

## Overtime food inspection after storm

*Three Soldiers help restore Commissary to full service*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The three Soldiers who serve as Redstone's veterinary food inspection specialists were on their way back from annual training at Fort Stewart, Ga., when they got an urgent call to report to the Commissary.

After the April 27 severe weather created a massive power outage in North Alabama, the Commissary couldn't sell any frozen or chilled products because of the refrigeration failure. The display freezers were covered with a tarp.

The three Soldiers – Sgt. David Schuler, Spc. Carl Mays and Spc. Justin Shope – were returning to check on their families April 29, a day earlier than planned. But about midway into their seven-and-a-half-hour drive home, they got the urgent call from post veterinarian Dr. Stephen Krum. When Schuler arrived at the Commissary about 3 p.m., he let his two Soldiers go home to check on their families and received an update from Krum.

"Dr. Krum briefed me on the situation," Schuler, food inspection NCO-in-charge with Veterinary Services, said. "And then I called my Soldiers back in about 5 o'clock that evening and we got started.

"We had to go through all of the frozen and chilled items and determine if it was still usable, sellable, because the Commissary was out of power off and on for a period of about 19 hours."

The store closed at 6 p.m., but the Soldiers worked throughout the night. By the time they left, the store could sell "probably 80 percent of their frozen and chilled products," Schuler said.

"We left here Friday (April 29) at midnight," he said. "So Saturday morning when they opened they could've sold."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Food inspection NCO-in-charge Sgt. David Schuler and his two Soldiers, Spc. Carl Mays and Spc. Justin Shope, worked until midnight April 29 and again the night of April 30 at the Commissary.**

The Soldiers returned at 6 p.m. closing time that Saturday, April 30, and worked until about 11 that night. "We finished inspecting the rest of what we didn't get to on Friday and started our paperwork process," Schuler said.

By that Sunday, May 1, the Commissary was able to sell all of its frozen and chilled items – minus of course what had to be discarded because of spoilage. Schuler said probably 15 percent of the items, a little over \$5,000 worth, had to be discarded.

"Since I've been in the Army this is the biggest refrigeration failure that I've been involved with," said Schuler, who has been in the Army almost four years and arrived at Redstone in 2009 from Korea.

**See Food on page 15**

## 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 this week's 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

The Rustic Lodge, which has been operated by the Civilian Welfare Fund Council, will soon convert to the direction and supervision of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation.

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## HELPING HANDS

Volunteers from throughout the community respond to their neighbors in the wake of the deadly tornadoes April 27.

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## SPECIAL SECTION

Housing on Redstone Arsenal and in the surrounding community is the theme of today's pullout keepsake.

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## WIN OR LOSE

The Army baseball team splits a doubleheader at Bucknell in Lewisburg, Pa.

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# RocketViews

What is your advice to this year's graduates?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Sgt. Timothy Gorman**  
Headquarters & Alpha Company

"Education is important. And of course I would say a penny saved is a penny earned. So definitely keep an eye on keeping money for any future endeavors they choose to do."



**Jim Wesser**

Education Center  
"For high school graduates, try to get into higher education whether it be for academic or vocational/technical. Grades matter – gpa matters nowadays. College graduates: Try to get into a career field that means something – i.e., don't get a major like sand script. That means absolutely nothing. Do a major that's going to get them employed, plus something they'll be interested in."



**Abe Borum III**

SMDC/ARSTRAT  
"Do not lose hope about your job prospects or anything that you want to do after graduation. Develop a plan and execute it. If it does not work, try again until you succeed or achieve your desired outcome."



**Donna Blevins**

SMDC/ARSTRAT  
"That they learn as much as they can and apply everything that they can. And to always keep growing and learning. There are opportunities out there. They just need to seek."

## Letters to the Editor

# Grow healthy relationships for spiritual renewal

What comes to mind when you think about winter? My personal perspective on winter is very different compared to other seasons. When I think about spring, I think about flowers blooming, trees busting out with renewed life and the long awaited warmer weather. When I consider fall, things like Thanksgiving, football and the leaves changing colors come to mind.

Here are the words that come to mind when I focus on winter: death, ice, hypothermia, wind chill, death, snow, shoveling snow, shoveling more snow, buying a snow blower, death, thermal underwear, frozen pipes, salt trucks, black ice, dead batteries, stuck cars, frostbite, gangrene, death, ice fishing, diminished mental capacity, seasonal affective disorder and death.

These are the things I associate with winter. You can probably tell I'm not a winter guy. But I think I'm in good company. Most people dislike winter. Really, how many people do you know who spend their entire life working and living in Florida, and then when they retire, they move to North Dakota? In fact we have a semi-national holiday dedicated to a rodent predicting the meteorological future. We call it Groundhog Day. We don't do that with spring, summer or fall. But we want to get rid of winter and bring on spring.

We can escape the winter season by heading for a warmer climate during those months, but what about when you and I experience a spiritual winter? Perhaps you've lost someone recently. Someone close to you died and will never return. And nothing ever will replace him or her.

Maybe the doctor had some bad news for you regarding your recent medical tests. You thought you were going to watch your kids get married and have children and that you'd grow old and die when you were good and ready. But now your dreams about the future haunt you because you realize



**Chaplain (Col.) Doug Kinder**

you're never going to experience them.

Maybe you failed at your job or you have a child who somehow got off the track in spite of all your efforts to raise him or her properly. Perhaps you've been hurt by betrayal, divorce or adultery by someone you loved.

These events bring on spiritual winter in our lives and God tells us there are times it will happen and there's no avoiding it. In His word it states, "In this world you will have tribulation ... human beings are born to trouble as surely as the sparks fly upward."

How can you insulate yourself to find protection from the coming winter? I would like to strongly recommend that you cultivate healthy relationships. In those winter experiences, you'll be tempted to isolate yourself into hibernation because winter carries with it a sense of failure, shame and sadness.

In winter, you will never desire community less and never need it more.

There was an interesting study conducted on depression by the University of Pennsylvania. They discovered that bipolar depression, which is biologically caused, was the same for all groups of people. But with reactive depression, which is tied to circumstances, environment and upbringing, the study revealed that one particular group in the United States experienced far less depression than any other group – the Amish. They attributed this to the strong sense of community they had nurtured which made them far less vulnerable to depression.

Our culture over the last few decades has evolved into a more individualistic self-oriented society. We admire the self-made individual who succeeds without requiring help from others. This has resulted in a lack of connectedness with a network of close friends. A recent study revealed that less than 10 percent of men and less than 30 percent of women could name one true friend with whom they could share openly their problems. Consequently, when winter comes into their lives, those without a support group become increasingly more vulnerable to depression.

You were made for community. When you experience winter, you will never want it less but never need it more. Take time to build on relationships today before winter strikes.

Have a great day!

**Chaplain (Col.) Doug Kinder**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT

## Quote of the Week

'A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.'

— Theodore Roosevelt

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# RedstoneRocket

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## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for May 5-11:

**May 9:** An Army sergeant reported that someone entered his quarters and stole several videogames, nine Blu-ray DVDS and four combat uniforms.

**May 9:** Someone stole a power generator from a utility trailer on Eagle Road.

**May 9:** During a random search at Gate 1, a bottle containing illegal pills was found in a civilian's vehicle.

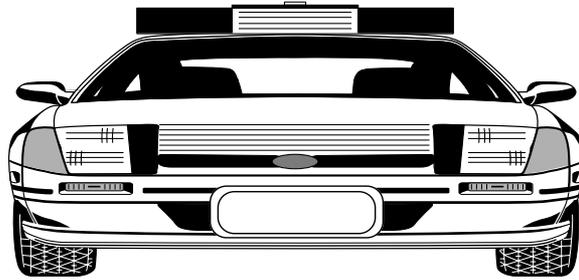
**May 10:** An ongoing DES investigation revealed that two Soldiers are suspected of entering a unit storage room and stealing personal laptop computers.

**May 11:** A civilian not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal struck Gate 7 and fled the scene. He was later located on Martin Road and was

charged with damage to government property, trespassing, driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving with a suspended license. His vehicle was towed from the installation.

**Traffic accidents reported:** five without injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 6 speeding, 2 handicap parking, 1 driving under the influence, 1 suspended driver's license, 1 trespass, 1 possession of drugs, 3 failure to maintain control.



## Soldier court-martialed for travel fraud, larceny

A Redstone Soldier has been convicted of travel fraud and sentenced to nine months in jail and a bad conduct discharge.

Pvt. Michael Tucker appeared before a general court-martial May 10. He was found guilty of filing false travel claims, attempted larceny of government funds, larceny of government funds, insubordinate conduct toward a noncommissioned officer, failing to go to his appointed place of duty, false official statements, obstruction of justice and adultery.

A military judge sentenced Tucker to reduction to the rank of E-1, confine-

ment for nine months and a bad conduct discharge. The convictions came as a result of the Soldier's actions from Aug. 23 through Oct. 20, when he requested reimbursement for numerous false travel claims.

Tucker will serve his confinement at the Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This new facility supports the relocation and consolidation of DoD corrections operations from Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Knox, Ky., and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Following his release, Tucker will return to his home of record. (*Office of the Staff Judge Advocate release*)

## Family festival awaits Exchange shoppers

The Post Exchange and Commissary are bringing giveaways and specials to the 2011 Family Fun and Fitness Festival, Thursday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Authorized shoppers can have some "fun" by visiting the Exchange entrance to the store and in the Commissary parking lot entering to win door prizes or gearing up to get "fit" with a variety of specials on

items on sale. In addition to shopping and giveaways, the Exchange will have Smores treats for all and a Hula Hoop contest.

"We've been working with vendors for the past few months getting ready for this event," PX general manager Loraine Arbo said. "It's going to be a great couple of days for the community to come together to shop, dine and just have some fun." (*Exchange release*)

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

**Name:** Michelle Kaloï

**Job:** Test technician for Yulista Management at the Prototype Integration Facility

**Where do you call home?**  
Arab, Ala.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I love building the test harnesses. I love the people I work with. It makes me feel important to know that what we do is benefiting our troops. And that makes you more conscious of what you're doing to make sure you do it right.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Spending time with my family – my two children Keisha Terry, 23, and Gregory Banks, 19, and my grandson Chase Terry, 4.

**What are your goals?**  
My goals are to become a success in life financially and to make sure my children also do.



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

I want to go to Hawaii. That's where my husband (Michael Kaloï) is from. That's where all his family is. And I've worked here six years.

## 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.

**Today** – Bowling tournament, sponsored by ADA Directorate, at 11 a.m. at Redstone Lanes. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**Today** – Hot dog/brat cookout, along with a cakewalk, at 11 a.m. in front of building 5302. For information call Lindsay Plitt 313-8047.

**Thursday** – Home-made dessert gift basket auction from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at buildings 5301/5302, 5303/5304 and the Sparkman Cafeteria.

**Thursday** – Chicken and biscuit/pastry sale, sponsored by Systems Management Division, MMD, at 7 a.m. For informa-

tion call Pickard 842-6625.

**Thursday** – 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 Mauler Road, the corner of Little John and Mauler.

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.

**Friday** – The IMMC Golf Tournament will be held at 8 a.m. at the Links.

**May 25** – Pizza lunch, sponsored by IMMC Program Management Directorate, at 11 a.m. in the hallway of building 5300. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

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



# Exchange savings add up in new survey

DALLAS—A recent study of Army and Air Force Exchange Service prices shows that troops save an average of 24 percent when exercising their Exchange benefit.

The Market Basket Survey, conducted in October 2010, compared prices at nine locations including Baltimore, Md.; Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Killeen, Texas; Omaha, Neb.; Tacoma, Wash.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Hampton/Newport News, Va.; Honolulu, Hawaii, and Los Angeles, Calif.

Conducted by an independent research firm, the report focuses on the percentage of savings military patrons receive based on market, retailer and department.

Due to the variations in currencies overseas, the Exchange focused on operations in the United States; however the value proposition remains consistent throughout the world.

The results, indicative of the command's ongoing efforts to survey prices both locally and nationally, reaffirm the Exchange's commitment to providing the best possible prices for authorized patrons, wherever they're called to serve.

If shoppers do encounter a lower price,

the Exchange goes as far as to match the price with or without a competitor's ads. For example, if a shopper spots a price difference of less than \$10, they simply notify the cashier and the price is matched on the spot.

For price discrepancies greater than \$10, shoppers only need to bring in a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price. In either scenario, the product must be identical to the item at the Exchange.

"The Exchange even offers a 14-day price guarantee on any purchase made at the Exchange," the Exchange's chief of staff Col. Virgil Williams said. "That means if an item is sold at a lower price by the Exchange, or any local competitor, the price is matched up to two weeks after the sale.

"Whether price matching or surveying our everyday prices the results speak for themselves – shoppers save at the Exchange."

Complete details concerning the Exchange's price matching policy are available online at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService/priceMatch.htm>. (*Exchange release*)

# Rustic Lodge to join morale/welfare family

*FMWR assumes control from civilian council*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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Changes are in store for the Rustic Lodge.

The lodge, which has been operated by the Civilian Welfare Fund Council, will soon convert to the direction and supervision of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation. It will become an FMWR catering facility effective Oct. 1.

“All bookings between now and Jan. 1 will continue to be honored and will go as planned,” Jeff Leedy, Post Restaurant Fund manager, said. “From Jan. 1 on, that’s when they plan to start renovations.”

Leedy expects the bookings to resume by next spring after completion of the lodge’s redesign and renovation. The planned upgrades include bathrooms, kitchen, doors, windows, flooring, lighting, Wi-Fi, heating and air conditioning, and furnishings.

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council, which receives a percentage of profits from the Post Restaurant Fund, didn’t have the financial resources for such improvements, according to CWFC’s Rustic Lodge chairman Jan Pickard.

“Morale Welfare will be taking this lodge over Oct. 1 and it’ll be under reno-

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Cleaning up the Rustic Lodge, from left, in foreground, are Loretta Brooks, Tom Bramhall and Lisa McWhorter. In the back are Jan Pickard, Lida Christian and Pat Miller. Not pictured are Sue Sammons, Rhonda Sewell, Kim Marr, Shawn Weber, Bud Allen, Joan Hoge and Chuck Kittleson.**

vation after that (in 2012),” she said.

She joined other members of the council Thursday in their final spring cleanup for the lodge. Because of the planned renovation, they didn’t plant flowers like they usually do.

Under the council, the Aviation and Missile Command’s Integrated Materiel Management Center had the lead in the annual spring cleanups and holiday decorating for Christmas. Pickard, who works in the center, will get to keep the roadway sign leading to the lodge which said the facility was adopted by IMMC.

Other participants in Thursday’s cleanup included Loretta Brooks of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, Tom Bramhall of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Lisa McWhorter of the Security Assistance Management Directorate, Lida Christian of MSIC, Sue Sammons of AMCOM Legal Office; Pat Miller, Rhonda Sewell, Kim Marr, Shawn Weber, Bud Allen, Joan Hoge, all of IMMC; and Chuck Kittleson of AMCOM G-6 (Information Management).



Courtesy photo

## In concert

**Army Entertainment and Redstone FMWR will present Toby Keith with special guest Gloriana and Mockingbird Sun, May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Redstone Activity Field. Tickets are on sale and the cost is \$35 for advance tickets, \$40 day of show. Tickets are available at Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation ticket offices, phone 313-5224, Ticketmaster locations, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or charge by phone, 800-745-3000. Gates 1, 8 and 10 will open at 2 p.m. for the concert. For more information, call FWMR at 313-5224 or visit [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).**



# Recruiting new talent to meet future demands



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Joey Skinner, deputy director of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, is committed to ensuring his organization's construction-related engineers have the training and development opportunities they need to benefit the directorate and their own professional growth.**

*Public Works deputy director cited for developing workers*

**By KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

When it comes to staffing an organization and developing employees, Joey Skinner knows how to get the job done.

And with 20 years of Garrison career experience to his credit, Skinner is well-positioned to know what it takes to achieve success both for an organization and its employees.

So it wasn't surprising to those who know Skinner and his work as the deputy director of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works when he was named the Career Program-18 Activity Career Program Manager of the Year by the Installation Management Command. Career Program 18 refers to construction-related engineers and scientists.

"It's a huge honor to be selected," Skinner said. "You compete against many other career program managers out there. There are some real exceptional CP-18 program career managers that oversee programs much larger than the one I oversee."

Career Program-18 is one of the best organized career programs in the Army. It includes construction-related engineers and scientists who work for the Corps of Engineers and garrisons across the Army. Skinner, a civil engineer, began working for the Army at Redstone as a co-op student from the University of Alabama-Huntsville in 1991, and began working for Public Works as an Army intern in 1995, the same year he became a member of Career Program-18. About 10 years ago, he became a career program manager, which means he serves as a mentor for other Career Program-18 employees working at the Garrison.

"An activity career program manager's responsibility is to stay up-to-date on all

**See Deputy on page 10**

# Try to keep ticks from bugging you this season

*Prevention the key to avoiding bites*

By **CHERIE MILLER**

*Fox Army Health Center*

With the arrival of warmer weather, Tennessee Valley residents should be prepared for the annual onslaught of insect pests – including ticks.

These pests can carry diseases which are harmful to both humans and animals. Ticks are already prevalent and are of major concern due to the numerous diseases they can transmit.

Ticks are blood-feeding pests of birds, animals and humans. There

are more than 850 species of ticks of two distinct types: hard ticks and soft ticks. Soft ticks have tough, leathery, pitted skin with no distinct head. They are uncommon but may be found in caves and on birds. Hard ticks have a hard smooth skin and an apparent head. These ticks

are found in the forest and on humans and animals. Hard ticks are associated with most tick-borne diseases in the United States. Common hard ticks in the Tennessee Valley are the dog tick, black-legged tick, lone star tick and the brown tick.

Ticks can carry disease germs in their bodies which they transmit to humans and animals when they bite. Ticks stay attached to the host by using a dartlike anchor with backward curving teeth which grip into the skin. They also secrete a cement that hardens and helps hold the tick on the host. The tick slices open the skin with the anchor, inserts the head under the skin and engorges on the blood. Some hard ticks are slow feeders and can take several days to finish a blood meal. They can extract up to 8 milliliters of blood during a feeding and can take up to 100 times their body weight in blood. They concentrate the blood during feeding and return much of

the water back to the host. Disease can also be transmitted by body fluids when the ticks are crushed.

Not all ticks carry disease organisms, so getting a tick bite does not mean that disease will follow. However, you should look for signs and symptoms of tick borne diseases following any tick bite. The common tick borne diseases include Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Human Erlichiosis.

Lyme Disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the U.S. It has spread rapidly with an increased number of cases in the Southeast where it is usually transmitted by the black-legged tick and the lone star tick. The common symptom of Lyme Disease is a “bull’s-eye” rash around the site of the bite which appears three days to three weeks following the bite. The rash will have a clear center with a red ring outside that. Other symptoms include fever, chills, headache and fatigue. Rarely fatal, Lyme Disease can cause significant pain and discomfort



if allowed to progress.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, despite the name that describes its origin, is now abundant in the Southeast where the main vector is the dog tick. RMSF symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, bloodshot eyes and headaches with onset about 3-14 days after the tick bite. A spotty rash may occur on the feet and hands in 2-3 days. RMSF can be treated with antibiotics but can be fatal when left untreated.

Human Erlichiosis was identified in 1986 and has been found predominantly in the Southeast where its vector, the lone star tick, is prevalent. Symptoms appear in 1-21 days (average 7) and resemble RMSF without a rash. Symptoms can be mild to severe and several deaths have been reported.

Prevention is the key to avoid tick bites. Ticks like long grass and brush where they can attach

# Deputy

continued from page 8

the latest training and opportunities to enhance an individual's career within that career program," Skinner said. "We assist with career goals, kinds of training available and future aspirations. Part of my job is to counsel and help guide them in developing their career goals."

Mentoring is where Skinner excels as a manager and, besides working with Career Program-18 employees who have ongoing careers with the directorate, he spends countless hours recruiting, developing and mentoring young employees. In nominating him for the Career Program-18 award, Skinner's boss, Public Works director Joe Davis noted Skinner's leadership in energizing the directorate's Workforce Revitalization Initiative by recruiting, retaining, rewarding and mentoring students, co-op employees and interns.

"He leads the way when it comes to helping young employees become strong educated leaders of tomorrow," Davis said in the nomination. "He is second to none in this endeavor. He does this for the betterment of the organization and the growth of the intern. His dedication to the program and the interns is one of being a selfless servant, always working for the betterment of others and not for personal gain."

**The Workforce Revitalization** Initiative consists of a four-prong approach: creating close relationships with local high schools, community colleges and universities; employing highly recommended students as temporary intern students; converting those students with the best attitude, work ethic and skill sets to cooperative

education positions; and transitioning those cooperative students that will provide the greatest value to the directorate to intern positions upon graduation.

Students hired through the initiative are rotated through Public Works positions in engineering (design), construction, environmental, base operations (maintenance and infrastructure operations) and master planning (site selection and development). Once the 12-month initiative is complete, the student interns hired on a permanent basis are allowed to choose which area they would like to pursue as a co-op student.

"We develop an individual development plan for interns within their first 30 days," Skinner said. "That plan consists of rotations through DPW, and formal training both on-the-job and online.

"They are slated to go into full performance positions within Public Works. Over 10 percent of our DPW work force are interns or have been interns. We fought to have a robust program with interns because we are up against an aging work force. Thirty-two percent of DPW employees are eligible for retirement."

Now, as all intern programs phase out of the Army, Public Works will look toward its co-op student program to continue to introduce young employees to the organization.

"Our interns and students are high quality individuals that we recruit. They are super stars," Skinner said. "We have created a student work force that allows us to look at a pool of students going into all kinds of career fields, and that allows us to try individuals on the job up front and lower our risk of getting an individual that is not high quality."

Skinner is committed to employee recruiting and development, and

his door is always open to employees both within Public Works and throughout the Garrison who need career guidance and mentoring. But he is mainly focused on those Garrison employees who are aligned with Career Program-18.

"I'm the conduit for information related to training, development assessments and opportunities for those in Career Program-18. I make sure information is disseminated to the Career Program-18 employees that we have here," he said.

He provides information about Career Program-18 workshops, courses offered through the Installation Management Command's Directorate of Public Works Academy and courses offered outside the Army that pertain to the work of the Garrison's construction-related employees.

"When there are certain courses out there that we feel will be of benefit to the organization for the individual to take, then we will consider paying for that course for them," Skinner said.

**Skinner himself** has been the recipient of employee development programs. He is the first IMCOM employee and the first Garrison employee to graduate from the Career Program-18 leadership development program. The three-year program includes a six-month development assignment to the Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C., where Skinner rotated through several primary corps organizations.

Skinner said his effectiveness as a manager has been improved through formal training, and yearly Career Program-18 workshops.

"If you want to be a supervisor or manager in the construction field, the leadership development course is the one to take," Skinner said. "The Career Program-18 workshops and other development types of training are also beneficial. It's really good for our Garrison to have employees that have this kind of training. I'm the kind of person that when I get passionate about something I get vocal about it. I like to ask a lot of questions to try to figure out how to get things done, and the best ways to recruit and fill positions."

Skinner is also only the second IMCOM career program manager to win the Army-level award. Career Program-18 is traditionally a Corps of Engineers-oriented career program, with only about 20 percent of its members working for Army garrisons.

Though it's Skinner's name on the career program manager award, he said the award is a reflection of the professionalism and standard of excellence of the Directorate of Public Works.

"I am well-blessed in many ways," he said. "And one of the biggest ways I'm blessed is my bosses and my managers. Mr. Davis, Mr. (Curtis) Clark (Garrison deputy commander), and Col. (John) Hamilton (Garrison commander) have provided me with full support. If I've got a good idea, they let me run with those good ideas that will be an enhancement to the organization and they let me implement them."

In addition, Skinner said "the folks that work in our organization are outstanding. We have exceptional employees who do exceptional work day in and day out. They have the desire to better themselves and this organization. That makes my job easy."

Those employees remain committed despite working under enormous demands. The Arsenal has grown by about 6,000 employees since the announcement of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act, increasing the workday population to about 36,000 employees. The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for overseeing building construction and maintenance in support of that work force.

Since 2005, the Directorate of Public Works has been involved in new building construction programs for the Army Materiel Command, Missile Defense Agency, Redstone Test Center, 2nd Recruiting Brigade and many other organizations. In addition, Public Works is involved in upgrades for various organizations, including the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, Fox Army Health Center and the Garrison's Gate 1 Visitor Center.

Skinner, like other leaders within the Garrison, hopes that challenging work within Public Works will remain a career attraction for the interns and co-op students who are new to the organization.

"In DPW, it's something new every day," Skinner said. "A large portion of what an engineer does is primarily problem solving. It seems we are doing that day in and day out. The Garrison's DPW manages a huge variety of different projects and works with a variety of customers that do so many things to support the security of our nation. Where else can you do that kind of work?"

## Helping Hands

# Volunteers flock to storm-ravaged neighborhoods

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**

*For the Rocket*

In times of need, people generally look to their immediate community for support such as family, friends and neighbors.

During and after the tornadoes and severe storms that began the morning of April 27 and crippled several communities in the local area, many turned to Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Madison.

The church became a temporary home to displaced families and individuals and an immediate emergency management operations center with hundreds of eager volunteers flowing in each day to help. The church gym has become a collection point for food supplies, clothing and basic needs. The church hall is where folks whose homes have been damaged or destroyed come in to sign up for help.

“Good Shepherd is primarily a church shelter,” Rev. David Tubbs, senior pastor at Good Shepherd said. The night of April 27, almost 700 people crammed inside. Two rooms are constructed with 18-inch reinforced concrete and steel, able to withstand the deadliest of tornadoes.

“The two tornado rooms can ‘uncomfortably’ house up to 300 people,” Tubbs said. “That night, we had between 600-700 people packed inside, and we put them just about anywhere we knew it would be safe.”



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

**Volunteers help out at the site of Vietnam veteran James Leslie's home, which was destroyed by a tornado.**



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

**Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, operates the chain saw while Rev. David Tubbs, left, steadies the trunk and David Bonwit, in background, cuts other parts of the tree.**

**See Volunteers on page 33**

# Storm victim escapes injury in bathtub

*Residence destroyed  
in tornado April 27*

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**

*Army Materiel Command public affairs*

Sue Tillery and her family survived the April 27 tornadoes, but their Athens home didn't.

Tillery, congressional liaison for Army Materiel Command, was unharmed with her sister, Mary, and her three dogs: Cody, Cricket and Skeeter. But her home was declared a total loss and is scheduled for demolition.

"Being prepared is the first thing that saved my life," said Tillery, who was home along with her sister during the storms. "Before being dismissed at work I called my sister and told her to get ready.

"We had pillows, heavy blankets and a \$30 weather radio, the best \$30 I ever spent, and we got into the bathtub."

When Tillery emerged from the bathroom, the destruction to her home was extensive. There was no roof, her guest bedroom was completely exposed, and the walls around the garage were demolished, plus much more.

She and her sister escaped from the residence through a home office window.

Every room in the house was destroyed but every bathtub remained intact. Knowing where to take shelter saved their lives.

"If you hear sirens, get to your safe place. And know in advance where you are going," Tillery said.

Tornadoes can occur anytime of the year but the season officially starts March 1 in Alabama. The April 27 storms killed more than 200 people statewide.

Create an action plan if you do not already have one. Make sure the entire family knows where to go in the event of a tornado. Ensure you have a weather radio, flashlights, a first aid kit, extra batteries, necessary medications, heavy blankets and pillows.



Photo by Sue Tillery

**This is what remains of Sue Tillery's Athens home after being struck by an EF-5 tornado April 27.**

Update your contact information in the headquarters AMC's Emergency Notification System. Simply right click the ENS icon in your toolbar. This system is designed to notify all AMC personnel in the event of an emergency.

Also register with the Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System, which standardizes a method for the Army to account, manage and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected in a catastrophic event. Update your information at <https://adpaas.army.mil>.

# SMDC comes together after tornado outbreak

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT public affairs

In the wake of the storm, people are coming together to assist those who lost much.

Members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command work force in Huntsville and in Colorado Springs, Colo., are joining forces to help those devastated by the recent tornados that struck northern Alabama on April 27.

“We have had several in our command who have had homes destroyed,” Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Kinder, SMDC/ARSTRAT command chaplain, said. “I continue to be amazed at the generosity and graciousness of people, not only in SMDC but in the Redstone Arsenal community who have helped and have given so much.”

SMDC/ARSTRAT Headquarters and Headquarters Company is serving as the point of contact for all donations and communication of needs for the command’s Soldiers, families and members of the civilian work force who may have been affected

by the storms.

There are several ways to support those who are struggling, but currently, only certain items are needed. Those include toiletries – baby wipes, shampoo, tooth brushes, etc. – and non-perishable goods such as canned foods.

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**“I continue to be amazed at the generosity and graciousness of people, not only in SMDC but in the Redstone Arsenal community who have helped and have given so much.”**

**Col. Douglas Kinder**

SMDC/ARSTRAT chaplain

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SMDC/ARSTRAT HHC has also formed an emergency relief account to provide immediate assistance to those military and civilian team members who may need support. With this fund the command has purchased groceries, storage materials and other items.

If you would like to donate to this support account, call Capt. Blair Tighe, SMDC/ARSTRAT HHC executive

officer, at 955-0594 or Maj. Shawn Geib, SMDC/ARSTRAT HHC commander, in Colorado Springs at (719) 554-1976 for details.

Kinder talked about additional donations which are also needed and also thanked those who have given during this difficult time.

“What we need are food and small appliances such as microwaves and toasters,” Kinder said. “People are also very gracious with financial gifts. They have given to help support disaster relief and during the worship services this weekend, all the money given will go to help those in need.”

During the recovery phase, the noncommissioned officers of SMDC/ARSTRAT have been instrumental

in the support of assistance on homes that have been damaged. They have provided minor damage support such as tarp coverage of roofs to prevent further damage, as well as assistance in moving household goods for temporary storage in displaced housing situations. They have also cut trees that needed moving from certain areas.

“I think it is very important during this time to be understanding to those in need,” Kinder said. “My office is always open and I am available for anyone who needs to talk. We have helping agencies that are galvanized to help those in need and are ready at a moment’s notice.”

For those needing to speak to the chaplain, Kinder can be reached at 955-5027.

With the work force making its way back, Tighe said, problems may still linger but as with most problems, there are people and agencies ready to help.

“There are several avenues people can go through to help those in the command who may have suffered a

**See Tornado on page 15**

# Food

continued from page 1

“After I got briefed (by Dr. Krum) I had to take a step back and think about an order of precedence, priority, as far as where we needed to start to get the mission accomplished. And looking back, I think our Soldiers did an outstanding job in getting the mission accomplished. I instructed my Soldiers on what we needed to do and we worked as a team and got the mission accomplished.”

Krum called the Soldiers that Friday after he received a call from Fox Army Health Center.

“It was a good job,” Krum said of the Soldiers’ actions, “especially coming off of TDY short notice. But they performed as was expected. That’s what they trained for.”

Store director Robin Daniel said the Commissary lost about \$27,000 worth of its \$1.3 million inventory as a result of the storm. That included all the backup items that couldn’t be sold.

“When they (the three Soldiers) returned to Redstone I appreciated them working here right away and working all night to inspect the

food,” she said. “They inspected the food as quickly as possible so we could reopen the store, not only to sell dry (goods) but also frozen and chilled, to help the customers replenish their grocery stock after the power outage.”

The store was closed April 28 and reopened April 29 at 10:30 a.m. for dry goods and produce. After the food inspections that night, the store opened 9 a.m. April 30 and sold frozen and chilled items.

“I couldn’t have done it by myself,” Schuler said referring to his two Soldiers’ role in the food inspections. “There was no way. There was too much.”

His Redstone section is under the Fort Benning, Ga., branch which is part of the Gulf Coast District, Veterinary Command. Besides the Commissary, where their office is located, the three Soldiers have 32 other facilities on post that they inspect monthly.

Schuler, 31, from Cullman, resides on post with his wife, Jennifer, and their four children: daughters Madeline, 12, and Macy, 2, and sons Benjamin, 9, and Brody, 7. Their power was out at home from the afternoon of April 27 until late night April 28.

# Tornado

continued from page 14

loss in the aftermath of the storms,” Tighe said. “We are trying to pinpoint the needs of the work force and ensure we get the necessities to those who need it most.

“As an Army family we take care of our own, so don’t feel you need to keep this to yourself. If a problem arises in a week, do not be afraid to let us know so we can get help to you as quickly as possible. We do not have a cutoff date and are here to help.”

During the storms, a family lost their home to a tornado and will be moving into an unfurnished apartment. As expected, they are in need of a number of items and would appreciate any contributions.

Some of the items needed are: dishes, garbage can and bags, zip lock bags, bathroom cleaners and toilet paper.

“We want to be able to assist as many people as we can, and with the support we have received thus far we have been able take care of our own and be there for them,” Tighe said. “If we do have people who like to keep things confidential, we will definitely do that and ensure their privacy.”

There are other avenues that those affected can go to when seeking help. Those include the following:

Home owners and renters insurance can provide reimbursement for lost food and goods during the storm.

Assistance for Army family members affected by tornadoes in the Southeastern area is available at <https://adpaas.army.mil>. A case representative will come to the home and provide assistance where needed.

Army Emergency Relief: Active duty, retirees and dependents may come into the Army Community Service office to discuss possible options during this stressful time and apply for financial support. Kathleen Riester of ACS can be reached at 876-5397.

# Helicopter simulator attains 10K hours of flight training

By WILL NIKONCHUK  
T-BOS project lead

April marked a milestone for the Transportable Black Hawk Operations Simulator, the UH-60M flight trainer.

The simulator reached 10,000 hours of flight training provided for the Army since its initial fielding in January 2007. The seven total Army fielded devices have provided the backbone of all UH-60M flight training to date since the UH-60M initial key pilot training and the aircraft's first unit equipped.

In January 2003, the simulator program and device were conceived as a joint concept between AMRDEC's System Simulation Development Directorate,

the Utility Helicopter Project Office and local contractors. Under the direction of the UHPO, SSDD with the support of numerous local contractors designed the first simulator device. It was developed with the manufacturing assistance of the Prototype Integration Facility using the testing expertise of the Redstone Test Center and Fort Rucker's Directorate of Simulation.

These agencies employed local UH-60L and the UH-60M cockpit subject matter experts and test pilots resident within the UHPO, the Aviation Engineering Directorate, the Software Engineering Directorate and SSDD. The simulator design and development was a true government/contractor teaming

effort resulting in a robust training device.

The simulator, managed by the UHPO Assistant Project Manager for Training Aides, Devices, Simulations and Simulators, is a UH-60L and UH-60M flight trainer which is reconfigurable between either cockpit variant within four hours. It is capable of training 64 UH-60L critical tasks and 71 UH-60M critical tasks. It is fully transportable by the Army, Air Force and commercial modes and once in place units can start training within eight hours.

The simulator has been fielded in support of UH-60L and UH-60M flight trainer requirements at eight continental U.S. locations. It provides training sup-

port for unit pre-deployments, individual transition training and the UH-60M Mobile New Equipment Training Team. These activities have demonstrated the great flexibility offered by the simulator. The current T-BOS original equipment manufacturer has also provided two simulator production devices through the UHPO Foreign Military Sales office for foreign customers concurrent with the customer's purchase of UH-60M aircraft. The combined contract logistics support provided by Rockwell Collins and the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Implementation/Instrumentation keeps the T-BOS mobile and sustained to meet the Army's high operational demands.

## Tick

continued from page 9

to humans and pets as they walk by. Keep lawns mowed and remove brush and other vegetation near your home. Discourage wild animals from coming onto your property as they are often vectors for ticks. If you must be out in forested areas, use a commercial insect repellent effective

against ticks. In addition, wear long pants with the legs tucked into socks or boots and a long sleeve shirt tucked in. Light colored clothing will allow you to spot ticks more easily. Check every few hours for ticks if you are in the forest for a long time. After returning, remove all clothing and launder immediately, and check your body carefully, paying special attention to hairy or warm, moist parts of the body.

If you do find a tick, remove it by using tweezers to grasp the tick's head and pull

back slowly and steadily. Avoid pulling the tick out sharply as this may tear off the body parts and leave them imbedded in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts like you would remove a splinter.

After removing the tick, wash the wound site with soap and water and apply an antiseptic. Avoid crushing the tick with your fingers as this will transmit any disease organisms to your hands. Also, wash your hands with soap and water after removing the tick and clean

the tweezers with alcohol.

Ticks, unfortunately, are here to stay. But by following these preventive measures, you can make sure that ticks are one thing that won't be "bugging" you this season!

*Editor's note: Cherie Miller is the safety and environmental health coordinator at Fox Army Health Center. For more information on ticks and tick borne diseases, call Preventive Medicine, Fox Army Health Center, at 955-8888, ext. 1026.*

# 'All those innocent people died for nothing'

*Native of New York remembers the World Trade Center towers*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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New York native Charles Suddler remembers the World Trade Center as a prominent feature on the skyline of his hometown.

Born in South Bronx, he tried to get a job at the World Trade Center in 1980. He came to Huntsville in 1981 to attend Oakwood College and eventually started working at Redstone Arsenal in 1985.

Suddler, an education technician at School Age Services, was pleased with the news that an intelligence-driven U.S. operation in Pakistan killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden on May 1. Bin Laden and his henchmen planned and executed the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 that killed 3,000 innocent Americans in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania – and destroyed the World Trade Center.

"All those innocent people died for nothing," Suddler said. "These things (the WTC towers) should be standing up today. Those buildings are not there anymore. It kind of took a piece of my heart.

"He (bin Laden) killed all those innocent people. It was the United States getting revenge back. He deserved it."

Suddler's uncle Ernest Littles sent him an email April 27 from Trinidad, where Littles serves as president of the Tourism Development Company Limited. Littles retired from the World Trade Center the year before the towers fell.

"The destruction of the WTC is still painful to me," Littles wrote in his email. "Many good friends and colleagues and just plain good people were lost."

But there is optimism on the horizon through plans to rebuild the site with six new skyscrapers and a memorial to the casualties of the attacks.

"The new buildings are going to be nice," Suddler said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Charles Suddler, an education technician at School Age Services, shows a picture of the World Trade Center towers as they appeared when he lived in New York.**



Courtesy photo

## Second star

**Newly promoted Maj. Gen. Larry Wyche, deputy chief of staff for operations at Army Materiel Command, receives his two-star flag May 10. Presiding over the ceremony is AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody, left. Wyche, a native of Emporia, Va., was commissioned as a quartermaster officer in 1983.**

## Retired general officer dies in Huntsville

Retired Brig. Gen. Anson Wayne Schulz died May 3 in Huntsville. He was 74.

Following his retirement after 32 years of service, Schulz worked with Northrop Grumman Corp., Quantum Research, and RAM Inc. Most recently he was president of Modular Homes in El Paso, Texas.

He was born Nov. 12, 1936, in Crawford County, Ind. From February 1959 to April 1961, he served as an enlisted Soldier. He was then commissioned as a second lieutenant following completion of the Artillery Officers Candidate School.

Schulz served with the 8th (Hawk) Missile Battalion, deploying to Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also saw Vietnam service in 1967, 1971 and 1972.

A Naval War College grad, Schulz



**Retired Brig. Gen. Anson Wayne Schulz**

served tours of duty at Fort Hood, Texas, as well as with the Army Threat Analysis Division, Arlington Hall, Va., the 8th U.S. Army Korea, the Air Defense Artillery School, Fort Bliss, Texas and the U.S. Army Europe.

He was also the Patriot missile's Training and Doctrine Command weapon system manager. Pentagon service included duty as chief of staff, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

Survivors include his Huntsville native wife of 42 years, Nancy England Schulz, and two sisters, Carol Tomlinson of Sterling, Va., and Jane Falkenstein of Jefferson, Ind., as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was buried May 7 in Riddle Cemetery near English, Ind. A memorial service was held May 16 at Bicentennial Chapel.

# Pioneer platform soars to battlefield success

*Hunter recognized as workhorse of Army unmanned aircraft fleet*

By KARI HAWKINS  
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It was the first unmanned aircraft system to be tested. It was the first to be sent to the battlefield and is the Army's longest serving short-range unmanned aircraft system used at the corps and division level. It was the first to carry a weapon and the first to communicate with Soldiers on the ground.

Described as the workhorse for unmanned aerial vehicles and credited with paving the way for other unmanned aircraft to be developed and fielded, the MQ-5B Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle set the standard for the Army's unmanned aircraft systems program, which now flies a fleet of unmanned aircraft in both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the war fighter on the ground.

And it did so without a budget.

"This program has had a very interesting history. It started out rocky, but has been successful ... It has had a tremendous history," Col. Gregory Gonzalez, project manager for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, said.

"It was the little program that they thought couldn't that actually did. People had little faith in unmanned aircraft. This is a true testament of keeping behind a particular program to see what it can do."

On Thursday, employees of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office along with participants in last week's Aviation Synchronization Conference held at Redstone gathered for the dedication of a MQ-5B Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, which is now mounted on a platform just outside the Sparkman Center. The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Modernization Product Office coordinated the mounting of the Hunter display as a fitting representation of the Hunter team's continued support to the war fighter.

"It really is an event that requires special recognition for not only the aircraft itself, but also for the hard effort and work of employees, and the Soldiers and contractors who have been flying this very successfully for years and years," Gonzalez said.

The Hunter now on display is marked as 001, one of the first used for developmental testing and training.

"It represents the very earliest system that was fielded," the colonel said.

In 1988, a joint project office for unmanned aircraft vehicles was established with the Navy as the lead service. The mission was to develop short-range and close-range unmanned aircraft vehicles. Hunter was the first system developed, with 15 systems built by Israel Aircraft Industries and TRW in 1989.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Employees who have supported the Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle during a history of success are recognized by Col. Gregory Gonzalez during Thursday's dedication ceremony for a static Hunter display.**

In 1993, with testing complete, the Department of Defense ordered seven Hunter systems of eight aircraft each, for a total of 56 additional aircraft; and management of the program, known as the Remotely Powered Vehicle Program, was moved to Redstone.

"But then there were untimely incidences with the aircraft and in 1996 we terminated full rate production of Hunter," Gonzalez said, omitting it from the government budget process as a program of record.

"We almost got it into a program and then it was axed," said Bill Smithson, who has worked on the Hunter program since its inception.

In late 1995, Hunter was fielded at Fort Hood, Texas, and acceptance of the system was imminent, until the system had three mishaps in three months.

"We had three crashes. We did not know what was causing the problem," Smithson said.

Investigation of the entire procurement process and the Hunter system determined that a manufacturer change in the wing control system had caused the mishaps.

"So, we fixed the problem. But then all we could do was field and train until some other UAV system came along," Smithson said.

Even with production stopped, there were still more than 65 Hunters in the DoD inventory.

"The Army wanted to take advantage of the procurement. But it didn't have a specific mission and there was no program of record so it was hard financially," Gonzalez said.

Training with the Hunter was ongoing at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Fort Hood where Soldiers and civilian contractors learned how to operate and maintain it. But until there was a mission, Hunter was pretty much grounded.

And then came Kosovo in 1999. "We needed a real calling for these aircraft," Gonzalez said. "It was deployed to the Balkans for a NATO peacemaking and then peacekeeping mission."

Kosovo became the event that set the Army's unmanned aircraft systems program on its present day course.

"Hunter was the only UAV in the Army inventory," Smithson said. "It had a mission after all. It was a line-of-sight aircraft that had relay capability so it could fly dual missions in the mountainous terrain. It flew 4,000 hours a year, which was really only seven months because weather made it impossible to fly from October to February."

"We flew like that for four years in a row. The Hunter did a lot of great work and the Army began to recognize the valuable asset of UAVs for saving lives and situational awareness."

Then, in 2003, Hunter became the first unmanned aircraft to deploy to a war zone, going to Baghdad, Iraq, with the 3rd Infantry Division.

"Hunter was the only UAV initially there," Smithson said. "Hunter was the only thing we had to support the Soldiers and the commanders in the field. It was the only UAV asset in the war at that time. It was the only game in town."

Also, in 2004, the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Bureau, and Office of Air and Marine utilized Hunter under a trial program for border patrol duties. During this program, the Hunter flew 329 flight hours, resulting in 556 detections.

But Hunter's real contributions were on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, where its reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting and acquisition capabilities quickly won over Soldiers and commanders. Three Hunter units – Alpha 1st, Alpha 15th and Alpha 224th – rotated deployments into Iraq, and then Afghanistan. Besides Soldiers, contractors were also deployed to operate and maintain Hunter. Its operational availability has hovered at more than 98 percent since it went into operation.

The Hunter takes off and lands on runways, can fly more than 40 payloads and can carry up to 300 pounds of payload. Its imagery system allows data to be processed in a matter of seconds, providing virtual, real-time information of battlefield conditions and targets. The Hunter's enhanced imaging system allows commanders to detect, identify and track hostile activity and targets for external weapons systems or maneuvers and battle damage assessment, thereby enhancing the commander's ability to locate and identify friendly forces to avoid unnecessary loss of life and locate enemy targets.

**See Hunter on page 34**

# Military housing is where the home, heart is

*Families proud to call this installation home*

BY AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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It's safety and security. It's convenience and camaraderie. It's home.

For the 1,062 people that live within military housing on Redstone Arsenal, Redstone Communities isn't just any ordinary housing community – it's the place they deliberately chose to call home for the amenities and peace of mind it provides.

"We honestly try to fulfill all their needs and make it a comfortable space," said Brenda Haynes, community director for Redstone Communities.

Those needs range from not having to worry about mowing the front yard to knowing their children are safe and secure.



Brenda Haynes

Playing outside without the watchful eye of mom and dad was never an option for Ishmael Kambhampati, 8, before his parents, Staff Sgt. Randy and Jennifer, made the decision to move to Redstone Communities two years ago. Whether it was at their previous homes in Hazel Green or off Sparkman Drive, someone always had to be watching the then 6-year-old. For the safety of their children, which now includes Jonathen, 20 months, and Melissa Louise, one month, the Kambhampatis chose military housing on post, where their children are not only more notably secure, but surrounded by other children in the same boat.

"We don't have to worry about the neighborhoods too much," Jennifer said. "He can always run outside and play."

And so can Mom and Dad. At their home in the city, Randy wouldn't have dreamed of going for an after work run or walk through the neighborhood.

"The neighborhoods we were able to afford at the time, that was not an option," Randy said.

On post, the Kambhampatis not only find time for family and fitness on the walking trails, but are also able to walk to the Commissary for quick grocery trips, or to the Redstone Communities Welcome Center to say hello to the office ladies and grab a cookie. Randy, a gate guard on the Arsenal, enjoys the shortest of commutes which he makes either by bike or on foot when the weather is nice.

"I can walk for hours around base," said Jennifer, double stroller in hand with Jonathen and Melissa Louise strapped in nice and tight.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Approximately 1,062 people live in the 352 homes available through the Redstone Communities military housing on post managed by Pinnacle, which oversees the privatized housing for Hunt Development Group.**

Times have changed since retired Master Sgt. Edsel Hogan and his family lived on the Arsenal in the late 1980s and early '90s. Displaced by the April 27 tornadoes, Hogan and his wife moved into housing on post, surprised to see how different it was from their younger days.

"I've seen the changes since I was a Soldier," Hogan said. "It's awesome. Compared to the outside communities, it ranks right up there."

From the yard work provided by Redstone Communities to the upkeep of the homes, which Hogan said don't even look like military housing, the transition to

privatized housing has helped residents feel like they're part of both the Arsenal community and the community outside post, according to the Army civilian.

"If you had a child join the military, and they were stationed out here, they would have to be proud to drive by and say, 'I live here,'" Hogan said.

The improvements on housing are so noticeable, that if he could do it again, Hogan might just have a permanent address on post.

"If I didn't already own a home and was moving to the area, would I live on base again? In a heartbeat," Hogan said.

## Homeowners turned on to energy conservation

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Redstone energy manager Mark Smith doesn't just recommend an online informational resource for homeowners.

He uses it himself.

The Tennessee Valley Authority invites residents to take a Home Energy Audit at [www.EnergyRight.com](http://www.EnergyRight.com). You may also request a paper copy from your local power distributor or by calling 1-800-663-1835.

"Are your energy costs draining your budget?" TVA's Energy Right Solutions release asks. "The Do-it-Yourself Home Energy Audit tells you how to save money by saving energy. The Home Energy Audit helps you identify how your home uses energy and the steps you can take

that will yield the most money in energy savings.

"Complete the online or mail-in version of the Home Energy Audit and receive a free conservation kit and Home Energy Analysis Report. This report breaks down your home's annual and monthly energy usage by appliance and gives a number of recommendations to help trim energy use to fit your budget."

Lighting, heating and cooling account for about 40 percent of the average consumer's monthly energy bill in the Tennessee Valley region, according to TVA. Consumers who use all the contents of the free conservation kit could save from \$2 to \$4 on their monthly energy bills, depending on their individual energy use. Following all the recommendations from the audit report could save as much as 20 percent on annual energy costs.

Simple energy-saving tips include the following:

- Turn off lights.
- Replace standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Turn up your cooling system's thermostat to 75-78 degrees Fahrenheit. Each degree can reduce your cooling bills by as much as 5 percent.
- Turn down your heating system's thermostat to 68 degrees. Each degree can reduce your heating bills by as much as 3 percent.
- Avoid using electric space heaters.
- Use the microwave rather than your conventional oven as often as possible.
- Air-dry the dishes in the dishwasher.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Wash clothes in cold water.

Each conservation kit includes a

comprehensive "How to Save" brochure and two compact fluorescent bulbs that use 75 percent less electricity and last 10 times longer than traditional light bulbs.

The kit also includes:

- A filter whistle that sounds when the heating or cooling system filter needs to be changed.
- Outlet and light switch gaskets that help stop drafts and save energy.
- Two faucet aerators that serve as water-saving filters.
- A hot water temperature card that measures the temperature of tap water and indicates if a thermostat adjustment is needed to save money and prevent water scalds.
- An energy-use thermometer gauge that helps check energy costs for heating and cooling.

# Redstone Communities welcomes the Soldier home

*On-post housing provides option*

**BY AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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Redstone Communities has 352 ways every day to serve the Soldier.

“We do everything we can to make them comfortable and to make them happy,” Brenda Haynes, community director, said. “We want them to enjoy living here. It’s their housing and we hope we’re making an improvement upon their condition of living. Our needs are that we take care of our Soldiers and give them the best lifestyle possible.”

Approximately 1,062 people live in the 352 homes available through the Redstone Communities military housing on post managed by Pinnacle, which oversees the privatized housing for Hunt Development Group. Within the 352 homes, more than 30 floor plans are available starting with two bedroom town-homes with two and a half baths, going all the way up to five bedroom homes with three baths. Square footage ranges from 998 square feet all the way up to 2,266. Availability of floor plans depends upon rank; rent is determined by basic allowance for housing. Home amenities include carpet and ceramic floors, privacy fences, energy efficient appliances, garages and carports, central heat and air, blinds, trash and recycling pickup, ceiling fans and lawn care. Pets are welcome.

The amenities don’t stop when residents step out their front door. Playgrounds, picnic areas, basketball courts, and walking trails are all nearby, in addition to the added perks of having the Commissary, Exchange, Burger King, Post Office, Shoppette, Bicentennial Chapel and more right up the road. With FMWR offerings like the Firehouse Pub, Java Café, bowling center, golf course, gyms, pools, bingo and Outdoor Recreation, residents have little reason to travel off post if they don’t want to. If they do however decide to venture outside the gates, there’s plenty nearby to keep them occupied, like the Huntsville Botanical Garden, U.S. Space & Rocket



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Owen Sonnenberg, 8, runs through the sprinkler in his yard at Redstone Communities. Part of the appeal of the homes offered through military housing is the yard space, according to Ray Zapata, chief of the housing division in Directorate of Public Works.**

Center and Bridge Street, all within about a five mile or less drive.

“The convenience of it is fabulous,” Haynes said. “We’re located in a nice vicinity of all the family activities. The commissary, the pools, the gyms – we’re right in the middle of it.”

Eight neighborhoods comprise the housing area near Goss Road – Voyager, Freedom Landing, Columbia Center, Challenger Heights, Endeavor Village, Saturn Pointe, Pathfind Pointe and New Endeavor

– lending to the homey feel of military housing, where people don’t just know your name and your family, but also know what you’re going through.

“Most of them have a common employer, which is the Army,” Haynes said. “They have that common bond and it just makes it more of a community.”

“It’s the security, the camaraderie of living with those that you work with and deal with on a daily basis, and go through the same things that

you do,” Ray Zapata, chief of the housing division in Directorate of Public Works, said of the neighborhood appeal.

Military housing on the Arsenal is comparable to housing both off post, and on other installations. While the homes aren’t brand new, like at other installations, what they lack for in newness, they make up for in their aesthetic diversity and yard space. Currently, the housing area comprises 311 acres which the 352 homes are situated on – at Fort Lee, Va., about 1,500 homes are on the same amount of land, Haynes said.

“Each installation has its own ambiance,” Zapata said. “When I came here as a Marine, I’d had a certain perspective of Army housing, but the thing that struck me here as I looked through the neighborhood was how inviting this place was – as you drove through you saw the yards, the space between the homes, and quite frankly the homes. It felt homey and it almost felt like you weren’t aboard an Army installation. Folks come in here and their initial impression is this is home. This is family. It’s very inviting.”

Part of that family atmosphere comes from the outreach Haynes and her staff at Redstone Communities do to make post housing not just a mailing address and a place to sleep, but a place to live, relax and play. Redstone Communities hosts regular Community Information meetings – the next is June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. – in addition to other fun activities to bring the community together, like celebrating Resident Appreciation Week every year, inviting residents in for luncheons and cookouts, and dropping off the occasional bags of candy on doorsteps on holidays like Valentine’s Day. Ever cognizant of the fact that living on post is an option, not a requirement, Redstone Communities does all they can to serve their residents.

“It’s a choice,” Haynes said. “They don’t have to live here. It’s their choice. Our first and foremost responsibility is to our Soldiers and their families.”

For more information about housing available on post, visit [www.redstonecommunities.com](http://www.redstonecommunities.com).

# Area housing on target for Arsenal workers

*Healthy market offers best for home buyers, sellers*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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As Army recognitions go, the month of military housing is focused on the lifestyle of Soldiers and their families.

But at Redstone Arsenal, Soldiers are only a fraction of the workday population, with more than 36,000 Army civilians and contractors working on the Arsenal. Hence, the Redstone Rocket has taken the liberty to stretch the monthly Army theme to include a focus on the entire North Alabama housing market.

And when it comes to talking about the region's housing market, the best source of information is the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors.

The realtor association's region includes Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Cherokee, Etowah, Jackson, Lawrence and Limestone counties. The association's inventory averaging more than 3,300 properties in North Alabama can be viewed through the North Alabama Multiple Listing Service Inc. at the valleymls.com website. The association has a membership of about 2,800 licensed realtors.

And, it goes without saying, the realtor association's members are managing a growing housing market due to the growth at Redstone Arsenal.

"Between 2010 and 2015, we are seeing consistent growth in households and the population of the area," Oscar Gonzales, the realtor association's chief executive officer, said.

"The growth of Redstone Arsenal has been very much a part of our growth in the housing market, and the preservation of values and homes sales."



Photos by Ellen Hudson

**The Huntsville Area Association of Realtors home listings offer a wide variety of housing to meet all lifestyles, including homes in the master planned community of Providence in Huntsville, at top left; in the Highland Lakes neighborhood in Madison, at top right; and in the Heatherwood subdivision in Madison.**

The region is highly desirable to relocating home buyers for three reasons – the social component of the region that includes friendly neighborhoods and families committed to the area, the region's strong economic engine and the opportunity to purchase homes that are environmentally friendly.

But where those relocating home buyers end up living varies with lifestyle and personal choices.

"Relocating is always a challenge, especially if you are going from a large, metro area to a smaller area," Gonzales said. "Where you are coming from can influence what you are looking for. We've seen people who move from very



compact, urban areas who want to bust out in the countryside."

Ninety percent of homes sold in the region are in the Huntsville metro area. The average median price (the price that falls in the middle of the

**See Local on page 27**

# Fire safety should reside in everyone's home

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Fire safety is a matter of life and death for homeowners, and their children.

“The No. 1 cause of fires across the United States is in the kitchen,” fire prevention inspector Robert Johnson, of the Fire and Emergency Services fire prevention office, said. “The No. 1 cause of fire deaths is smoking-related materials.

“Across the nation, we lose about 3,000 people a year from fire deaths. Over half of those are children.”

Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them.

Here are safety tips from the NFPA:

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.

- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may imitate you.

- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.

- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features. Remember child-resistant does not mean child proof.

- Teach young children and school-age children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters.

- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.

- If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unduly fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department,

school or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts.

- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cook-

ing, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

- Install smoke alarms outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



# Buyer's desires drive home buying moves

*Realtors provide information on market based on what buyers want in new home*

By KARI HAWKINS  
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Finding a new or existing home to buy in the Tennessee Valley begins and ends with one consideration – personal lifestyle.

Questions on a home's location, size and amenities all have to do with the personal likes and dislikes of a buyer. And those questions are often influenced by a buyer's financial ability.

So, local realtors suggest that home buyers first visit a local lender to take a serious, objective view at how much home they can afford.

"You want to make sure you can afford the ideas you have for your new home," David Cox, a broker associate with Remax, said.

"Buyers have a preconception of what they can afford. But a mortgage company can tell



Photos by Ellen Hudson

**New and existing homes are in abundance for those in the home buying market. Finding the right one, though, relies on a commitment by the buyer to communicate their likes and dislikes to their realtor. Samples of local housing include, at top left, a home in the Madison's Highland Lakes neighborhood; at top right, an historic home in Huntsville's Five Points area; and, bottom, new construction at Central Park Lane in Mid Towne on the Park near Research Park, Huntsville.**

**See Buyer on page 28**

# Local

continued from page 24

highest priced houses and the lowest priced houses) for a home in the region is \$175,000. Between 33 and 40 percent of sales is new home construction. Sales of both new and existing homes have remained steady.

"We are seeing consistently a one to two percent growth in sales," Gonzales said. "There are seasonal fluctuations, but for the most part we see that sales are holding their own. We have not had the drastic drops that you have seen in places like San Francisco and Las Vegas. Our median house prices have stayed very stable."

Sellers and buyers both win in a market with stable median house prices.

"Our area offers preservation of home equity," Gonzales said. "People coming into the area can know that the house they buy will retain its value for when it's time to sell. Those buying homes can know they are going to get their investment back. From a housing standpoint, this is a very affordable region."

Yet, Gonzales warns that stable prices mean that home buyers shouldn't expect to find basement bargain prices on homes.

"We're not really a bargain market," he said. "We don't have a lot of foreclosures or short sales. We have good, healthy prices for sellers and buyers. We are a market that is steadily growing and healthy, and people enjoy living here."

**T**here are several variables that influence home sales. A buyer's lifestyle along with their age, race, gender, size of family, income and desired amenities all influence the types of neighborhoods and homes they will choose from.

"Where people are in their lives and who they are have a significant role in buying decisions," Gonzales said.

"For example, 51 percent of first-time home buyers are single women compared to only 10 percent of single men are buying homes for the first time. Many young buyers like the urban lifestyle. Families with young children will look in areas where there are good schools and commute times are short. Older buyers may be more interested in

moving out from the metro area because they want land and they don't mind the commute. Master planned communities have an appeal to all age groups."

Drive times are indeed having a more significant influence on buying decisions because of the increasing gasoline prices. That economic fact combined with the realization that new growth in the area is associated with Redstone Arsenal means the region's "natural growth" area is located west of the Arsenal in west Madison County and east Limestone County.

"That area is just exploding. The area's schools are also giving the area a boost because they have excellent reputations. Schools definitely contribute to an area's economics," Gonzales said.

While there is a variety in housing, Gonzales said most sales are for homes in the \$300,000 and below categories.

For those new residents moving to Alabama from other states, Gonzales said they are pleasantly surprised with housing prices and variety while viewing the state's Buyer Beware status as a significant negative.

"Buyer Beware states frighten a lot of people," Gonzales said. "Most states require full disclosure and their boards of realtors are very highly regulated."

"We are working on state legislation that will put mechanisms in place to protect home buyers and consumers. We do want tighter regulation and full disclosure. We recognize that if regulations are too tight they can choke a developer. But we need regulations that give consumers some comfort and confidence in buying."

**M**ortgage lenders also help to protect consumers by requiring certain standards for the homes they will finance.

Today's home buyer is educated and sophisticated, and relies on the Internet for housing information.

"Gone are the days when a buyer sits in a realtor's car, and drives and drives," Gonzales said. "When they come here, they already have information about the community and an idea of where they want to live. Realtors provide them with more in-depth information and knowledge, and shepherd them through the home buying process."

# Buyer

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them what they can actually afford. Before they start their search they need to be realistic about what they can afford and what they can qualify for. So, it really works to the advantage of a home buyer to go to a mortgage company before they start looking for a new home."

Knowing what they can afford also helps their realtors in choosing the types of properties and neighborhoods they should shop for, he said.

Location is the key to any home buy. But, location characteristics vary from buyer to buyer, said Landa Pennington, a realtor with Rise Real Estate.

"A lot of people are interested in the driving distance to work," she said. "The other big interest is schools. Those seem to be the two primary points of interest.

"Typically, families with school-age children are most interested in schools. However, those people who know they are going to sell their home in the near future want to make sure they are in a good school zone for resale purposes."

In determining where to buy, resale should always be a consideration, said Laurel Kennamer, vice president of sales and marketing for Jeff Benton Homes.

"Shop with resale and long-term du-

rability in mind," she said. "If you are having a home built, a builder's reputation for longevity, durability and quality will determine resale value."

A lot of personal factors can drive a buying decision, said Carey Rosenblum, a broker with Roseblum Realty. Home and community amenities vary from buyer to buyer, although there are some common trends.

"More and more buyers are interested in an additional room that they can use for a study or for a family room or even a fourth bedroom," Pennington said.

**A**menities such as a two-story house with a downstairs bedroom, size of rooms, number of bedrooms, room layout, exterior rooms and architectural touches all influence what a buyer likes and dislikes.

"It's not just square footage that's important. The livability and functionality of a home is so important," Kennamer said. "Does the way the house flows fit your lifestyle?"

Community amenities that are attractive include community pools, clubhouses, walking trails, tennis courts and golf courses. But, realtors warn, communities offering such amenities also come with housing association fees to cover the cost of maintaining public areas.

"The upkeep of community amenities is an indication of how much the home

builder really cares about the owners," Kennamer said. "Once the community is completed, those areas are turned over to a homeowners association."

Home buyers should also ask the tough questions about things like home repairs, home warranties, flood zones, taxes, neighborhood restrictions, utility expenses and other expenses that can drive up the price of a home.

"Because we are a nondisclosure state, buyers have to be a little bit of a detective. It's against the law to hide a defect, but you have to know what questions to ask," Rosenblum said. "Inspections also help to move the buying process along, and a realtor can help make a buyer comfortable with sales data that can verify if they have negotiated a good price."

Where a home buyer is in their life has a lot to do with the house and community amenities that appeal to them.

"What's important to them has a lot to do with whether they are a single person, a couple or a family," Pennington said.

Army civilians in the housing market because of a transfer to Redstone Arsenal often familiarize themselves with the area before beginning the house search. Buyers can visit valleymls.com to see photos and videos of homes for sale in the area.

"They typically start looking before

they get here. People are so Internet savvy these days that they find out all about the community before they start their search," Pennington said. "But because there are so many nice neighborhoods in the area, it takes a realtor to help them tour some different areas before they make a decision on where they want to buy."

Rosenblum said that, while searching online does start the home buying process, many buyers can also get overwhelmed by the online selection.

"Realtors can sift through all the superfluous information and get to what buyers really want," he said. "And even with the Internet you can get behind the curve because the information might not be current or correct."

**R**ealtors are willing to take time – a few hours a day for several days or a full day or two – to tour newcomers around the area to view different neighborhoods.

"You need to get a feel for the community and the area before you make a selection," Pennington said.

Kennamer suggests that home buyers walk a neighborhood, talk to residents and personally check out a neighborhood's amenities before buying.

"The Internet is a great resource. But it's really no substitute for talking to people and learning about the neighborhood on a personal level," she said.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Kitchen crew

Staff Sgt. Randy Kambhampati washes dishes while wife Jennifer gets help putting them away from sons Ishmael, 8, and Jonathen, 20 months, in their Redstone Communities home's kitchen.

## Baby sister

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ishmael, 8, and Jonathen, 20 months, Kambhampati watch their baby sister, Melissa Louise, one month, sleep in her cradle at their home in Redstone Communities. Staff Sgt. Randy and his wife Jennifer Kambhampati moved to Redstone Communities from off post for the added safety of their children.



# Mentoring program shares different perspectives

*Participants honored  
after six-month cycle*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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Gaining relationships, seeing views from other organizations and learning about balancing work with family. These are all benefits from a leadership development program at the Aviation and Missile Command.

Participants in the People Empowering People Mentoring Program's most recent six-month cycle, from Oct. 6, 2010 through March 24, were honored Thursday in an award ceremony. Cycle 11 of the program had 12 pairings of protégés with mentors.

"It's up to you now to take what you've learned and go apply it in your careers," AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister, himself a mentor, said during the ceremony.

Before delivering remarks and presenting certificates, he asked each protégé and mentor to talk about their experiences with the program.

"I learned a lot," protégé Jamie Candelaria of AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources) said. "It was a different perspective, a perspective from a higher level leader."

Her mentor was Judith Edmondson of Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity.

"It was just really a fun experience," said Edmondson, a third-time mentor.

Chronister told the protégés they should follow their mentors' example by sharing their knowledge with others.

"I still have mentors," Chronister said. "I still have a couple that I call and talk about things. It's constructive feedback."

The protégés included Candelaria, Birvid Atkins-Warner, Josh Cavanaugh, Cynthia Hawkins, Tammy Haynes, Patrick McAbee, LaDonna McCann, Dwayne McMichael, Joyce Oliver, Leslie Trippe, Cornelia Watson and Gary Whitley Jr.

The mentors included Chronister, Edmondson, Karen Bandera, Rick Irvin, James



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**From left, AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister listens to mentorship protégés Jamie Candelaria, Josh Cavanaugh, Tammy Haynes and Dwayne McMichael. In the background is Chronister's executive officer Patrick Newbold.**

Johnson, Lorraine Lacy, Lori Reynolds, Martin Roggio, Lisa Stangle, LiPi Su, Veronica Winston and Jeffery Young.

Art Ather, Deborah McLemore-Baugh and Christina Ridgeway served as guest speakers during the cycle. Florence Rice of AMCOM G-1 is the program manager.

# Radar course keeps students on track



Courtesy photo

**The five graduates of the Sensor Manager Leader Development Course include, from left, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Betzmer, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dareck Harris, Capt. Brent Johnson, 1st Lt. Michael Palanza and Air Force Master Sgt. Susan Sparks.**

By CLEMENT MORRIS

SMDC/ARSTRAT Missile Defense Training Division

The Directorate of Training and Doctrine under the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Future Warfare Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., conducted a pilot of the AN/TPY-2 (Forward Base Mode) Sensor Manager Leader Development Course on April 18-22.

The course serves to fill the requirement to educate senior leaders/battle managers on the technical aspects of the Army/Navy Transportable Radar Surveillance System. The five graduates received five days of training consisting of radar performance and employment, radar effects, system mitigation, and environmental impacts to the radar.

Susan Bancroft, Directorate of Training and Doctrine quality assurance and training developer, said the course kept the students engaged.

"It taught the students how to develop operation plans and courses of action to present to their leadership and develop comprehensive tactics, techniques and procedures for their operational mission," she said.

During a group feedback session, the students agreed that they thought having the system engineers participate in the dialog was productive and that the format of the program when designing TTPs and developing products was dynamic and rewarding.

The five graduates include Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Betzmer, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, SMDC/ARSTRAT; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dareck Harris, 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment, U.S. European Command; Capt. Brent Johnson, 357th AMD-D; 1st Lt. Michael Palanza, 357th AMD-D; and Air Force Master Sgt. Susan Sparks, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense.

The instructors are Steve Legarski, lead instructor, Directorate of Training and Doctrine; Norm Reich, instructor; and Chris Berisford, DOTD Sensor Management Course manager.

If you are interested in attending the course or to find out about other courses offered, call Clement Morris, chief of the Missile Defense Training Division, at (719) 622-2916 or email [clement.morris@smdc-cs.army.mil](mailto:clement.morris@smdc-cs.army.mil).

# Soldiers flip over realistic training vehicle

*Rollover simulator gets rave reviews*

By **RANDY SINIARD**  
AMRDEC public affairs

Imagine you are a young Soldier strapped into the seat restraints of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle ready to roll out on a night mission in Afghanistan.

You are ready!

You've got on all your body armor, and your weapon is secured at your side; in all you have 50 to 100 pounds of equipment that you'll need on your objective.

The driver starts the engine which rumbles to a low drone.

As the vehicle moves deliberately through the rocky terrain surrounding your base, nothing but darkness and maybe an occasional distant campfire on the horizon can be seen outside the vehicle while you sit with your thoughts about the mission racing through your head.

The truck begins its climb up the narrow road with the mountain on one side and the river on the other.

Suddenly the driver shouts, "Hold on, we're going over!"

The next thing you know, your feet are where your head used to be and there's water lapping at your forehead. Your vehicle has rolled over.

"Rollovers are the number one cause of non-combat related deaths in theater," David Scott Johnston, project manager for the Transportable Reconfigurable Integrated Crew Trainer, said.

What do you do now?

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Software Development and Engineering Center's Army Game Studio was commissioned by the U.S. Special Operations Command to build the Transportable Reconfigurable Integrated Crew Trainer.

It's a one of a kind.

Designed to provide egress training for individuals and crews, it has realistic physics, sounds and thematic feedback coupled with high-tech graphics to ensure full immersion for the senses.

The TRICT provides full driving motion and is capable of rolling 180 degrees in either direction and can be reconfigured for other joint tactical wheeled vehicles to include the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and MRAP variants.

"The TRICT was designed using the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, which is used in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as its template," Johnston said. "It was made to look and react as realistically as possible."

The Project Manager for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles website said,



Photo by Obert Merchant

**The Transportable Reconfigurable Integrated Crew Trainer simulates a rollover for its occupants by turning 360 degrees within its cradle.**

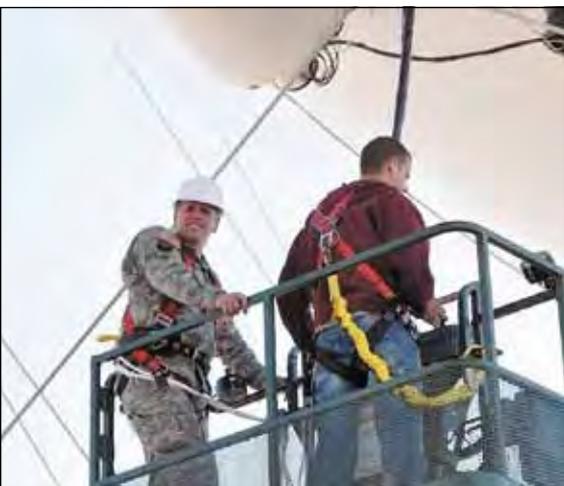
"MRAP Vehicles are commercial off-the-shelf vehicles designed from the ground up to reduce casualties and increase survivability for personnel subjected to ambushes and attacks. Multiple missions will be supported by the MRAP fleet to include recon, convoy operations, troop transport, ambulances, Combat Engineer and EOD missions."

Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is a fan of the trainer.

"I think SOCOM and the SED team have done an amazing job in developing a realistic integrated crew trainer that will save countless lives," Edwards said. "When I drove, we had a bit of a bumpy start. We went up an embankment, we were upside down immediately. That definitely helped me understand and appreciate the environment that our Soldiers face if there is a rollover in one of these vehicles."

"Everyone who's seen this system has been impressed," Maj. Chris Young, of headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, said.

## Elevated sensor system achieves 100th mission



The Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System has moved closer to a key developmental test this summer.

JLENS flew a landmark 100th mission March 31 at the Utah Test and Training Range.

Attendees included Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive officer for missiles and space; Col. Warren O'Donell, Cruise Missile Defense Systems project manager; and Dean Barten, JLENS

product manager.

JLENS is an Army led project for development of a sensor system to provide long-range target detection and tracking for superior land-attack cruise missile defense. The system will fill a crucial need by providing battlefield commanders with enhanced situational awareness and elevated communications, enabling sufficient warning for air defense systems to engage and defeat threats at ranges far beyond what current radar systems can support.

The Utah Test and Training Range sites will be used into fiscal 2014 for further system integration activities and for the developmental and operational testing needed to certify the systems as being ready for production and fielding.

Courtesy photo

**Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive officer for missiles and space, observes the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Elevated Netted Sensor System's fire control radar during JLENS 100th flight mission.**

# Volunteers

continued from page 12

"After the storm, they all left. Then folks started drifting back in. There was no home to return to. They were either destroyed or didn't have roofs to protect them from the rain."

Approximately 30 people spent the first night in the church. Eventually many of them were able to stay with family and friends and have received help.

"After the storm, the Red Cross designated our church as an emergency shelter," Tubbs said. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have also been helping people with claims with an additional team of four going out into the community to establish contacts.

Ray Sellers, an active church volunteer, has been lending a helping hand since the beginning of the recovery operations.

"This is a great community," Sellers, chief of staff for the Program Executive Office for Aviation, said. He has helped to cook, clean the bathrooms, mop the floors, wash the dishes and anything else that was asked. "Anything you can do is helping the church and the community. So many people just want to help and there are still a lot of people needing help out there," he said.

On May 3, Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, contacted Sellers to see if there was a way for Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary for the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, to help with the recovery operations. A native of Bell Buckle, Tenn., Phillips had originally come to Huntsville on a business trip. Sellers contacted Tubbs and Dave Bonwit, Good Shepherd's shelter team leader, and the ball started rolling.

And when given the chance, Phillips didn't hesitate to take the opportunity to give back. "I'm fired up," Phillips said.

"Today, our team is going to go out to some of the homes to cut trees, clear debris, help move items from people's houses and save items that can be salvaged," Sellers said.

**T**he first stop was to the residences of Dixie Trent and Vicki Bates. Bates' home was declared a total loss having had a tree fall through her house during the storm. She had taken shelter with Trent and considers herself very fortunate to have survived.

"These are just things. They can be rebuilt," Bates said. What she needed help with was to clear the debris from entrances to her house so she can re-

trieve what was salvageable and most importantly, the things that no one can replace. There were many mementos passed on to her by her father, who died April 26, 2010.

Trent was a bit more fortunate. Her home, while having sustained damage, was habitable and repairable. She did, however, need help clearing trees and taking the debris to the edge of the street where it could be collected.

The team's second stop was to the home of James Leslie, a Vietnam veteran whose house was declared a total loss. The house and where it stood held extra special meaning to Leslie however, and he decided to repair and rebuild where it was needed instead of having the house bulldozed. Leslie was excited when he heard Phillips was coming to his house. "I can't believe I'm going to have a general in my home," he said smiling.

Approximately 100 volunteers were swarming in and around Leslie's residence when the team arrived. The house had been in shambles just a few days prior. That morning, the new roof was almost complete.

"I am humbled by what they've achieved in just a short time," Phillips said of the volunteers. "I am amazed at the resiliency of this community and their willingness to help others and to give back."

Volunteers had been busy ripping out damaged floor boards, insulation, taking out debris and cleaning the area. Outside, teenagers and adults took turns breaking damaged blocks from the shed and salvaging those that can be re-used.

**V**olunteers were continuously buzzing around, picking up any tool that can be used and applying them where they were needed. Some shoveled debris onto wheelbarrows. Others hauled them away. Some carefully carried salvageable items and pieces of the house to the side. Others were continuously going in and out of the house to see what else needed to be done.

"It's inspiring," Bonwit, an employee of Stanley & Associates, said. "That's the only way I can describe it. Every time you turn around, there is somebody there."

The first day after the storm, Bonwit said there must have been thousands of volunteers that descended upon the neighborhoods and were quickly clearing debris and helping total strangers. "They were like worker ants," he said.

As the team drove through some of the devastated neighborhoods, electrical work crews, Red Cross trucks and cars with license plates from Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Texas and Missouri were visible at almost every turn. Overnight since the storm, thousands of volunteers have flocked to the area. Friends told

friends, and various church groups from different denominations arrived in teams. Eventually, the churches will adopt families and help them get back on their feet, Bonwit said.

"Having Lt. Gen. Phillips come out made a big difference to these families, especially to our veterans and active duty military members," Sellers said. "Phillips didn't have to come, but he chose to stay. It's a special moment for these folks to talk to a three-star general and see him get his hands dirty to help them out."

"It can get pretty emotional," Bonwit said. "People who have never had to ask for help in their lives. Now they need some help, and are too shy to ask for it."

**B**onwit and his team have knocked on doors, asking families what they need. "Usually the response I've gotten is, 'You should go next door to my neighbor' or 'You should stop by this other person's place. They need more help than I do.'

"They're still thinking about others even though you can see that they've just lost everything," Bonwit said. "And they still find ways to give back. What inspires me is that there are so many people willing to give whatever they have."

Bonwit was speaking of people like James Gresham, a Desert Storm veteran who lost his home from the tornado and spends all day at the church to help. And Kym Capps who has offered her time since the first day of the recovery operations to cook and feed three meals a day to all the volunteers.

"We have folks coming in from Tennessee that brought us supplies," Tubbs said.

Because of all the donations, the church is able to feed its volunteers three meals a day with snacks available

anytime for anyone.

"Feeding people and supplying them with basic needs are the least of my problems," Tubbs said. He never really had to ask for help. The day after the storm, hundreds of volunteers piled in and simply started to work. People around the community dropped off donations of food, clothing, bedding and diapers – almost anything anyone would ever need. Wilson Lumber donated a truck with lumber inside. "We've also been using it to store tarps and other supplies," Tubbs said.

"I am humbled by your service to the community," Phillips told Tubbs, Bonwit and Sellers. "It reminds me of the days growing up in Tennessee. Service to the community."

"I've done a lot of work," Sellers said, "(but compared to many in the church) I've just scratched the surface. Every time I come, these guys are already here (working). And they're still here when I go home. Continue your prayers for those who have been affected."

Although the church currently has plenty of goods, they can always use volunteers, help with cleanup and monetary donations.

As the team drove through the ravaged neighborhoods, they were struck by the contrast of the scenery. One moment, everything looked normal. The next, they found themselves looking at a neighborhood that was devastated by the storm. Homes splintered into pieces like matchsticks and wood chips spread across the lawn. Telephone poles wrapped around fences. Trees with trunks as big as a small house pulled out from their bases. Many with American flags waving as the only standing structure in a pile of debris.

And volunteers swarming like ants helping to rebuild the community.

## Research will help forecast models exploit the data from newest radar

Computer models used to forecast storms don't yet know how to take advantage of the additional capabilities that will soon be available from advanced dual-polarimetric radar units being installed around the country by the National Weather Service.

Scientists in the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville will spend the next three years studying how forecast models can best use the enhanced information from the new radar system to improve storm forecasts.

Dr. Xuanli Li and Dr. John Mecikalski at UAH, and Dr. Derek Posselt at the University of Michigan, supported by a \$445,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, will develop tools to help translate and input what the advanced radar units see into forecast models.

The weather service's NEXRAD Doppler radar units, which have been in service since the early 1990s, send out their radar signals in a single horizontal polarization. The advanced dual-polarimetric radar being installed around the country through 2013 sends out both horizontal and vertical radar signals. (UAH release)

# Artillery rocket system testing gets high marks

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – Altus airmen partnered with their Army brethren from across southwest Oklahoma, west Texas and Alabama for High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training.

The training helped to test the efficiency of the HIMARS weapon, which offers the firepower of a multiple-launch rocket system on a wheeled chassis. The 97th Air Mobility Wing offered an aircraft and its Joint Precision Airdrop System, which combines air drop and GPS technology. The combination of the two allows for a unique capability referred to as the “hot panel.” The launcher’s GPS can link into the transporting aircraft’s GPS antenna via the JPADS system. This capability allows the launcher to remain fully GPS-guided while in flight, so it is, fire-mission ready immediately upon landing.

To kick off the training event an aircrew from the 58th Airlift Squadron flew a C-17 Globemaster III to Fort Sill, Okla., where it began loading two of Fort Sill’s Bravo Battery 1-14 Field Artillery’s M142 HIMARS. During the loading the aircrew had a total of 40 people from Fort Sill, Redstone Arsenal and Dallas accompany the joint training mission. Once loaded, the crew flew to White Sands Missile Range, N.M., for testing.

“This event was the culmination of a multi-year development effort to enhance the capability and utilization of the HIMARS launcher on the battlefield,” Maj. Michael Fitzgerald, assistant product manager for HI-



**The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System shows its firepower during joint training by the Air Force and Army.**

Courtesy photo

MARS, said. “This capability effectively gives commanders in the area of responsibility the ability to employ this system in more areas given the partnership with the U.S. Air Force and the capabilities that both the HI-

MARS and U.S. Air Force bring to bear.

“The goal for this mission was to prove operationally the hot panel capability allowing war fighters to be in the driver’s seat the whole time. They

did exceptionally well and effectively demonstrated that this capability is ready for operational employment in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere as needed.”

The Bravo Battery 1-14 Field Artillery was able to quickly offload the aircraft, accurately fire their rockets and return to base safely. The combination of the HIMARS using hot panel and the C-17’s JPADS reduced Soldier’s presence on the ground significantly. This equates to lives saved in battle.

“This HIMARS mission was a capstone event – the culmination of all hot panel testing,” said Capt. Ryan Goodlin, C-17 formal training unit instructor pilot, tactics flight commander for 58th Airlift Squadron. The integration of the HIMARS hot panel and the C-17’s JPADS was not a quick process, but after several missions the capability was conclusive.

Joint training is conclusive because of the seamless partnership between the Air Force and Army. Goodlin said joint training is always important because it allows military forces to simulate actual combat operations similar to those required downrange.

“It is even more important in this case because of the cutting-edge capability that the hot panel-equipped HIMARS adds to U.S. operations,” he said. “When the Army calls upon the Air Force to deliver this strike package downrange in the near future, seamless integration is key. We must train like we fight.” (97th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs release)

## Hunter

continued from page 18

Northrop Grumman and TRW, which now provide equipment and support for the maintenance and sustainment of Hunter as well as its modernization, also equipped the Hunter with the GBU-44/B Viper Strike weapon system.

“History continues today. Hunter has flown 100,000 hours, with 70 percent of those flown in combat,” Gonzalez said. “It was the right answer at the right time. Its flexible capability made the difference.”

Plans to mount a Hunter air-

craft for display at Redstone began in early July 2010 with Maj. Calvin Lane, then the Hunter assistant product manager. Aircraft tail number 001 was delivered to Redstone in late September and was located at the Joint Software Integration Laboratory for the Redstone facilities personnel to take final measurements off the aircraft to begin the fabrication of the mount.

The structural design was finished in early October, and was completed and delivered by mid-January. The Hunter display mounting activities officially began April 5 and were completed the next day.

Gonzalez recognized several employees during the Hunter dedica-

tion, including retired Col. Michael Hamilton, who led the Hunter program during the Kosovo deployment; retired Col. Donald Hazelwood, who led the Hunter program from 2005-08; and Odeal Richardson, Dennis Radford, Ferne Wlodarski, Donna Hightower and Smithson, who have all worked on the Hunter program from its early years.

Hightower, the Hunter’s deputy program manager, was among many who appreciated the dedication event.

“It’s awesome. But really the key to all this are the Soldiers and all the lives Hunter has saved,” Hightower said. “The Hunter has helped

bring home Soldiers to their families.”

Even for all its success, Hunter is still not a budgeted Army program. And with other unmanned aircraft systems such as Shadow, Raven and Gray Eagle now in the Army fleet, it is unlikely new Hunter systems will be built to replace a now older fleet of 45 remaining aircraft.

“We operate on a shoe-string budget,” Smithson said. “But I still enjoy it. I love working with the Hunter and it’s a pleasure to get to talk to the Soldiers who operate it and maintain it in the field. We will continue to struggle to get funding while also working to help the war fighter out.”

# 'I've never wanted to be anything else'



Courtesy photo

**Fox Army Health Center nurses gather outside in celebration of Nurses Week, May 6-12.**



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Fox Army Health Center staff members take steps to improve their health at the Step by Step kickoff walk, which challenges individuals to walk 10,000 steps a day. The walk also celebrated the start of Nurses Week.**

*Nurses draw satisfaction in taking care of others*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Dianne Wilson was only 8 years old when her love for the 1960s TV medical drama "Ben Casey" became a lifelong calling.

Under the tree that Christmas, she found a Ben Casey nurse's uniform, complete with a hat and navy blue cape. Donning the present, Wilson decided her vocation then and there.

"I've never wanted to be anything else," she said.

For the past 37 years, 26 and a half of which have been spent at Fox Army Health Center, Wilson has worked as a registered nurse, caring for the sick and inspiring all to live a lifetime of wellness. While technologies have changed since she began her career at 15 as a nursing assistant, and the field of nursing, as well as her job description along with it, the one thing that brings her to work every day has remained constant: the patients.

"There's a personal satisfaction you get from taking care of people and their gratitude," Wilson said.

That gratitude was celebrated May 6-12 as part of National Nurses Week, an annual celebration that coincides with Florence Nightingale's May 12 birthday, which recognizes nurses for the tremendous contributions they bring to the healthcare field. This year's theme, "Trusted to Care" rings especially true at Fox, where nurses aren't trusted to care for just any patient – they're trusted to care for the nation's Soldiers and families.

"I enjoy working with people who are sacrificing themselves for their country and making it possible for us to have what we have," Paula Lara, a Fox licensed practical nurse, said.

Janet Grise, an LPN in the Warrior Medical Clinic at Fox, gave the military a try herself, but quickly discovered it wasn't quite for her. Today, the nurse of 12 years wears a different uniform, still serving, only in a different way.

"I cannot imagine working with any other population than active duty," Grise said. "I love the fact that I can help a Soldier get better and go back to serving our country and protecting my freedom."

Approximately 60 nurses work at Fox, who celebrated the occasion with a kickoff walk, as well as a luncheon and giveaways throughout the week. Without those nurses, healthcare at Fox, as well as healthcare across the entire world, wouldn't be what it is today.

"We set the stage for whatever encounter you're going to have," Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine, said of the role nurses play in patient care. "If we treat that person with dignity and respect and how you want to be treated, then that's how your visit is going to go."

The very fact that Fox commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson, is a nurse herself, speaks to the depth and breadth of the profession.

"It shows how versatile we are," Murray said. "Patient care is our main mission, but we're also leaders. We are encouraged by our chief of the Army Nurse Corps, Maj. Gen. Patricia Horoho."

Horoho was recently nominated by President Barack Obama to be the 43rd Army Surgeon General, which would make her the first woman and the first nurse to hold the position in the Army's 236-year history. If confirmed, she would also serve as commander of the Army Medical Command.

"FAHC's nursing staff are professional, dedicated and committed to excellence," Col. Celestia Abner-Wise, deputy commander for nursing, said. "We are very proud to serve our Soldiers, families and the entire RSA community. Thank you all for your continued support."

## Win or Lose

# Army baseball team splits doubleheader at Bucknell

By Army Athletic Communications

LEWISBURG, Pa. – Joey Henshaw and Brent Peterson combined to go 6-for-10 with one RBI and two runs scored to lead the Army baseball team to a 7-4 victory over Bucknell in the second game of a Patriot League doubleheader on May 1 at Depew Field.

Bucknell won the first game of the twinbill 6-4 as the Bison took three out of four games from the Black Knights for the weekend.

Army (19-24, 11-9 PL) finished in second place in the conference standings and entered the Patriot League Tournament as the No. 2 seed with a best-of-three semifinal series May 14-15 against third-seeded Lafayette (10-10 PL)

Bucknell (24-26, 10-10 PL) qualified for the conference tournament as the No. 4 seed and the Bison traveled to Annapolis, Md., to face regular-season champion and top-seeded Navy (12-8 PL) in a best-of-three series.

Henshaw and Peterson both went 3-for-5 at the plate in the nightcap as Army outhit Bucknell 14-7 in the contest. Clint Moore and David Darnell both drove in two runs apiece for the Black Knights, who jumped out to a 6-1 lead after four innings and held off Bucknell for the victory.

Gunnar Carroll (3-1) tossed three innings of relief to pick up the victory, and Ben Koenigsfeld worked the final two frames to earn his sixth save of the season.

Army jumped on top 2-0 in the top of the second inning in the nightcap as the Black Knights scored two runs on four hits. J.T. Watkins, Peterson and Cody Murtle hit consecutive one-out singles, and Darnell hit a sacrifice fly to center field to plate Watkins with the game's first run. Zach Price followed with an RBI double to center field to score Peterson and extend Army's lead to 2-0.

Bucknell sliced Army's advantage to 2-1 in the bottom of the third inning as Bob Donato walked, stole second base and scored on Doug Shribman's RBI single to left field.

Army blew the game open in the top of the fourth inning as the Black Knights pushed across four runs on five hits to extend their lead to 6-1. Peterson kicked-started the three-run uprising as he doubled down the left field line. He advanced to third base on Murtle's sacrifice bunt and scored when Darnell lined a single up the middle. Price singled to move Darnell to second base and both runners moved up on Koenigsfeld's groundout. Moore then delivered the big blow in the inning when he ripped a two-run double into the gap in left-center field to score both Darnell and Price. Henshaw followed with an RBI single into left-center field to plate Moore and cap the rally.

Bucknell made it 6-3 in the bottom of the fifth inning as Scott Glass hit a two-run home run over the left field fence, chasing Army starter Scott Lucado from the contest.

The Black Knights tacked on one run in the top of the sixth inning to push their lead to 7-3. Koenigsfeld reached on an error by the Bucknell first baseman, advanced to second base on a single by Henshaw, took third on Steve May's base hit and scored when Watkins reached on an error by the Bison shortstop.

Bucknell got that run back in the bottom of the seventh inning as Justin Meier doubled and scored on Drew Constable's RBI single to make it 7-4.

That was as close as the Bison would get, however, as Koenigsfeld allowed just one base hit en route to earning a two-inning save.

Bucknell opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning in the



Army freshman Brent Peterson went 3-for-5 in the Black Knights' 7-4 win over Bucknell.

Army Athletic Communications photo

opener as the Bison pushed across a pair of runs to establish a 2-0 lead. Donato hit a one-out double into the gap in left-center field and Shribman walked to put two men on board for Gerry Runyan, who ripped a two-run double to left center.

Army came back with three runs on three hits and one Bucknell error in the top of the second inning to take a 3-2 advantage. May led off the frame with a base hit and Watkins singled through the right side to put runners on first and second. Peterson then laid down a sacrifice bunt and Bucknell pitcher Trey Frahler threw the ball away trying to force May at third base, allowing May to score Army's first run. Murtle drew a walk to load the bases and Darnell hit a sacrifice fly to right field, scoring Watkins from third. Price followed with an RBI single to shallow center to send Peterson to the plate with the go-ahead run.

Bucknell surged in front 5-3 as Shribman crushed a towering home run over the wall in left field. Army starter Chris Rowley struck out the first two Bison batters of the inning, but Drew Constable singled and Donato was hit by a pitch to put men aboard for Shribman, who hit the second pitch he saw over the left field fence for his league-leading 16th homer of the year.

The Bison tacked on an insurance run in the bottom of the fifth inning as Matt Lamore belted a solo home run over the fence in right-center field.

Army rallied in the top of the seventh inning as the Black Knights put the tying runs on base with just one out. Koenigsfeld hit a one-out single and Moore and Henshaw drew back-to-back walks to load the bases. Koenigsfeld scored from third base on May's RBI groundout to make it 6-4, but Watkins bounced out to the second baseman with runners on second and third to end the game.

Dan Goldstein (2-0) picked up the victory after pitching 2.1 scoreless innings of relief. Steve Carlin worked the final 1.2 innings to earn his fifth save of the season.

Rowley (3-4) took the loss after yielding six runs on seven hits in six innings of work. The sophomore righty struck out six and issued three walks during the complete game effort.

Koenigsfeld collected two hits to pace Army at offensively in the opener. Both teams finished with seven hits in the contest.

# Rocket Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### 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](mailto:tkunhart@knology.net).

### Bicycle ride

The 10th annual Tour d'Arsenal, sponsored by the Mars Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling, is Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Marshall Space Flight Center's Fitness Center, building 4315 on Digney Road. It will finish from 6:30-7:30. Organizers are planning an after-ride get-together at the Firehouse Pub to celebrate the ride's 10th anniversary. For more information, call Jamie Miernik 544-6534.

### Titans football

The Rocket City Titans invite everyone to bring donations of food and clothing for disaster relief to their home game Saturday at Milton Frank Stadium. The National Guard, Life South and city officials will attend. Gates open at noon and the game starts at 7. Any fan who donates a bag of food, a bag of clothes or gives blood will receive a free ticket into the stadium.

### 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](http://www.HuntsvilleBootCamp.com).

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:alexa.deaton@idga.org) and visit [www.ArmyAviationEvent.com](http://www.ArmyAviationEvent.com).

### 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](http://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 email [sherry.hilley@us.army.mil](mailto:sherry.hilley@us.army.mil).

See Announcements on page 41

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

| ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>AS OF May 12 2011  | POSITION TITLE                                     | CLOSING   | ORGANIZATION            | PAY PLAN                    | GRADE | POT | PAY RANGE         | WHO CAN APPLY? |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|--|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-----|-------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |  | DATE      | LOCATION                | & SERIES                    | LEVEL | GRD | (FROM - TO)       | A              | B | C | D | E | F | H | I | R | T | V | U |
| <b>THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT <a href="http://WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL">WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL</a></b> |  |           |                         |                             |       |     |                   |                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| SCBK11042577  | Electronics Engineer                               | 18-May-11 | RDECOM                  | DB-0855                     | 3     | 3   | 69,930 - 108,102  | X              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| SCBK1198859R  | Mechanical Engineer                                | 20-May-11 | Dev & Engr Ctr          | DB-0830                     | 4     | 4   | 98,265 - 150,266  | X              | X | X | X |   |   |   |   | X | X |   |   |
| SCBK11041275  | Calibration Coordination Specialist                | 23-May-11 | AMCOM                   | GS-0301                     | 9     | 9   | 48,221 - 62,683   | X              | X |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| SCBK11022206  | Accountant (Internal Review Evaluator)             | 23-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0510                     | 13    | 13  | 83,156 - 108,102  |                |   | X |   |   |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |
| SCBK11959529R   | Career Mgt Spt Spec                                | 24-May-11 | ECC                     | GS-1101                     | 12    | 12  | 69,930 - 90,907   |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11962534  | Logistics Mgt Specialist                           | 24-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0346                     | 13    | 14  | 83,156 - 108,102  |                |   |   | X |   |   | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11052089  | Administrative Support Asst (OA)                   | 24-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0303                     | 9     | 9   | 48,221 - 62,683   |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11019135  | Medical Records Technician (OA)                    | 25-May-11 | Medical Dept Activity   | GS-0675                     | 7     | 7   | 39,422 - 51,253   | X              |   |   |   |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11864095R   | Supervisory IT Specialist (INFOSEC)                | 25-May-11 | ECC                     | GS-2210                     | 14    | 14  | 98,265 - 127,743  |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11975250R   | IT Specialist (SYSADMIN)                           | 25-May-11 | ECC                     | GS-2210                     | 12    | 12  | 69,930 - 90,907   |                |   | X | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11048541  | Logistics Mgt Specialist                           | 25-May-11 | USASAC                  | GS-0346                     | 14    | 14  | 98,265 - 127,743  |                |   | X |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| SCBK11951135  | Information Mgt Specialist                         | 25-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0301                     | 12    | 12  | 69,930 - 90,907   |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11978224  | Strategic Planner                                  | 25-May-11 | USASAC                  | GS-0301                     | 12    | 12  | 69,930 - 90,907   |                |   |   | X |   | X |   |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11642013  | Special Asst to the Commanding General             | 25-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0301                     | 15    | 15  | 115,588 - 150,266 |                |   |   | X |   | X |   |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11642041  | Supv Operations Res Analyst                        | 25-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-1515                     | 15    | 15  | 108,964 - 141,657 |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | X |   |   |   |
| SCBK11052213  | Resource Analyst                                   | 25-May-11 | AMC                     | GS-0501                     | 13    | 13  | 83,156 - 108,102  |                |   |   | X |   | X | X |   | 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.**

# Rocket Announcements

## Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 1217. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

## Information systems summit

The North Alabama Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association will hold its third annual Cyber Security Summit on June 9 at the Jackson Center, 600 Genome Way. More than 250 of the area's leading information systems security professionals from both the private and public sector and 25 vendors are expected. For more information or to register, visit <http://northalabama.issa.org/>.

## Tricare briefings

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

## Engineer society

Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers will meet for lunch Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn on University Drive next to Madison Square Mall. The topic is "Concrete Canoes," presented by Jonathan Thrasher and Dr. John Gilbert of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The spotlight speaker is Wayne Tansill of Essex Engineering Corp. The cost of the buffet meal is \$15. For reservations, email [deborah.paoline@parsons.com](mailto:deborah.paoline@parsons.com) or call 217-2511.

## Air defenders

Air Defense Artillery Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will hold a spring social June 7 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub (Skybox). This event is free to corporate and individual ADAA members. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. For more information, email [corby.dellarocco@smdc.army.mil](mailto:corby.dellarocco@smdc.army.mil).

## 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 Friday 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). For more information, email Stan Miller at [stanta.miller@gmail.com](mailto:stanta.miller@gmail.com). To register, visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1329441395>.

## Weight watchers

Weight Watchers at Work meetings are held Thursdays at the Sparkman Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Weight Watchers new PointsPlus program makes it easy to lose weight without that dreaded four letter word 'diet,'" a prepared release said. "The Weight Watchers PointsPlus program works because it's not a diet. You'll learn how to eat right and live healthy. The PointsPlus program is based on the latest nutritional science, and factors in the way your body actually processes food. Combined with the proven advantages of the Weight Watchers approach, the program helps you make healthy choices for long term success." For more information, call Pat Sandy 313-5655 or e-mail [pat.sandy@us.army.mil](mailto:pat.sandy@us.army.mil).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Civilian deployment

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

### Surplus sale

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

### Officer recruitment

Interested in being an Army officer? If you have completed a four-year college degree and are interested in the opportunities being an Army officer can provide, call Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

### Flight training

If you're interested in becoming an

Army aviator, you can apply for the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program by calling Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

### Fraud hotline

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

### Prior service military

If you are prior service military without any military service obligation and are interested in joining the Army Reserve, call Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Maxwell 518-3972 or his cell phone (877) 230-3270.

### Mr. Man pageant

SB Productions is gearing up for the 2011 Mr. Man Premiere which will be held Aug. 27 at the Huntsville Embassy Suites. "The quest for the 'total package' will yield lessons in etiquette, redefining giving, show personality, and project character through performance," a prepared release said. Twelve selected finalists will face a panel of six judges to determine who will win the title of "Mr. Man." This year's event has partnered with Heals Inc., a nonprofit organization in Huntsville that provides free school-based primary medical and dental care for children. And a portion from the event and a Silent Auction will be donated to Heals Inc. For more information, call Samuel Brown 683-3083 or visit [www.mrmanpremiere.com](http://www.mrmanpremiere.com).

### 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.

### Motorcyclists' benefit

Wingstock XI, to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities and Children's Hospital in Birmingham, will be held Saturday and Sunday 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.

### 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.

### Education test center

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

### 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](mailto:renee.kelly@knology.net), Cynthia Hughes at [chugh1@hotmail.com](mailto:chugh1@hotmail.com) or call the church office 837-2335 from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

### 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>.

### NCO Academy finale

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy

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# Rocket Announcements

will hold a Colors Casing Ceremony on June 2 at 10 a.m. at the NCOA field directly behind Woodward 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 be retired Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas M. Young, the first commandant who stood up the academy in 1987.

## 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 Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Online registration is available at [www.naita.org](http://www.naita.org).

## Commissary news

The "Worldwide Case Lot Sale" arrives at Redstone's Commissary Thursday through Saturday 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](http://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 maxi-

mum of two requests not to exceed a total of \$1,000, according to a Garrison release.

## Signal battalion reunion

279th Signal Battalion (Alabama Army National Guard) Reunion Dinner will be held June 23 at 6 p.m. at Top of the River, 7004 Val Monte Drive in Guntersville, phone 582-4567. Members of the 279th Signal Battalion, as well as spouses, are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Robin Grubis 603-3201.

## Intelligence training

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Military Intelligence Association will provide an Advanced Geospatial Intelligence familiarization on Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Dynetics, 1002 Explorer Boulevard in Research Park. This one-day course will be conducted at the TS/SCI level and appropriate clearances are required for attendance. The familiarization is appropriate for new analysts and an update and refresher for the more seasoned intelligence professional. Any questions regarding security clearance should be addressed to Donna Webster at [donna.webster@dynetics.com](mailto:donna.webster@dynetics.com) or 964-4362. The fee is \$200 for NMIA members, \$250 for non-members. Lunch is included. CEUs will be provided. For more information, email Stan Miller at [stanta.miller@gmail.com](mailto:stanta.miller@gmail.com). Register at <http://tennessevalleynmia.course19may2011.eventbrite.com>.

## Space museum news

The famous dinosaur A.T. rex Named Sue will soon roam the halls of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Sue is on her way to north Alabama, and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center will host the exhibition Saturday through Sept. 5. This showcases the most complete tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered. More than 7 million people have seen Sue during the tour, which has visited museums worldwide. The exhibit was created by the Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation. Admission to the dinosaur gallery is free with a paid admission to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. For more information, visit [www.ussrc.com/exhibits](http://www.ussrc.com/exhibits).

## Summer reading

The Summer Reading Program for youngsters through age 18 will begin June 1 at the Post Library. Pick up your reading log at the library or at Child Youth and School Services. Participants get credit for 25 free pages each time they check a book out from the library, and incentives will be given out throughout the summer. All reading logs must be turned in by 6:30 p.m. July 21 to the library or CYSS. Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton will present awards at a special recognition ceremony July 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the School Age Services building. Call the library 876-4741 for more information.

## Marine Corps car tags

Alabama has a new Marine Corps tag.

All residents of Alabama who are active, retired or honorably discharged veterans of the Marine Corps can purchase this license plate. One of the following documents must be presented to the license plate issuing official: military ID, a Leave and Earnings Statement or a DD form 214.

## Science/engineering scholarships

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers, which offers five scholarships yearly to encourage college students in the areas of science and engineering, is extending the deadline for applications. "The board of directors felt that some students might need a little extra time due to the recent outbreak of tornadoes in North Alabama," scholarship chairman Charles Joyner said. The new deadline May 25 applies to all transcripts and appropriate letters as well as student input, and will not be extended. Details and applications are available on the post website at [www.samehsvpost.org](http://www.samehsvpost.org).

## Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various non-profit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. RSVP recruits, places and trains individuals who are age 55 or more to fill community service needs. Volunteer opportunities are for partner organizations or the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center. For more information about RSVP or volunteer opportunities, call RSVP director Pamela Donald 513-8290 or email [pdonald@seniorview.com](mailto:pdonald@seniorview.com).

## Reading with Taka

The Post Library will present the "Tales with Taka" reading program the second Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon during the sum-

mer. The dates are June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10. 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.

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop welcomes disaster victims from the recent storm to come in to get clothing and other necessary items. 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. Its phone number is 881-6992. Donations are always welcome, as are volunteers.

## Employment overview

Need help understanding how to apply for federal jobs? Reserve a seat for the Federal Employment Process overview June 2 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct this session. Topics will cover various recruitment sources, application procedures, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. This session is open to all military ID and Common Access Card holders and their spouses. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397 or email [debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil](mailto:debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil).

