the instructional manual only. For more information, call Tom Kunhart home 830-6621, cell phone 527-4475 or email tkunhart@knology.net.

Women's fitness

Huntsville Adventure Boot Camp for Women is a four-week outdoor program of fitness instruction, nutritional counseling and motivational training. "You will be inspired and have fun while participating in a fantastic workout led by certified adventure fitness trainer Joe Martin," a prepared release said. The camp is May 30 to July 1. The morning class is 5:30-6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday; and the evening class is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. All military spouses get $50 off of their camp fee. To register or for more information, call 468-7146 or visit www.HuntsvilleBootCamp.com.

Disc golf benefit

A Disc Golf Tournament, to benefit Army Emergency Relief, will be held 2 p.m. Thursday at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is $15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email paul.sieja@us.army.mil.

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. The lunchtime 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 Community Activity Center. Breakfast is available at the Java Cafe. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of $30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 859-3784.

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.

Aviation conference

The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement's "Army Aviation Exhibition and Conference" is scheduled June 6-8 at the Community Activity Center. It will bring together Army leaders and aviation experts to address program updates including Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Attack Scout, Apache, Cargo, Utility and Fixed Wing. Register for free exhibit hall and expo passes. For more information, call Alexa Deaton 1-212-885-2725, email alexa.deaton@idga.org and visit www.ArmyAviationEvent.com.

Men's ministries

Men's Ministries, "addressing the needs of men and planting seeds for spiritual growth in Christ Jesus," meets every second or third Saturday – for exact monthly date, call Harry Hobbs at 425-5307 – at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for $5. For more information, call Hobbs 425-5307.

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.

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RocketAnnouncements

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet on Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 10. Guest speaker George Hamilton, of the Marshall Space Flight Center Engineering Directorate, will provide an update on Marshall's efforts in developing a Heavy Lift Vehicle for space operations. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Professional development luncheon

The Tennessee Valley Chapters of the National Military Intelligence Association (NMIA) and Women in Defense (WID) are sponsoring a joint professional development luncheon May 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Huntsville Marriott. Air Force Brig. Gen. VeraLinn Jamieson, director of intelligence for U.S. Southern Command, is the guest speaker. The cost of the luncheon is $25 for individual seating or $240 for a corporate table (seats eight). To register, visit http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1329441395.

Tennessee Valley summit

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and Rep. Chuck Fleischmann will be joined by Rep. Mo Brooks and several other new members of Congress as the annual Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit returns to Chattanooga on May 15-16. Registration is now open to the public; and all science, technology, research, economic development, education and business leaders are encouraged to register by visiting www.TennValleyCorridor.org.

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.

MiscellaneousItems

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.

Garage sale benefit

Beta Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority will hold its annual Garage and Bake Sale on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 7221 Hickory Hill Lane in southeast Huntsville. There will be collectibles, glassware, toys, kitchen items, clothing, Cherished Teddies figurines, jewelry and more. All proceeds go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. For more information, call 851-0791.

Reading with Taka

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

Education test center

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

Mr. Man pageant

SB Productions has begun its search for the exceptional caliber of men needed to compete in the 2011 "Mr. Man Premiere." This year's event is Aug. 27 at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville. Candidates will go through a screening process for the final selection. Finalists will have runway preparation and etiquette training for the pageant. For more information, call Samuel Brown 683-3083 or visit www.mrmanpremiere.com.

Research resource classes

If you do research on avionics, unmanned aerial vehicles, space systems, military communications, and many other military and aviation topics then Jane's Online is a resource for you. Even if you have used Jane's frequently, there is always something new to learn about a sophisticated database. On May 16, the Redstone Scientific Information Center is holding training sessions for anyone wanting to learn more about using Jane's effectively. Representatives from Jane's will be at the library to explain all the database features and offer tips on how to get the best results from your searches. There will be two classes on May 16, one at 1:30 p.m. and another starting at 2.30. These classes are open to all Team Redstone employees; call the library at 876-5195 to register for a class since space is limited. The library is located in building 4484, just off Martin Road. Bring your questions and learn how Jane's Online can provide valuable resources to help with presentations and projects.

Motorcyclists' benefit

Wingstock XI, to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities and Children's Hospital in Birmingham, will be held May 21-22 at 27 Berryhill Lane in Fayetteville, Tenn. Pull tabs from aluminum cans are collected to help cover the cost of families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are being treated. The Dice Run begins at Halftime Bar and Grill on Highway 72 in Madison. Registration starts at 9 a.m., with the last bike out at 11. There will be music by Down Stroke and Prairie Wolf, biker games, a 50-50 raffle, and a chicken drop. For more information call Kenneth Kelly, president of the Lapdance Riders Club, 466-7801.

Military Sunday

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church will hold its first Military Sunday Event on May 22 at 11 a.m. "Come out and join us in divine fellowship as Pastor Timothy M. Rainey delivers the word of God," a prepared release said. The church is located at 380 Indian Creek Road, through the traffic circle, behind Providence Main. "We're asking active duty service men and women to wear their uniforms if they desire," the release said. "All will be recognized during the 11 a.m. worship service for their outstanding service and contributions to this grateful nation." For more information, email Renee Kelly at renee.kelly@knology.net, Cynthia Hughes at chugh1@hotmail.com or call the church office 837-2335 from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled June 28 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To arrange for participation, call Sgt. Steven Griffin 876-7969 or Staff Sgt. Marcus Holder 876-7969 by June 3. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled Sept. 22.

Reserve openings

If you are an Army prior service (enlisted/officer) military member with a remaining military service obligation, are assigned to the Army Individual Ready Reserve, and interested in transferring to a local Army Reserve unit, call Sgt. 1st Class Ramiro Torres 665-6557 or Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Burley 374-9659 to discuss available positions and benefits of serving with a Reserve unit.

Space science education

NASA's Interdisciplinary National Science Program Incorporating Research Experience, known as INSPIRE, is accepting applications from high school students through June 30. NASA will make selections in September. The selectees will participate in an online learning community in which students and parents have the opportunity to interact with their peers and NASA engineers and scientists. For information about the project, including details about how to apply, visit http://www.nasa.gov/education/INSPIRE.

See Announcements on page 26

Rocket Announcements

NCO Academy finale

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold a Colors Casing Ceremony on June 2 at 10 a.m. at the NCOA field directly behind Woodyard Hall, building 3329 on Mauler Road. The Ordnance Corps Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Muhammad will be the guest of honor as the NCO Academy bids farewell to Redstone Arsenal after more than 24 years of training NCOs. Graduation Hall will be open for all attendees to view a unique piece of history, as the walls of the hall are adorned with hundreds of class pictures, plaques and creative sculptures that student NCOs have donated to the academy over the many years of training there. If you know an active or retired Soldier that holds or held the MOS 89D, 89B, or any of the CMF94/63 specialties, chances are they have come through the NCO Academy at some point in their career, and their picture may still be hanging up in Graduation Hall. The Army Materiel Command Ceremonial Band is scheduled to provide musical support. Also in attendance will retired Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas M. Young, the first commandant who stood up the academy in 1987. As part of Base Realignment and Closure, the NCO Academy will be moving to the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Va. Training for the CMF 94 Senior Leaders Course is already being conducted at Fort Lee, and remaining courses are now or will soon be in their last iteration on Redstone Arsenal.

Redstone yard sale

The Redstone Communities yard sale is Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the housing area. Rain dates are May 21-22.

NATO forum

The North Alabama International Trade Association, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Commerce, is co-sponsoring a NATO Small Business Forum on May 19 from noon to 5 p.m. at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Online registration is available at www.naita.org.

Scholarship deadline extended

The Air Space and Missile Defense Association is offering 16 scholarships for selected children to attend a one week, all expenses paid, Space Camp this summer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. These scholarships are open to any child, age 9-11, of a parent or guardian of military or civilian personnel currently assigned or matrixed to SMDC/ARSTRAT, JFCC IMD, PEO-M&S, MSIC, NASA Marshall, or MDA, and contractors supporting these organizations who work for corporate members of ASMDA. More information, qualifications and applications are available on the ASMDA website at www.ASMDA.us. Due to the recent weather disruptions, the application deadline is extended to May 17.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop personnel want the community to know that those affected by the storm have been in their thoughts and prayers and will continue to be. The shop reopened May 10. Its hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5 and the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome, as are volunteers.

Commissary news

The "Worldwide Case Lot Sale" arrives at Redstone's Commissary May 19-21 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Commissary case lot sale shoppers get "bargains by the case" and savings up to 50 percent off regular prices on popular items, according to a prepared release. Check out the website at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Disaster relief offering

In support of the community's desire to provide assistance to severely impacted Redstone families, a 01-04 Disaster Relief subaccount has been established through the Garrison's Chapel Tithes and Offering Fund. Distribution of these funds will be to families by their command/organization. Active and reserve duty military, military retirees and federal civilian employees (including non-DoD agency's employees) are eligible. A designated offering in support of this relief will be taken at both the Catholic and Protestant services at Bicentennial Chapel. Checks are to be made to "CTOF" with "Disaster relief" in the memo line. Cash should be placed in an envelope with "Disaster relief" written on the outside. Outside of chapel services, check and cash donations will also be accepted by Staff Sgt. Vance, Sgt. Flores and Spc. Wallace through June 1 at Bicentennial Chapel and annotated with an offering control sheet. A $500 limit per recipient-family per request will be implemented to include a maximum of two requests not to exceed a total of $1,000, according to a Garrison release.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF May 6 2011	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING DATE	ORGANIZATION LOCATION	PAY PLAN & SERIES	GRADE LEVEL	POT GRD	PAY RANGE (FROM - TO)	WHO CAN APPLY? 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																			
SCBK11027791	Lead Security Guard	11-May-11	Garrison-Redstone	GS-0085	5	5	31,825 - 41,369		X										
SCBK11988594R	Mechanical Engineer	11-May-11	US Army Res Dev & Engr Cmd	DB-0830	4	4	98,265 - 150,266				X		X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK11640025	IT Specialist (PLCYPLN)	12-May-11	HQ AMC	GS-2210	13	13	83,156 - 108,102						X		X	X		X	
SCBK11640037	Audiovisual Production Specialist	12-May-11	HQ AMC	GS-1071	12	12	69,930 - 90,907				X				X	X		X	
NEAG11002906	Operations Research Analyst	13-May-11	AMC	NH-1515	3	3	69,930 - 108,102		X										
NEAG11002898	Operations Research Analyst	13-May-11	AMC	NH-1515	4	4	98,265 - 150,266						X		X			X	
SCBK11042577	Electronics Engineer	18-May-11	RDECOM	DB-0855	3	3	69,930 - 108,102		X										
SCBK11998884ENG	Architect, Civ Engr, Mec Engr, Elec Engr, Gen Engr	8-Jun-11	US Army Engring Spt Ctr	GS-0808,0810, 0830, 0850, 0801	13	13	83,156 - 108,102				X				X	X		X	
SCBK10674714OC	Contract Specialist (Price/Cost Analysis)	9-Jun-11	ACC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779						X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK10724481OCE	Contract Specialist	29-Jun-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907								X				X
SCBK11733651	Logistics Management Specialist	5-Jul-11	AMCOM	GS-0346	11	13	58,343 - 108,102						X		X	X		X	
SCBK10444988OC	Contract Specialist	17-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	3	3	92,277 - 157,779	X		X					X	X		X	
SCBK1044488OC	Contract Specialist	18-Aug-11	AMC	YA-1102	2	2	47,215 - 108,102	X		X					X	X		X	
SCBK104828500C	Supv Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	YA-1102	3	3	98,265 - 127,743					X	X	X	X	X		X	
SCBK10482841OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	14	14	98,265 - 127,743			X		X		X	X	X		X	
SCBK10482823OC	Contract Specialist	30-Sep-11	AMCOM	GS-1102	12	12	69,930 - 90,907			X			X	X	X	X		X	

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

A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements) (Copy of Orders from Spouse)
F- All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)
H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.) (SF-50 documenting service required)
R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.) (SF-50 documenting service required)
T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (Form 75 documenting service)
V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
U - All U.S. citizens (Birth Certificate and other Documentation required)

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