

# Redstone Rocket

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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

## Weather wreaks havoc in region

*Arsenal closed for days, basic services provided*

By KARI HAWKINS  
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Redstone Arsenal's military, employee and retiree base reaches throughout North Alabama and South Tennessee. And so does its concern when those Arsenal community members along with their families and neighborhoods are threatened by devastating disasters.

Concern for the welfare of Arsenal community members as well as for residents throughout the area turned into real-time action in the days following April 27, when numerous tornadoes brought destruction to North Alabama.

"We're very fortunate the Arsenal itself has extremely limited physical damage," said Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton. "There are some trees down and some roofs damaged. But physical damage has very little impact on the Arsenal itself."

Yet, during a Friday overflight of the areas affected by the tornadoes, Arsenal leaders could see "huge patches of destruction from multiple tornadoes all around the Tennessee Valley, all around Redstone Arsenal and all around Huntsville. The city was impacted more on its periphery," he said.

On Redstone, as electrical services came to a halt around 5:30 p.m. April 27, generators were activated immediately to ensure critical services continued, including Arsenal support of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Marshall Space Flight Center's support to the space station and the upcoming space shuttle launch.

"Strategic hubs that are needed to stay up 24/7 have backup generator power," Hamilton said. "But if power is out for an extended period of time (more than a week), there will be an impact on everyday support that goes beyond the critical mission support."

During ensuing days, the Garrison responded to community needs, opening its stores and providing social services to Arsenal-connected families impacted by the tornado or the loss of electricity.

Emergency support actually began at 6:30 a.m. on April 27 when the Garrison's Installation Operations Center began operating under full alert based on weather reports of impending tornadic activity in the area. Daily watch operations in the IOC include the employees of the Garrison's Current Operations Branch, but that team grew as activation of the

See Weather on page 20



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Tim D'Ambrosia of the Installation Operations Center, at right, talks with Garrison employees Edd Gancarz, standing, and Paul Walters about providing emergency support to the Redstone Arsenal and local communities following the April 27 tornado disaster in North Alabama. On a daily basis, they are members of the Garrison's Current Operations Branch that monitors, assesses and plans for emergency situations on the Arsenal.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Retired Chief Warrant Officer Howard Lockwood, who works for the Missile Defense Agency, tops off his Dodge Dakota at the Shoppette on Saturday. Although the car line was long, he said he only had to wait 15 to 20 minutes to fuel up. "They're moving pretty good," he said. "But when I got in line, 20 cars got in right behind me."**

### HAIL AND FAREWELL

Sandra Boyd retires from Fire and Emergency Services after 20 years.

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### AROUND TOWN

General officers discuss missile systems on horizon.

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### HELPING HANDS

Leaders shoot free throws for Army Emergency Relief.

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### WIN OR LOSE

Army baseball team earns doubleheader sweep over Lafayette.

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# RocketViews

What's special about your mother?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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**Morgan Ridinger**

University of Alabama student

"She is a stay-at-home mom so she has always been there for me when I was growing up. And she's always been around so I feel like that's really a special thing."



**Sedic Pennington**

AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs Office

"My mom's just one of the strongest people I've ever known. Any challenge that she has she just meets it head-on

and succeeds beyond expectations. She just supports me and my sister so much. She's our biggest supporter. I just don't know where I'd be without my mom."



**Kiera Gaines**

Goss Road Child Development Center, Pre-K Class, age 4

"She gives me some candy. I like when I watch TV with her. I love playing with my mommy."



**Spc. Aaron Gutierrez**

AMC Band

"She has unconditional love no matter whether I've made a mistake or not. She's always there to support me."

## Letters to the Editor

### Everyone responsible for preventing sexual assault

During April the Army observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the sixth consecutive year. The SAAM presents an opportunity to focus our efforts on sexual assault awareness and prevention.

This year's Department of Defense SAAM theme was "Hurts One, Affects All... Preventing Sexual Assault is Everyone's Duty." The 2011 campaign focused on the effects sexual assault has on the military's mission readiness. Throughout the military, mission readiness defines a unit's ability to deploy quickly and efficiently, determining its competence to tri-

umphantly deter war and protect the security of our country. A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by harming the life of the victim and the military's ability to work effectively as a team.

The Army is fully committed to assuring the victims of sexual assault are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. We protect victims through a combination of reporting options, victim advocacy and other military and civilian sources of support and intervention. The key to effective preven-

tion is a commitment from command and all members of the community to assist in this effort. Bottom line: We need everyone's support!

To report a sexual assault, discuss the options of restricted and unrestricted reporting, or to learn about prevention services, contact your unit victim advocate or the sexual assault response coordinator, Colleen Nicholson of Army Community Service at 876-5397 or after duty hours at 508-6613.

**Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers**

AMCOM and Redstone commander

## World War II Soldier's tribute to his dad

In reorganizing and scanning my dad's writings and mementos (finally!) from his time in the Army (he died in 2001), I came across this letter he wrote to his father while he was stationed in France. My grandfather worked at a camp in Tennessee created to support the war effort and passed it to the camp newsletter to use.

I thought you may want to incorporate some of it into an appropriate message for a veterans event. Too bad Veterans Day is so far away!

My dad was very much a writer through-

out his life – he always wrote down his thoughts and feelings, especially during World War II.

If you can't use it, that's OK – I won't be offended! It makes for some interesting reading, at the very least.

**Carolyn Cunningham**

Security manager,  
Army Contracting  
Command-Redstone

*Editor's note: The following is the text of Cliff Cunningham's fourth letter from France to his father during World War II.*

*"This is a special letter to you from your son on the beachhead in Normandy. Dad, I realize that I let Father's Day slip by without a special acknowledgement to you. This is to be just that, although it is late.*

*"You see, Dad, my memory flits back to the day when I first said goodbye to you. It was in the early month of 1940. I know it made you (sic) and for I think you realized that I was growing up, having ideas of my own, and that I'd never be at home with you again.*

*"Yes, I live again that day as I left in the*

**See Letter on page 3**

## Remembering Alan Shepard: America's first astronaut

Alan Shepard was selected as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts along with Gordon Cooper, Scott Carpenter, Gus Grissom, John Glenn, Wally Schirra and Deke Slayton. This was the beginning of the brotherhood of space flyers under the NASA banner. These former military fighter and test pilots had competed for years for the best flying jobs in

the services. Now in 1959, they were competing for rides on rockets to space and maybe the moon. This was the ultimate – a chance to ascend to the top of the pyramid.

Shepard and his Mercury friends first visited Huntsville in 1959 to meet the rocket man, Wernher von Braun, and check out the Redstone that they were to ride to the edge of space. Shepard earned a reputation as an egotistical, arrogant, cocky fighter pilot. He had the credentials – U.S. Naval Academy graduate, naval aviator, fighter pilot, test pilot – and now, astronaut.

Von Braun toured them through his rocket factory, showing them the Redstone being fabricated and assembled. Shepard wanted to get to know the man who was going to provide the rocket power for his

ride into space.

Shepard was to ride the souped-up Redstone, which the Army called "Ole Reliable" because it was the Army's most successful ballistic missile. The Redstone was now being modified and "manned-rated" to carry the Mercury capsule, and astronauts to the edge of space. It would be the first time that Huntsville and NASA would integrate a rocket, spacecraft and man into a system and launch it. Years later Shepard asked, "What did von Braun and you guys up in Huntsville do to man-rate that Redstone I rode?" I told him they extended the fuel tanks and added more dynamite to the destruction package. I don't think that was the answer he was expecting.

**See Shepard on page 18**

## Quote of the Week

**I** remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.'  
— Abraham Lincoln

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Army photo

## Little Soldier

**Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Field, 7, stands with his squad during a farewell award ceremony April 15 at Barlow Theater on Fort Riley, Kan. The Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to grant Ian's wish to become a Soldier. Ian is battling Duchenne muscular dystrophy.**

## Letter

continued from page 2

early dawn. Chockingly (sic), I uttered a soft goodbye, clasped your hand – then turned and stumbled blindly down the path.

"And many moons have shone since that day, but I remember that I was determined and later I returned, but only to leave again, and more farewells and saddening embraces. It was while I was away after this second parting that I became a Soldier in the U.S. Army.

"Dad, many people couldn't understand why I left my wife to volunteer for the service. I didn't try to explain to many of them for they wouldn't have understood, but my wife understood. You see, I had tired of the men around me for they were "shirkers" who always try to gain for themselves regardless of the cost to others. I can't stand that type so I entered the armed forces where I could find a suitable position, and at the same time work for a common cause.

"Well, Dad, since taking the oath, I've been far but I've always been happy, for I've known that it is for a worthy cause.

"First to North Africa, then to Sicily, and finally back to England. (I liked England, Dad.) But that wasn't the stopping point, for as you know, my outfit helped to assault the so-called "Fortress Europe" on the historical D-Day of June 6. And since that day, Dad,

I've lived a thousand lives within one short month. Yet, regardless, I've always tried to do my duty and I believe that I have. That's one thing that gives me great satisfaction – first, knowing that I've done a job well. (I inherited that from you.) Of course, I make many mistakes, and meet with many failures, but I try to never make the same mistake twice. You know, Dad, I have something to goad

me on and encourage me to be brave. A few weeks past, a pal of mine was cut down by a sniper. And I was by his side as he died. Funny thing, some people may think that a fellow cries out in panic when they come face-to-face with death. Maybe some of them do, but not this boy. In a tone softened by swiftly waning strength, he said, "George, is there holes in the back of my jacket too?" (I hope that I can be that nonchalant if I ever get it.) Then, in a weaker tone, he told me to take his watch and ring – but of course, I didn't. No, Dad, I don't ever want to forget that – I want to ever keep it in front of me to lead me on when I get afraid (and I am afraid sometimes, Dad). Then when this is all over, it can lead me on and ever on in an undying effort to do more than my part in helping to make our civilization better.

"Yes, Dad, these are the thoughts of a young man at war, talking to his father thousands of miles away. This is my way of paying tribute to you, and thanking you for the fine lessons you taught me during those days when I depended so greatly upon you. May God be kind to you, Pop, and never let you stop smiling as the years come and go.

"Sometimes when I lie sweatin' it out and "jerry" shells are creeping nearer and nearer, I think of the days when you took such a deep interest in helping me and shielding me. Now I'm on my own, and I try to keep thinking of the fellows around me and not myself. For I think that's the way you'd want it.

"So when you hear the news from the Normandy front, just remember that your son is out there trying to do his part to keep the Allies moving ever forward.

"If something should happen that I never get back, please be kind to my wife. She worries because Mother doesn't write. Now Dad, I'll say cherrio (as the British do) and all the best. With all the kindness of a son's love for his Dad. – Cliff"

## Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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**Name:** Leah Fox

**Job:** Acting safety manager for the Garrison

**Where do you call home?**  
Cape Canaveral, Fla.

**What do you like about your job?**

Every day is a different day. It's very challenging. I'm learning exponentially. I'm learning something every day. There isn't a day that I go home without learning something that I didn't know the day before. And I like the team that I work with. I like the guys in the office.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Watch sporting events with my son (Gabriel, 8). And maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**What are your goals?**

Vast and many. I don't know. There's so much I want to do, be involved with.

**What's at the top of your "bucket**



**list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?**

I want to hike to Base Camp of Mount Everest – not to the top. I just want to go to Base Camp. I've always had that goal. I've always wanted to visit the country and I have a fascination.

## AMC commanding general arrives at Redstone

By **BOYD COLLINS**  
Army Materiel Command  
public affairs

The Army Materiel Command announced the arrival of commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody at Redstone Arsenal on April 25.

Dunwoody completed her move from Fort Belvoir, Va., and arrived at her command's new location at Redstone. She and her husband, retired Air Force Col. Craig Brothie, join an already robust and productive AMC team of approximately 800 employees at Redstone.

Dunwoody and the entire AMC family are happy to be in Huntsville. The outpouring of support and the warm welcome from the Tennessee Valley com-



**Gen. Ann Dunwoody**

munity have made the transition easy for the employees and their families.

Although Dunwoody is senior in rank, the Aviation and Missile Command's commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers remains the senior mission commander for the installation.

Dunwoody is the first female four-star general in Army history. She became AMC's

commander Nov. 14, 2008.

AMC, one of the largest commands in the Army with more than 70,000 employees, impacts or has a presence in all 50 states and in 155 countries.

Dunwoody and her husband will reside on post, along with their dog, Barney.

## New Parent Support Program delivers help, education

*Peace of mind  
for mom, dad*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer  
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They come with no instruction manual.

It's hard to find anything today that doesn't come with a how-to manual – even a cup of coffee can come with a warning label – but the greatest possession a person can have, a child, arrives with little to no direction. Charlene Cox and Army Community Service's New Parent Support Program are filling that void.

"I want to help anybody out there," Cox said.

Offered for parents with children newborn to age 3, the program is open to all active duty military, including active Reserve and active National Guard. Whether it be a parent's first-born child or their fifth, education, help and relief are available. There is no charge for the



services provided.

"This isn't saying you're not smart enough to take care of your baby – this is just saying you're just as likely to get stressed or overwhelmed with a new baby as anybody is," Cox said.

The New Parent Support Program provides military families with baby bundles, referrals to outside services, access to educational materials on parenting

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**An 11-month-old plays at a ChildWise Play Morning, sponsored by Army Community Service, held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

like the book "What to Expect When You're Expecting," classes, and home visits, provided by Cox. Ideally, Cox likes to connect with new moms prior to the baby's birth, when the time for education is plenty, before the dirty diapers and late night feedings take their toll.

Meeting monthly with them until they're due, Cox will try and visit the new family in the hospital, in addition to meeting with them two more times at home after the baby is born, more if the family needs or desires it. While educating parents on things like shaken baby syndrome, baby proofing the house and how to take their child's temperature is an important aspect of Cox's role as new parent support program manager, sometimes just being there to listen is even more important for the new parents.

"It's just nice to have somebody to talk and vent to," Cox said.

In addition to an open ear, Cox not only brings the expertise from her previous career as an RN, but also of having been there and done that when it comes to being a new parent.

"I was a nurse. I worked in the pediatrics newborn unit. I was going to be the Super Mom," Cox said. "Three days after we got home from the hospital, I was asking

myself, 'What am I going to do now?'"

The program's quick and easy classes, typically held once a month for an hour and a half, are on topics designed to expand parenting knowledge and the way families think about their role as parents. The next class will cover how to keep your child safe from abuse, June 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the ChildWise building, 1413 Nike St., upstairs. A class just for dads on fathering skills will be held July 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the ChildWise building. Both classes are free, and childcare is provided with reservations. To reserve a spot call 876-5397.

Parents in search of some time with grown ups can stop by the program's Play Mornings, where kids can be kids, and moms and dads can indulge in adult conversation. For those military parents, the chance to be with people that understand exactly what they're going through is crucial.

"Nobody knows what they're going through but another spouse," Cox said. "Sometimes you just need somebody who has a connection with the military."

All parents on the Arsenal can take advantage of the program's Play Mornings, which are open to anyone with access to the installation with children newborn to age 5. The play group is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the ChildWise building.

For more information about the New Parent Support Program, call Army Community Service at 876-5397.

# Army to inactivate Accessions Command

By Army public affairs

WASHINGTON – The Army Accessions Command will be inactivated as part of Defense and Army efficiency reviews, officials announced April 20.

The decision is a result of a comprehensive study to develop appropriate options for the alignment of commands that fulfill human resource functions, said Mark Davis, director of the Strategic Initiatives Group, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

“This decision will lead to the streamlining of the Army’s accessioning process and will produce economic savings by de-layering the command structure without increasing the risk to the Army,” Davis said.

In his memorandum to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Secretary of the Army John McHugh outlined five decisions:

- Inactivating Army Accessions Command
- Realigning Army Recruiting Command and Cadet Command under the Army Training and Doctrine Command
- Continuing to align Human Re-

sources Command under the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1

- Establishing an Army Marketing and Research Group in Washington, D.C.
- Retaining the Accessions Support Brigade at Fort Knox, Ky.

The realignment calls for establishment of an Army Marketing and Research Group, for national and corporate



Photo by Pfc. Melonie Foster-Mays

**Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commander of the Army Accessions Command, talks to ROTC cadets during a break in their training. Defense Department officials April 20 announced a decision to deactivate Accessions Command over the next year to 18 months.**

marketing and research, as a field operating agency to ASA (M&RA) in the Military District of Washington.

Additionally, the Accessions Support Brigade at Knox will be aligned to the

**See Command on page 8**



Photo by Beth Clemons

## Contracting workshop

Army Contracting Command Office of Small Business workers, standing from left, Darlene Brakefield, Alice Williams, Constance Jones and Chris Evans answer questions during the Small Business Workshop. The training was held April 26 in coordination with the Women’s Business Center of North Alabama at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 40 small business owners attended.

# Shoplifting drops 64 percent at Redstone's Post Exchange

Crime doesn't pay at the Post Exchange.

An abundance of shoplifting prevention measures such as eagle-eyed Closed Circuit Televisions with DVR technology, expanded use of high-tech Electronic Article Surveillance and an aggressive youth awareness campaign produced a decrease in theft at the PX of 64 percent last year, from 39 incidents in 2009 to 14.

The sophisticated anti-shoplifting measures are also being cited as a factor in reducing the costs of products involved in detected cases from \$2,173 to \$1,014 in 2010.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft.

"Shoplifting at the exchange results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders – the military community," PX general manager Loraine Arbo said. "Because the Exchange is a command with a mission to return earnings to quality of life programs, people who steal from the Exchange don't only harm themselves but directly impact FMWRC's ability to complete its mission."

If shoplifting is suspected, the Redstone Arsenal Loss Prevention office turns the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows the Exchange to enact a flat, administrative cost (civil recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise. (*AFFES release*)

# Find housing online at defense website

Soldiers and civilians looking for an easy way to find safe, reputable housing at their new duty station – before they arrive – can visit their local housing office and ask for information about the Automated Housing Referral Network.

The AHRN is a Department of Defense sponsored website that directs servicemembers and civilians preparing for a permanent change of station to housing vacancies (temporary lodging, rentals and sales) in the vicinity of their new duty stations.

It's convenient, and can be viewed 24/7 from anywhere in the world by all branches of the military and any civilians who are looking for a place to live. Search for apartments or homes for rent in the local area around your new duty station. Prices, locations and photos are available on the site, as is contact information. Once you locate a property that you have interest in, you can immediately view it using Mapquest and Google.

You can search all types of ways: by bedroom size, zip code, square footage, rental amount, etc.; it's very user friendly. Upon completion of registration (there

is no charge), you can immediately start searching for any type of dwelling you are interested in.

Properties on the site undergo the same kind of scrutiny they would undergo if they were to be referred to by housing office personnel during an office visit.

Housing officials actually monitor and inspect all properties listed. If they find something suspicious, like rent is too low, they go see if it is an acceptable property to make sure no one is going to get tricked by fake pictures.

Most landlords and property owners who use the site are honest, and are glad to be able to advertise for free to the military audience.

There's a good response from property managers – they know this is a DoD website for Soldiers and civilians to go look for rentals and temporary lodging.

Again, AHRN is free for all parties. This includes anyone looking for a good place to live, and landlords who want to rent their properties to the military or civilians.

Anyone interested in beginning the process of finding housing before leaving their current duty station can start their search by logging into the AHRN website at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com). (*AHRN release*)



# Army chief of staff visits Soldiers in Iraq

By Sgt. 1st Class JON SOUCY  
29th MPAD

BAGHDAD – Leader development is key to the ongoing success of the Army, said the Army’s new chief of staff during a visit with troops from United States Division-Center at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

“I’m personally involved with leader development at every level, because that’s what really makes us who we are,” said Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the newly appointed chief of staff of the Army. “I like to describe the Army as the nation’s

pre-eminent leadership experience.”

As part of that, said Dempsey, the Army is currently reviewing the promotion process to ensure that only the most qualified move on to the next rank.

“We’re promoting 95 to 98 percent of captains to major, 93 or 95 percent of majors to lieutenant colonel,” Martin said.

“We’re not really separating out the true high performers that we should aspire to have. We shouldn’t be satisfied that 98 percent of captains are being promoted to major, because 98 percent of captains don’t deserve to be promoted to major.

Statistically, that’s an infeasible percentage. And we’ve got to do the same thing on the noncommissioned officer side.”

And expanding on the capabilities and education of Soldiers – especially noncommissioned officers – is one of the

**See Chief on page 17**

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

**Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, newly sworn in as the 37th chief of staff of the Army, speaks with Soldiers from United States Division-Center during a visit to Camp Liberty, Iraq, April 19.**



## Command

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Army Marketing and Research Group as a direct reporting unit.

Over the next year to 18 months, the Accessions Command inactivation is expected to create economic savings through manpower reductions, including the elimination of two general-officer and 65 other military positions, about 130 civilian positions, and 290 contrac-

tor man-years.

This action is not related to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure reduction-in-force notices being given to Armor Center and School civilian employees at Fort Knox, officials said.

Within 60 days of the April 19 directive, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Thomas Lamont will present McHugh a phased implementation plan addressing issues associated with the inactivation of Accessions Command.

“The plan will address specific time-

lines to achieve efficiencies during the inactivation of U.S. Army Accessions Command, which we believe will take some 12 to 18 months. This will ensure the orderly shutdown of the command and the adequate reorganization of its components,” Davis said.

Accessions Command was activated at Fort Monroe, Va., on Feb. 15, 2002. It was originally chartered to better align accessioning and initial-entry training by subordinating Recruiting Command, Cadet Command and Initial Entry Training organizations under a single

headquarters. The IET organizations were removed from Accessions Command after a few years.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley took over Accessions Command on May 18, 2007. Last year on May 27, he assumed the additional role of senior commander at Fort Knox. Under BRAC, Accessions Command became the senior mission command at Fort Knox as it established the Human Resource Center of Excellence there.

Freakley announced April 19 his plans to retire.

# Day shines bright for Easter egg hunters

*More than 1,000 kids find fun in hunt at Arsenal ball fields*

By KARI HAWKINS

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Underneath the bright spring sunshine, laying in the recently cut grass of three ball fields were the prizes of the day – pink, blue, yellow and blue Easter eggs filled with candy and sealed tight with stickers.

Hundreds of children – divided into three age groups: infant to 3, 4 to 6, and 7 to 10 – lined up along the fences inside the ball fields at the baseball complex near Bicentennial Chapel, waiting for their chance to gather eggs during Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation's annual Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt. Only the youngest age group was allowed to bring a parent inside the fence to help them in the hunt. Children in the two older age groups lined up on their own to ready themselves for egg hunting.

"I want to get as many eggs as I can," Jessica Gardner, 5, said as she waited to hunt for eggs.

"If someone doesn't get any eggs, what do you do?" asked her mom, Raquel Gardner, who stood near her daughter outside the fence.

"We share," Jessica replied.

When the horns blew, the children ran for the hunt and they were rewarded for their effort with eggs filled with chocolate candy provided by sponsor Woody Anderson Ford. A couple of lucky children in each age group found the one gold egg and one silver egg hid in each field, which meant they were the winners of the day's grand prizes of toys and candy.

The number of children at the Easter Eggstravaganza was a pleasant surprise for the organizers.

"We broke another record in the number of children we had at the egg hunt," Andre Terry, division chief of FMWR's Child Youth and School Services, said.

"Last year, when we moved from Vincent Park to the ball fields, we broke a record with 487 children. This year we had over 1,000 children, and a crowd estimated at 1,800 to 2,000 with parents and grandparents included."

Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Parents help the youngest children find Easter eggs during the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation's annual Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt April 23. Parents were only allowed to help children in the infant- to 3-year-old age category.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Wearing her Easter best, Kaitlynn Robertson sits on the lap of the Easter bunny to get her picture taken at FMWR's Easter Eggstravaganza.**

Terry attributes the increase to the day's great weather and the growing number of newcomers to Redstone as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure actions that are now coming to full fruition. The event was coordinated by FMWR's School Age Services, with about 25 employees hosting the event.

**See Eggs on page 28**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Pfc. Patrick Kiskaden helps his 2-year-old daughter, Aurora, eat her pizza before they join the youngest group of children for the egg hunt at FMWR's Easter Eggstravaganza.**

## Pioneering fire inspector retires from the fight

*Sandra Boyd blazed trail for women*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Sandra Boyd went out with a bang.

As the tornado sirens blared and the storms brewed April 27, Fire and Emergency Services celebrated the woman whose career with the department never saw a dull moment, including her retirement ceremony at the Firehouse Pub.

“Nobody’s going to forget this day,” Boyd said.

Instinct kicked in for Boyd, as attendees of the luncheon took shelter from Mother Nature in the stairwell, while Boyd and her fellow firefighting family – both by blood and by Arsenal connection – sought out information on the storm to keep those around them safe. Ever one to run toward the danger, the events of the day proved just how ingrained public service is in Boyd, who retired Friday.

“I never would’ve imagined 37 years ago this would be my career,” Boyd



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Sandra Boyd retired Friday after 20 years with Fire and Emergency Services.**

said. “It’s going to be hard not doing this anymore.”

You could say that firefighting is in Boyd’s blood. A third generation firefighter, both Boyd’s father and grand-

**See Boyd on page 17**



Photo by Carrie E. David

## Warrior re-enlists

Sgt. Alisha McRoberts, a wounded warrior assigned as a management analyst in the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-3 office, recites the enlistment oath with her supervisor, Col. Lorenzo Mack, deputy chief of staff G-3, April 15 at the command’s headquarters.

# Space Badge recognizes warriors of the high ground

By JASON CUTSHAW  
SMDC/ARSTRAT public affairs

From Combat Infantryman Badges, “Jump Wings” and Ranger Tabs, Soldiers have been able to show the world they are trained professionals. With the addition of the Army’s newest badge, Soldiers can now show they are trained to control the high ground.

On Feb. 2, the Army chief of staff approved the establishment of the Space Badge. The Space Badge is awarded to active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who successfully complete appropriate space-related training and attain the required Army space cadre experience. There are three levels of the Space Badge: basic, senior and master.

“The Soldier (wearing the Space Badge) is a valued member of the Army space cadre community who speaks from a position of knowledge and experience,” Robert Kyniston, of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said. “Soldiers wearing the Space Badge are also recognized as knowledgeable, contributing members of the joint space



Photo by Don Montoya

**Lt. Col. John Price, 1st Space Battalion commander, presents the Master Space Badge to then Maj., now Lt. Col. Joseph Guzman, 1st Space Brigade, during a monthly awards ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., in October.**

community by other services.”

For active duty Soldiers, the Basic Space Badge is awarded after 12 months,

the Senior Space Badge is awarded after 48 months and the Master Space Badge is awarded after 84 months. For Reserve

and National Guard Soldiers, the Basic Space Badge is awarded after 24 months, the Senior Space Badge is awarded after 60 months and the Master Space Badge is awarded after 96 months.

The Space Badge is considered a Group 4 badge, and Soldiers can wear their Space Badge with Group 3 badges such as the Aviator Badge.

“To me the Space Badge is used to indicate simply a level of training and experience and hence a way of measuring ourselves as Army space cadre with our Air Force counterparts (since the Space Badge was specifically an Air Force badge),” said Lt. Col. Brian Soldon, Army Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander, Kwajalein Support director and RTS space operation director, who received his Master Space Badge on Sept. 23, 2009.

“As my career progressed and with the recent approval of the Space Badge as an Army award as well, the Space Badge has taken on additional meaning for me as an indication of professionalism and camaraderie,” he said.

Formerly called the Air Force Space Badge, the term “Air Force” was dropped

**See Badge on page 23**

# Missile defense test site keeps watch day, night

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT public affairs

The Ronald Reagan Test Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center located in Huntsville helps save time and money while performing a vital mission for national defense from half a world away.

The ROC command and control facility at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command will soon become the primary command-and-control facility instead of its current location on Kwajalein Island. The communications upgrade focuses on the core networking and communications infrastructure linking Kwajalein to the United States and building a reliable, high bandwidth, low latency network is crucial to a distributed range in which the sensors are operated from more than 7,000 miles away.

“Here at the ROC, we are perform-



Army photo

**Sensors at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands, located 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii, are controlled at the Ronald Reagan Test Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center in Huntsville.**

ing space and missile defense tracking and helping ensure the development of missile defense assets and systems, as well as helping verify that opera-



Courtesy graphic

**The control center of the Ronald Reagan Test Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center in Huntsville keeps track of satellites from facilities located more than 7,000 miles away at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

tional assets, whether offensive or defensive, are working correctly for the defense of both the nation and the war fighters themselves,” said Lt. Col. Brian Soldon, Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander, Kwajalein support director and RTS space operation director.

The Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site is a world-class range and test facility located 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii in the Kwajalein Atoll,

Republic of the Marshall Islands. Its unique instrumentation sensors, including high-fidelity metric and signature radars, as well as optical sensors and telemetry, play a vital role in the research, development, test and evaluation in support of America’s defense and space programs.

“The one great thing about this facility is that it is designed to eventually perform command and control of all sensors that support test operations and space operations out at the range,” Soldon said.

The remote Pacific location is ideal

**See Site on page 23**

## AroundTown

# Missile systems aim to support war fighter

*General officers speak out on future weapon capability*

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

In an era when Army programs are focused on making better weapon systems, it is the Soldier in the loop that makes the most significant contribution to a system's success, said one of the Army's top training officers.

"Soldiers are at the height of making the Army more capable and adaptable," said Lt. Gen. Michael Vane, deputy commander-futures, and director of Army Capabilities and Integration Center, Training and Doctrine Command.

"Soldiers decide, sense, shoot and make machines do things they may not have been designed to do. Soldiers are the decisive edge across all the Army missions and we owe them the best."

Speaking to about 300 military and business leaders at the 13th annual Missiles Conference sponsored by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army on April 26 at the Von Braun Center, Vane said today's Army must operate within a \$130 billion annual budget, which requires a smaller Army that gains efficiencies through modernization.

"We want a more versatile set of formations that can operate across the entire spectrum of operations," he said.

Even as budgeting strategies influence the way the Army designs and equips its forces, other unpredictable international elements – such as natural disasters and the fight for freedom from long-standing regimes – can make for a "very challenging environment."

"We have to see the capabilities of our allies and of the potential adversaries. We have to look over the regions, and at our capabilities and the capabilities of our allies. In this global environment, our friends of today may not be our friends of tomorrow," Vane said.

"We need to know who our adversaries are and who our competitors are, and we need to know the difference."

In strategizing capabilities, the Army must look at its four-step mission – to prepare, prevent, prevail and preserve – and determine what types of situations fall into the three categories of threat that include most proba-

ble, most dangerous and the unthinkable.

If forces are to be operationally adaptable, the concept must begin at the top with the Army's leaders.

"We need qualities in our leaders and our forces based on critical thinking if the Army is to be organized, trained and equipped for full spectrum operations," Vane said.

The future Army will be based on a modernized force structure that is more adaptable and faster, and the Army itself needs to "be a huge component in building relationships with diverse partners with focused capabilities of offense, defense and stability operations that can scale up and scale down as necessary to provide security."

The core competencies of combined arms maneuvers and wide area security operations will continue to redefine the Army.

"Battalion commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan are responsible for large areas, and they need troops that have the mobility to travel rapidly over complex and dangerous terrain," Vane said.

The general named a number of new norms within the Army, including the ability to operate in complex and uncertain situations, digital literacy, space knowledge, weapons technology and intelligence.

Training the Army of the future utilizes software simulations, and a unique combination of self-paced and collective training, all focused on "what it means to be a Soldier in the profession of arms," he said.

In a comprehensive review of force structure for the Army of 2020, Vane said Army leaders have examined a broad range of security challenges, and its mission to prevail in today's war; prevent and deter conflict; prepare to defeat adversaries; and preserve and enhance the all-volunteer force.

"And we must ensure we have enough structure to support at the lowest level in theaters of priority," Vane said.

In the development of new systems there needs to be a closer collaboration between Soldiers and equipment so that "we equip the man, not man the



Photo by Kari Hawkins  
**Lt. Gen. Michael Vane, one of the Army's top training officers, emphasizes the need to train capable and adaptable leaders who can lead forces of the same nature. He and other general officers working in the Army's missile systems field addressed about 300 participants in the 13th annual Missiles Conference hosted April 26 by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.**



**Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly**



**Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers**



**Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson**

equipment," he said.

Even with the demands of a modern Army and flatter budgets, Vane said he is confident that with industry help "we will meet what the Army needs and what the country needs in terms of the missile world."

Praising the THAAD and Patriot missile systems, Vane said the Army needs more "missile systems that can engage more targets with fewer missiles" and those missiles must address

the threats – indirect fire, rocket propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices – that are killing Soldiers in theater.

In terms of missile defense, Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, director of the Missile Defense Agency, said U.S. allies are now realizing the need for a united missile defense program.

**See Conference on page 24**

## Boyd

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father were firefighters. And it is her father who helped start the East Limestone Volunteer Department, where Boyd's husband Joseph now serves as fire chief, and their daughter, Carma Nicole, just joined. Instead of being daddy's little girl, Boyd was daddy's little tomboy, who always knew she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps. At age 14 she became a member of the East Limestone Fire Department, and at 16 fought her first fire.

"It's never a dull moment," she said of her career path. "You think things are going to settle down and they don't. Not one call is the same."

With the excitement of the job has also come its challenges, as Boyd forged a path for female firefighters in Alabama. Despite having one of her instructors tell her when she was starting out that women should be "barefoot, pregnant and locked in a closet," she pursued her dreams of following in her father's and grandfather's footsteps. In the summer

of 1984 she became the first female firefighter in Limestone County to be certified by the Alabama Fire College, and in 1985 became the first and only female firefighter to work for the city of Athens, a job her father had dared her to apply for. In 1991, she became the first trained female firefighter and certified driver/operator at the Redstone Arsenal Fire Department. She is the first to retire.

"I had to prove everything and sometimes I still do," Boyd said. "I've had to fight for everything to show that I am serious and I am here for a reason."

Boyd's retirement marks the end of a 20-year career on the Arsenal. The last six of those were spent as fire inspector for the Fire Prevention Office. Over the course of her career, as she has made way for other females in her profession, she has also made a home at the Arsenal. And it is the people she has made that home with that she will miss most.

"It's just like a family," Boyd said. "You're with them 24 hours a day. When they're sad, you're sad. It's like a little family I'm going to lose."

## Chief

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things Dempsey said he and his staff are focusing on.

"The new sergeant major of the Army, Sgt. Maj. Ray Chandler, has a couple things he's working on to do a couple of things for the NCO corps," Dempsey said. "One of them is to give you the same kind of developmental opportunities that heretofore were really (the realm of) the officer corps."

And part of that, Dempsey said, means a central selection board for sergeant majors.

However, the role and overall abilities of the NCO corps is something Dempsey said he doesn't want to see change.

"I've watched, personally, the noncommissioned officer corps grow into what it is today," he said. "My first noncommissioned officer in the Army was an alcoholic and when he picked me up at the train station in Germany to go up and grab my (gear), he stopped and had six beers at a guest house. I'm not making that up. Here I am, a 22-year-old second lieutenant thinking, 'Is this what (the Army) is?' I didn't even know how to react to it."

NCOs now, said Dempsey, are leaps and bounds beyond that first encounter.

"The noncommissioned officer corps now, is better trained, but it's not focused just on training," he said. "They're better educated. They're more versatile. They're developing (future NCOs) differently and we have to keep that up."

Maintaining that is part of Dempsey's plan for the future of the Army, which also includes keeping up the experience level from Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We've got to preserve that warrior ethos," he said. "That's who we are."

That includes maintaining that ethos as the drawdown in Iraq continues.

"I think we have to make sure that as the demand goes down in Iraq and Afghanistan, we've got to maintain what it means to be a Soldier, what it means to be a professional and what it means to be a warrior," Dempsey said.

That also includes going across all components of the Army.

"And, that's active, Guard and Reserve," Dempsey said. "We've got to preserve this bond that has developed among active, Guard and Reserve that I promise you wasn't there 15 years ago."

And in the end, for Dempsey, it all comes back to leadership.

"I believe the Army should celebrate the fact that it is the nation's pre-eminent leadership experience," he said. "We've got to push ourselves to understand how we develop leaders."

# Shepard

continued from page 2

Rockets and von Braun were something of a mystery to Shepard and company. They understood airplanes and the people who built them. They had flown airplanes in combat and as test pilots. When they strapped on a high-performance jet, they knew the machine, they knew the people who built them and in fact, some of them actually helped design the craft that they later flew. And more importantly, they were in control of the aircraft.

This rocket business was different. First you had von Braun, his Germans and a bunch of young American engineers in Alabama building these rockets with little or no knowledge of airplanes. As Shepard said, "Not a stick and rudder man in the crowd, except von Braun himself." Von Braun started flying when he was 16.

For Shepard, the highlight of the visits to Huntsville was a chance to view a static firing of the Redstone engine that would power his first flight on a rocket. The fire, smoke, noise, vibration and sheer power generated by the Redstone rocket engine were impressive. Later, he told me he realized this was a bit different from the naval aviator world that he lived in. When he went flying, everyone came out to the airfield, stood by while he climbed in the cockpit and waved as he taxied and took off. Here, in this rocket factory, they sounded alarms, excavated the area and everyone – I mean everyone – climbed inside block houses, pillboxes or found thick concrete walls to crouch behind. No one was out there to see you off.

He returned on another visit and this time asked von Braun if he could stand on top of the test tower while it was firing, about where his spacecraft would be on the real rocket when it was launched. He wanted to know what it felt like. How much would it vibrate? How loud would it be? Could he read the instruments? These were things that a real test pilot would want to know before flying any machine. Did von Braun let him do it? I asked Shepard a couple times over the years if he stood on the tower while the engine was firing. He gave me that cocky Shepard grin and said, "Buckbee you'll never know." Later, I learned that von Braun asked for volunteers and two engineers stood atop the tower next to the spacecraft and verified you could read instruments and reach the spacecraft controls while the engine was firing.

On May 5, 1961, after several postponements, NASA finally ended the great mystery and announced that Alan B. Shepard Jr. would be the Mercury astronaut to rocket into space. This was during the time when people referred to Cape Canaveral as "malfunction junction" because of all the rocket failures that had occurred.

At 4 a.m. Shepard emerged from the transfer van dressed in his silver suit, stopped, and took a moment to look up at the towering Redstone topped by the Mercury capsule he named Freedom 7,

representing the seven Mercury astronauts. With the help of John Glenn, his backup, Shepard squeezed into the very tight capsule and waited. When he looked up on the instrument panel, he found a note that John had left that stated, "There will be no handball playing in this area."

Shepard shared with me what he was thinking at that time: "Was this rocket powerful enough to get me off the pad and on a safe trajectory? If not, would I be able to abort the mission and save the spacecraft and myself? Would the g-forces be so severe I would not be able to function and complete my tasks on board the spacecraft? And finally, 'Shepard, don't screw up!'"

The countdown was stopped several times for equipment problems and weather. As the delays continued, Shepard became a bit irritated. Finally, he said, "Why don't you fix your little problem and light this candle?" A few minutes later the candle was lit and Shepard put the United States into space and the race with the Russians was on.

After the Mercury-Redstone launch team returned to Huntsville (in those days the launch operations at the Cape were directed out of Huntsville), it was party time on the square in downtown Huntsville. Hundreds of people gathered, including Army and Marshall Space Flight Center officials, to celebrate another successful flight of the Army's famous Redstone that had not only launched the free world's first satellite, but now had launched America's first astronaut.

President John F. Kennedy invited Shepard and all the Mercury astronauts to the White House to present Shepard a medal for his flight. They talked about the future of space flight and what the country might do. Three weeks later Kennedy set a goal of landing man on the moon before the end of the decade. In those days, three words could be heard in any Huntsville conversation: man, moon and decade!

Shepard was next scheduled to fly the first Gemini spacecraft, but was grounded by an inner ear disorder that impaired his balance and hearing. He was not a happy camper for those non-flying years.

We didn't see much of Shepard in Huntsville during the '60s and '70s. In those days, he was known as the "icy commander." I was assigned to the Marshall Space Flight Center public affairs office. Shepard ran the astronaut office in NASA-Houston like a czar. Those of us in NASA public relations who had to deal with Shepard dreaded the experience. He could be cold, uncooperative and downright unwilling to let "his boys," the astronauts, be used for PR purposes.

Someone came up with the idea of "astronaut in a barrel." The drill was one of Shepard's boys would be committed to public relations duty for one week, at the beck and call of the NASA PR people. We loved it and the astronauts disliked it. They referred to it as "hell in a barrel." My first opportunity was having Wally "Skyway" Schirra in the "barrel" in Huntsville. I scheduled him to speak to the United

Daughters of the Confederacy. That was a mistake. He showed up in his flight suit and they thought he was the janitor. He spoke in technical terms and made unkind remarks about the South. A complaint letter was sent to the astronaut office and needless to say, we didn't get another astronaut in a barrel while Shepard was in charge.

Shepard and his pal, Deke Slayton, "the godfather of the astronaut corps," selected the guys to go to the moon. Only Deke Slayton, Shepard and the good Lord understood the criteria and qualifications for crew selection. Seeing all of his buddies pass him on the climb up the pyramid didn't set well with Shepard who was still grounded. Many in the astronaut circle believe a healthy Shepard would have flown several more missions and could have been the first man to walk on the moon, replacing Neil Armstrong.

America's first astronaut got a break in 1969. He received a clean bill of health and was placed back on flight status. Slayton named Shepard as commander of Apollo 14, a moon mission to land in the Fra Mauro highlands.

Apollo 14 became known as the "crew of rookies" because none of them – Stu Roosa, Ed Mitchell or Shepard – had spent a day in Earth orbit. Shepard's space journey this time was a 500,000-mile round trip to the moon and back. Again he was flying a Huntsville rocket, the Saturn V moon rocket, and his trip came after the famous Apollo 13, "Houston, we have a problem," mission.

Having commanded a near perfect mission, he did the unthinkable. He broke the stereotypical astronaut mold and had a little fun. From his personal preference kit (PPK in NASA lingo), he removed three golf balls. With a six iron he made from a lunar tool, he hit three balls; one, he proclaimed, went "miles and miles and miles."

Why did he do it? "I wanted to do something every American could identify with. Up until my mission, every moon landing was a cookie cutter, just like the one before; no variety, nothing different, nothing memorable. I wanted people – the man on the street – to realize that we astronauts weren't different from them. I wanted it to be a moment they remembered. So I selected golf, a game I enjoyed and a game I knew millions of Americans enjoyed. Even if I shanked the shot, they still could identify with it. So I tried a little sand trap shot before I climbed in the spacecraft to fly home." I asked him what brand golf ball he used and his answer was typical Shepard, "Buckbee you will never know."

Years later Shepard staged that golf shot for several of his friends and members of the press at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's moon crater in the shadow of his ride, the Saturn V moon rocket. Shepard played in several charity golf tournaments in Alabama. He also played at Hampton Cove several times and shot some golf commercials for the Robert Trent Jones Trail.

Shepard became interested in Huntsville

again in the mid '80s when his Mercury astronaut friend Wally Schirra told him about Space Camp and suggested he visit. I told him I would pick him up at the Huntsville International Airport and meet him at the main terminal in front of the space exhibit featuring his picture. We met and I took some time to describe the huge three-dimensional space mural that depicts Huntsville's contributions to manned space flight. He studied it for a moment and looked at me and said, "I bet you change that Mercury astronaut picture of me every time one of us comes to town. I'll bet Schirra was up there last week even though I'm better looking than he is." Shepard hadn't changed much.

He visited Space Camp and found something that he identified with and really liked. He made many trips to Huntsville and various parts of the country helping raise the awareness of the space program and Space Camp. He engaged with young people, told them stories, answered their questions and took time to describe what turned him on to airplanes and spaceships. He believed in Space Camp and its goals and often said, "Quite frankly, there is really no other program of this character, caliber and quality anywhere in the country. I think back to when I was a youngster and remember my hero was Charles Lindbergh and how he influenced my life. I want to encourage youngsters to, if not follow in our footsteps, perhaps be motivated to pursue careers in space technology."

He remembered his friends in Huntsville. When some of the von Braun old timers asked him to join them in an outing, he showed up, was gracious with his time and patient answering questions and signing autographs. At a private dinner during one of his Huntsville visits, Shepard was seated next to a lady who, needless to say, was thrilled to be associated with such a famous astronaut. She said to Shepard, "Well it certainly is a thrill for me to be seated next to Neil Armstrong!"

Shepard didn't say a word. He just flashed that Shepard smile and let others scold her. He never let me forget that evening.

## Ed Buckbee

*Editor's note: An author and lecturer, Ed Buckbee has been involved with Huntsville's rocket and space programs for five decades. Buckbee is the author of "The Real Space Cowboys, 50 Years of Rockets and Spacecraft" and "The Rocket Man – Wernher von Braun." His website is [www.air-space.com](http://www.air-space.com). Buckbee began his career with the Army Ordnance Missile Command in 1959 and was at the Missile Firing Lab, Cape Canaveral, Fla., when Shepard was launched. He joined the Wernher von Braun rocket team at Marshall Space Flight Center as a public affairs official in the early 1960s and witnessed most of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo flights. As the Apollo moon landing program came to a close, he left NASA to become the first director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and founder of Space Camp. Buckbee remained in that position for 26 years. His personal and professional relationship with Alan Shepard spanned 30 years. Shepard died in 1998 at age 74.*

# Weather

continued from page 1

Installation's Emergency Operations Center involved a Crisis Management Team of Garrison employees across all its directorates.

"Every day, in the IOC, we have daily watch operations ongoing for emergency management," said Tim D'Ambrosia, chief of plans and operations for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

"We are here every day for the assessment of natural and manmade disasters. But, when this system came through, we activated the EOC to be at full operations involving all Garrison emergency services."

D'Ambrosia and the IOC's Current Operations Branch were aware on April 26 that a weather event was expected to occur in North Alabama. On the morning of April 27, the EOC entered the preparation phase to monitor the tornado activity passing through the area.

The EOC then entered its response phase at 5 p.m. as tornadoes touched down in Madison County and its recovery mode once electrical power went out throughout North Alabama.

On Thursday, the EOC began damage assessments both on- and off-post. Garrison commanders met to assess the situation and to coordinate recovery efforts

with local officials. With electrical power out throughout the region, there was no other choice than to close the Arsenal to its work force.

"We closed for mission support and we had very limited ability to provide services on Thursday," Hamilton said.

But the EOC and its growing support staff was on the job.

"Our main objective was power generation, restoring power, first, to basic operations for life and safety, and then to all of Redstone," D'Ambrosia said. "Another objective was to support the local community as much as possible. And the third objective was personnel accountability. Our critical priorities were the installation's command and control centers, and tenant support, and trying to provide support for displaced personnel and retirees."

The EOC also supported Alabama National Guard, activated in support of emergency relief in the area, by providing on-post lodging, and transport equipment.

"We provided equipment to the National Guard so that it could support Huntsville and the surrounding communities," D'Ambrosia said. "We also provided lodging on post for state troopers who were assigned to provide emergency support in the Huntsville area."

The EOC also worked to stand-up an Army Community Service satellite office at the PX/Commissary to provide sup-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**The Emergency Operations Center includes members of all Garrison directorates, and is activated in natural and manmade emergency situations to address issues pertaining to Redstone and its community members.**

port to Arsenal families.

Although Redstone was closed to its work force for several days due to the loss of electrical service, its basic services were available beginning on Thursday. The Shoppette was the busiest center of activity due to availability of gasoline, groceries and, on Saturday, generators. The PX/Commissary soon followed suit, opening by the weekend with groceries and supplies.

"While the post is certainly closed to the work force, its basic services are available," Hamilton said during a communi-

ty press conference Saturday.

"Basic services are here for military, civilian employees, retirees and absolutely anyone who can get access through our gates ... The entire community, state and federal are coming together. We do have support available on the Arsenal. If you've got the credentials, you can get on the Arsenal and get the support you need ... If you need life support services and you are one of our employees or one of our military, you can get support."

**See Storm on page 21**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Randy Silk, a specialist with the Reserve's 326th Chemical Company, grabs up a bag of charcoal during a stop at the Shoppette on Saturday for three hot commodity items - gasoline, ice and charcoal. He plans on grilling food that will spoil without electricity and to catch a few fish on the Tennessee River to add to the meal. He heard about the availability of supplies on the Arsenal from a retiree. "He told me and I told my unit. We're sending everyone out here," he said. A Comcast employee, Silk said he and his co-workers had done all the cable work they could by Saturday and were waiting for the power to return to finish reactivating service to Comcast customers.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Glen Strobach, at right, and Shoppette employee Scott Codd help Walter Tyler, an Air Force retiree, stock up on ice. Strobach, a master sergeant on active duty at Fort Knox, Ky., came home to help his family living at Owens Cross Roads and volunteered to help at the Shoppette on Saturday.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton talks with Army Community Service representatives who manned an information table at the PX/Commissary during the weekend. They answered a wide range of questions and informed visitors of the services ACS and the Army can provide those affected by the tornado disaster.**

## Storm

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During the press conference, Hamilton also urged Redstone Arsenal employees to make contact with their supervisors and co-workers so they can be accounted for by their organization.

Personnel accountability became an increasing issue of concern during the days following April 27. Even though other issues – electricity, basic services, medical facilities and social services – were important, accountability topped the list, said Alvin Odoms, director of

the Directorate for Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

“Our employees are the most important and we are really struggling with that. We need to have some way of knowing they are OK,” he said.

Even though that message was broadcast through the media at the community press conference, 100 percent accountability was not available during the days after April 27. For instance, on Saturday afternoon, only 83 percent – or 3,320 – of the more than 4,000 employees making up the Missile Defense Agency were accounted for.

“Everybody is working extremely hard to find out about employees and to provide



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Cars line up at the Shoppette on Saturday to fill up both tanks and containers with gas. There was a 15-gallon limit on gasoline at the Shoppette. The line for gas reached at times beyond Bicentennial Chapel on Goss Road.**

services,” said Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark. “Most of Team Redstone is participating in providing status of personnel and helping where needed.

“We want to know how we can support folks. We want to know what our employees’ status is and where help is needed. We have consolidated all of our housing assets and we can provide those assets to those employees and retirees who have lost their homes or who have homes with damage.”

Redstone’s role, though, goes beyond its own community, Clark said. The Arsenal is also working to provide support to the entire North Alabama region.

“The bottom line is we are marshaling all of our resources to take some of the stress off Madison County, Huntsville City and Madison City,” he said.

With some 75,000 retirees in the North Alabama area, the Arsenal can impact the stress on the community’s food and equipment supplies by working to provide those same supplies through its on-post stores.

“We can impact the area. A pretty good percentage of the population has access to the Arsenal. If they come here for what they need (gasoline, food, generators, other equipment), then that leaves more in the community for others,” Hamilton said.

“But, depending on where they live and the services provided to them, it may make better sense for our employees and retirees to stay put where they are until this situation ends. The important thing is they get to a place where they can get the services they need.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Redstone Officer Regina Dolan shows a driver which lane to get in at the Shoppette on Saturday.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Redstone Officer Chris Clemons directs traffic into the gasoline lines at the Shoppette on Saturday. Clemons spent Thursday and Friday assisting the volunteer fire department in Harvest in searching for survivors and clearing roads in the disaster area near his home. “The tornado was 500 feet from my home,” the Iraq war veteran said. “I saw it go by. I saw a trailer flying up in the air in the tornado.”**

## HelpingHands

# Chronister reclaims free-throw shooting title

*Third annual event benefits Army Emergency Relief*

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

Minutes before the third annual AER Free Throw Shootout, Col. Skip Sherrell took a close look at the trophy.

“I just want to see what it looks like,” said Sherrell, the chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command. “I know I’m not going to get it.”

He was right.

Ronnie Chronister, the AMCOM deputy commander, won for the second time in three years. He made 36

**See AER on page 27**

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Ronnie Chronister wins by sinking 36 free throws in three minutes April 27 at Redstone Fitness Center.**

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Five of the seven competitors in the AER Free Throw Shootout include, from left, John Schocke, winner Ronnie Chronister, Artro Whitman, Bernard Battle and Col. Skip Sherrell.**



## Site

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for permissive safety and environmental constraints, but increases transportation cost and customer footprint requirements.

"We are trying to quantify the savings by being here as we go along," Soldon said. "The bottom line is this facility does allow us to pull a number of both contractors and some military and government employees off island to be able to execute operations from here.

"Our financial footprint is going down. It is resulting in a direct savings when it comes to not having to (permanent change of station) or place people on the island and it results in a lower percentage of the amount of housing required. It should result in around a 25 percent to 30 percent reduction in savings for the Army with respect to these types of traditional operating costs."

The RTS Distributed Operations program will benefit Reagan Test Site customers in several key ways. RTS system engineers and mission planners will be available centrally in Huntsville, which is co-located with several major RTS customers. Customers will benefit from the range C2 being "closer" through reduced flight times and lesser

time zone differences for training, demonstrations, mission planning and mission execution than experienced with Kwajalein-based RTS support.

A key advantage of a distributed center is a common environment which will allow better utilization of personnel by streamlining mission operations. Primary operations will be conducted from Huntsville while a backup mission capability is still retained at Kwajalein.

"We will still have to send people out to the island for certain missions, but the command and control for test and space operations, and the actual decision making piece can all be executed from this command center," Soldon said. "So when it comes to providing data required to meet specific key performance parameters (to our customers) they will be able to come to this location to actually execute."

With only two Soldiers and 23 civilians assigned to the ROC in Huntsville and minimal contractor manpower resources, RTS customers will have the ability to view missions in real-time from the Huntsville control center, and only those mission support functions requiring physical access to RTS and test assets will need to deploy to Kwajalein.

"There will always be a requirement for someone to be out on the islands for operations due to safety requirements and safety is one of the biggest issues we

take into consideration," Soldon said. "The ability to have the operations center here is going to make a big difference because now we are going to have closer interaction with the customers, as well as with the USASMDC/ARSTRAT command itself and it will be much easier to interact at the operational command decision making level.

"The ability to quickly make operational command decisions is a benefit. We will always have the requirement to have a significant presence, and a command presence, out on the range due to tactical safety concerns."

As the ROC mission continues to grow, one of the primary functions is to inform and support those organizations that monitor what takes place on the high ground.

"The U.S. Strategic Command mission that we support is primarily space situational awareness which includes metric observations of space objects so we know exactly where those objects are," Soldon said. "We also track new foreign launches and launches of interest that we want to ensure that we know what orbit they are going into and what payloads they have. We are able to operate the sensors at Reagan Test Site from here to track those launches and find out what orbit those launches are going into and provide that data to STRATCOM.

"From the sensors, we are also able

to take wide-band images of space objects. We are able to use this space object identification imagery to be able to characterize what is being deployed from specific space launches, or to characterize space objects themselves."

He talked about how the average Soldier may not see how the ROC capabilities help them directly, but noted that the unseen benefits are immense and help them on several levels when they are deployed and in harm's way.

"A lot of people have a hard time identifying how space situational awareness affects the Soldiers on the ground," Soldon said. "What it boils down to, is that satellites up in space are executing critical support requirements for the war fighter. Whether that is navigational support, in terms of (global positioning satellites) or whether it is communication satellites in low-earth orbit and those in higher orbits, there are also a number of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets that are up there and we need to know exactly where those are at all times.

"One, so we can know exactly where they are, but also to ensure they don't collide with any other objects. RTS is one of the sensors that provide that capability. We are one of the critical space surveillance sensors that ensure nothing collides so that assets continue to do their support functions for our war fighters on the ground."

## Badge

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from the name, and the badge is now called the Space Badge. A paragraph pertaining to the Space Badge will appear in the next update to Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards.

Air Force Space Command developed and fielded the Air Force Space Badge in November 2005 to represent and unify the credentialed space professional or space cadre community. With AFSPC and Army chief of staff approval, the Army began awarding the badge to Army space cadre Soldiers in 2006. Since then, 1,425 badges have been awarded to 1,228 Soldiers.

"Since the Army is one of the largest users of space-based capabilities, and as one of a very small group of Army Master Badge wearers, I feel directly responsible and accountable to our Soldiers participating in our overseas (and continental U.S.) contingency ops to ensure (both short term and long term) the provision of critical space-based and space-enabled war fighter capabilities," Soldon said. "We live in

dynamic and exciting times, and as the Army transforms and becomes more net-centric and expeditionary, the role for Army space professionals can only increase in scope and importance – regardless of whether our efforts are primarily 'behind the scenes' or become more obvious to the Army at large, I am personally very proud to be a member of what I consider to be an elite group of Master Space Badge wearing space professionals.

"Every day I get up and put my uniform on, I am reminded (by the badge) that I owe it to those I serve with to challenge myself to be (added value) to the goals and objectives of the war fighter on that, and every, given day."

The Secretary of Defense directed each service to develop a "cadre of space-qualified professionals comprised of military and civilian personnel in sufficient quantities to represent their military service and agency's interests in space requirements, acquisition and operations."

As the Army specified proponent for space, the commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT was assigned the mission to develop and track a cadre of space-qualified professionals comprised of

military and civilian personnel. The Army space cadre was created to meet this requirement and consists of more than 2,300 Soldier and civilian billets spread throughout Army and joint organizations. There are three categories of Army space personnel from all components: FA40 (Space Operations Officers), Non-FA40 Soldiers, and Army civilians.

To help facilitate the identification and tracking of space cadre Soldiers, the Department of the Army G-1 has approved the revision and expansion of the 3Y skill identifier. The 3Y identifier is called "Space Enabler" and applies to officers (except FA40s), warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers.

"3Y tells the Army that you are a trained and ready Soldier who is an expert in space," said Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Cardenas, SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center Directorate of Training and Doctrine noncommissioned officer in charge. "The Army has space Soldiers, regardless of their rank and (military occupational specialty) who are able to articulate what needs to be done in current and future operations and plans."

He talked about how it feels to be a member of a select group of Soldiers

who work on space-based issues for the Army.

"In one word, it is dynamic," Cardenas said. "But trying to summarize what my space brigade Soldiers do in a feeling is impossible. I can tell you that I am inspired each day with what our Soldiers are providing to the war fighter from commercial imagery to space situational awareness. These products are allowing commanders to make decisions that will save lives, protect borders and destroy the enemy."

Cardenas also told why he chose to follow the challenging career path of being a "space Soldier."

"The Army stands for everything that is America," he said. "I chose my career in the Army but the path that got me where I am today was because of the leaders who I worked for. No matter what my job was I did it confidently and to the best of my abilities. My leadership was optimistic of my potential and guided me to this career path in space.

"I feel enthusiastic, bold, daring, challenged and confident and the Space Badge is a symbol to the entire Army that says: 'I will be your compass and go side-by-side with you into the fight to win and to make sure you come home.'"

# Conference

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“We are having great international success,” O’Reilly told participants of the Missiles Conference. “Nations are realizing that the worst person to defend themselves in situations is the person under attack and that their neighbor is a better shot. It is an interesting aspect of missile defense and why we spend so much time in collaboration.”

Missile defense programs focus on six U.S. interests – homeland defense against limited ballistic missile attacks, defense against regional missile threats, testing new capabilities under realistic operational conditions, developing new capabilities that are fiscally sustainable, developing missile defense that is flexible and adaptable to the threat, and expanding international efforts for missile defense.

The growth in interest for missile defense systems can be directly related to the growth in international threats.

“Assessments of the threat and the threat keep changing. It’s a con-

tinually growing threat ... Countries that have traditionally not engaged in missile defense are asking about missile defense,” O’Reilly said.

While international security often drives the military focus among allies, internally the Army’s focus is on ensuring Soldiers are supported on the battlefield. The support is most easily achievable through the materiel enterprise, said Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

At Redstone, that materiel enterprise comprises the Aviation and Missile Command, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and the Army Contracting Command-Redstone.

“The enterprise process is about many organizations working together to achieve a mission,” Rogers said. “It’s a tight team, working very closely together because the focus is on the war fighter.”

Within that materiel enterprise, the program manager is in the middle with all the organizations supporting program needs and requirements.

Toward that end, AMCOM’s command priorities are to support the war fighter; enable, support and improve weapon system life cycle success; recruit, develop and sustain a top performing work force; integrate security assistance into the materiel enterprise; instill a culture of efficiency without sacrificing effectiveness; leverage materiel enterprise relationships and collaborations to derive measurable benefits to the war fighter; and assure technology protection.

Lead materiel integration and condition-based maintenance will ensure missile systems that meet the requirements of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space to provide increased system reliability, and reduce the maintenance burden and cost.

Although Rogers expressed his concern with the obsolescence of today’s missile systems and the need for industry to work with the Army in developing new systems, Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, the program executive officer for missiles and space, told the Missiles Conference audience that the Army will only buy new systems that fit within its budget and that can be integrated

together.

“There are 10 new missile system possibilities if we can figure out affordability,” Knudson said. “What’s it all about? Reduce cost. That’s what it’s about. It’s about costing less.”

Less expensive missile systems that work together are the future for the PEO for Missiles and Space. Operational integration of missiles will center on the IBCS, an integrated system of missile defense.

“It is an integrated system that brings complex systems of air and missile defense together,” Knudson said.

Although the missile PEO has a lot of success with its command and control systems, launchers/shooters, radars and missiles/integrators, it wants to move away from “silos of excellence” that don’t work together, Knudson said.

“Sometimes when we develop things we make it really hard for Soldiers to use them and to integrate them with other systems,” he said. “We don’t want to have as many stove pipes or silos of excellence that are hard to work with, and we want to match those new systems with affordability.”

# Bringing history to life, recording for posterity

*Civil War's Shiloh battle portrayed in documentary*

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT public affairs

Two Army civilians recently took part in a fierce battle, but fortunately they already knew the outcome – the North would again reign victorious.

Just days before the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, Mark Hubbs and Stephen Hutson, both Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees, participated in a documentary filming of the Battle at Shiloh, which occurred April 6-7, 1862.

“The current film shown at the Visitor’s Center was recorded in 1959, and has despite being a horrendous film made with incorrect uniforms and weapons, it has become somewhat of a cult classic. A new film was long overdue,” said Hubbs, an environmental protection specialist and archeologist with SMDC/ARSTRAT. “The new film, which will be about 30 minutes long, is set to debut next year on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh.”

Filming took place at the Shiloh National Military Park near Savannah, Tenn., March 24-27 and April 7-10.

“We started at dawn and ended at dusk,” Hubbs said. “They squeezed out every moment of daylight available. The first weekend we filmed it rained the whole time and it was in the 30s.”

Of the nearly 200 re-enactors, many already knew each other, according to Hutson, a general engineer for SMDC/ARSTRAT.

“(Keith) Willingham coordinated all the participation to try to get the best, most authentic folks for the film,” Hutson said. “He knew most all of the re-enactors from our network of friends and through years of re-enacting together.”

Hubbs, who also acted as the historical weapons coordinator, said each re-enactor had both Confederate and Union soldier uniforms and equipment. This reduced the number of re-enactors required on the set. However, tailored museum-quality reproduction uniforms were produced for the actors who portrayed Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.

According to Hutson, the camaraderie among re-enactors even led to equipment being shared.

“We traveled around the park with all of our gear. Some days we’d have

gear changed five-six times,” he said. “We even shuffled around gear amongst ourselves to help change up the view and not get too much face time.”

Both men are veteran re-enactors, but Hubbs started first in 1972 at age 15.

“I’ve gotten away from re-enactments and have been doing more educational or historical interpretation events,” he said. “The past 10 years or so, I’ve moved away from the Civil War and focused more on the War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War. But I came out of retirement for this project.”

While Hubbs was drifting away from Civil War re-enactments, Hutson was starting to get involved, but he said he does not re-enact as often as he used to. Even still, he participates almost annually in one event or another. He participates in living histories at both Shiloh and Lookout Mountain, Tenn., and he participated in the re-enactment at the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

“At the peak of my career, I attended 13 events one year while in college,” Hutson said. “That was before having my own family and back when free time was more abundant.”

The two men have known each other for years and worked on several other projects together, including the command’s Army birthday celebration two years ago.

“Mark and I first met through re-enacting, but I think this was the first time he and I stood in a battle line together,” Hutson said

This re-enactment was a unique experience, according to Hubbs.

“I worked (at Shiloh) as a summer hire during college in 1977, and I had ancestors who fought there, so the place has always been meaningful to me. It was a lot of fun. It was interesting to see how the movie company operated,” he said. “But for an older person like me, it was sometimes hard to keep up with some of the younger guys.”

Hutson said he enjoyed the connections.

“It’s been several years since I attended an event, and I enjoyed socializing with good friends,” he said. “But the experience left me feeling insufficient. Regardless of how banged up my knees got or tired I was, I couldn’t help but believe that what I felt and what I looked like was a far cry from the men who actually fought and died there.”

There were 23,746 casualties (killed, wounded, captured or missing) during the Battle of Shiloh – 13,047 Union soldiers and 10,699 Confederate soldiers.



Courtesy photo

**Stephen Hutson, second from right, helps man a six-pounder field gun during a documentary filming of the Battle of Shiloh near Savannah, Tenn. Filming occurred March 24-27 and April 7-10. Hutson is a general engineer with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.**



Courtesy photo

**Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employee Mark Hubbs reflects on the scene before him as he takes a break from filming during a documentary of the Battle of Shiloh near Savannah, Tenn. Hubbs is an environmental protection specialist and archeologist at SMDC/ARSTRAT.**

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free throws in three minutes to beat the other six competitors.

“It’s just natural talent,” Chronister quipped. “All I could ever do was foul, rebound and make free throws. Just get in a rhythm. You’ve just got to get in a rhythm.”

The competition, held April 27 at Redstone Fitness Center, raised at least \$768 for Army Emergency Relief. It was sponsored by the Readiness Directorate of AMCOM’s Integrated Materiel Management Center.

“It really is all about supporting Soldiers,” said Chronister, who received the trophy from AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

Chronister dethroned last year’s champion John Schocke, who made 33 free throws.

“I thought I had a good pace to start off,” Schocke, chief of the personnel and professional development division of IMMC’s Business Management Office, said. “I just got a bad streak. Thirty-three’s pretty good. He (Chronister) set a high bar with 36.”

Sherrell was third with 29, followed by Eric Edwards (27), Keith Roberson (25), Bernard Battle (23) and Artro Whitman (21).

# Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raising events include the following:

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

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

**Today** – IMMC Bowling Tournament at 11 a.m. at Redstone Lanes.

**Thursday** – Shoe shine, sponsored by Maintenance Directorate, at 9 a.m. at Sparkman Cafeteria.

**Thursday** – Bucket drop, sponsored by IMMC’s Field Operations Division, Maintenance, at 10 a.m. at the Commissary/Post Exchange. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**Thursday** – Deluxe Gourmet Mother’s Day Desert Gift Basket auction, sponsored by Depot Maintenance Division, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the building 5303/5304 hallway.

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

**Saturday** – A golf tournament, sponsored by

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

**May 11** – Run/walk, sponsored by IMMC’s Business Management Office, at 2 p.m. For information call Pickard 842-6625.

**May 12** – A Disc Golf Tournament will be held 2 p.m. at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is \$15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email [paul.sieja@us.army.mil](mailto:paul.sieja@us.army.mil).

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

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

**May 19** – Deluxe Mother’s Day Gift Basket auction, sponsored by Depot Maintenance Division, in the building 5301/5302 hallway. The auction ends at 1 p.m.

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

# Eggs

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“We welcome all of you here and hopefully you will have a joyous time,” Mary Washington broadcast over the sound system as children and parents gathered at the ball field.

Even though the children came for the egg hunt, that wasn't the only activity of the day. Children and their families enjoyed free lunches provided by sponsors Chick-Fil-A, Poppa John's Pizza and Coca Cola. Children could have their picture taken with the Easter bunny and the Chick-Fil-A cows. And, of course, there was plenty of opportunity for kids to run around and play.

“We got lots of compliments from the parents. Lots of people thanked us for the opportunity to be there and have a great time. The weather made it really nice. There were a lot of first-timers who were so happy to be part of it and personally thanked our staff for the fun time,” Terry said.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Wyatt Craig, 8 months, tries to eat an egg while sitting atop the shoulders of his dad, Zach Craig. His mom is Whitney Craig, who works for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.**



Next year, Terry said, the Easter Eggstravaganza will be held at the same location. But plans are to accommodate more children by expanding the event to include the soccer fields on both sides of the ball fields.

And, of course, there will be even more Easter eggs.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Jackson Wright, 8, left, tries to share his candy with brother Tanner, 6, as their mom, Peggy Wright, looks on. Under her arm is daughter Cameran, 3. Other family members with them at the event were dad Lt. Col. T.J. Wright and 3-year-old Kendall. The family has recently moved to Redstone Arsenal, where Lt. Col. Wright is assigned to the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.**



Courtesy photo

## Boeing contributes

Stephanie Stone, left, and Amelia Flanigan, both of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, accept sponsorship funds from retired Lt. Gen. Tony Jones, Boeing vice president for missile defense systems. Boeing is a supporter of FMWR's quality of life programs for Redstone Arsenal.

## Win or Lose

# Army baseball team takes two from Lafayette

*Moore leads Black Knights to sweep in doubleheader*

By Army Athletic Communications

EASTON, Pa. – Clint Moore went 5-for-9 with four home runs and 11 RBIs as the Army baseball team swept a Patriot League doubleheader from Lafayette on a sun-splashed April 25 at Kamine Stadium.

Moore went 2-for-4 with a grand slam and an RBI double to spur Army's 9-0 win in the opener. The Black Knights' shortstop then went 3-for-5 with three home runs and six RBIs as the Black Knights took a 12-2 decision in the nightcap.

Army (18-20, 10-6 PL) moved into a tie for first place in the Patriot League standings with Navy (10-6 PL) following the sweep. The Black Knights actually won three games April 25 as the Black Knights secured an 8-6 (12 innings) verdict in the completion of an April 24 suspended game.

Lafayette (14-23, 8-8 PL) dropped into third place in the conference standings with just one league weekend left on the schedule.

Army outscored Lafayette 23-2 during the April 25 action as the Black Knights received quality pitching, timely hitting and stellar defense throughout the afternoon.

"Our pitchers set the tone for us today," Army head coach Joe Sottolano said. "They worked down in the zone all day long against a very strong Lafayette team. The defense played very well throughout the afternoon. I thought our offense really exploded. We came up with key hits, and we were able to extend leads when we have the opportunities. Obviously, it was a good day, but we still want to continue to improve."

Moore went 2-for-4 with five runs batted in to pace Army in the opener as the Black Knights cruised to the shutout victory. Steve May collected four hits, including two doubles, and Brent Peterson recorded three singles to lead Army's 16-hit attack. David Darnell and Zach Price both recorded two hits apiece as eight of Army's nine starters registered at least one base knock. The Black Knights led 3-0 before putting the game away with a six-run sixth inning.

Moore was 3-for-5 with three round-trippers and six RBIs in the nightcap as the Black Knights blew open a 5-2 game with four runs in the seventh inning and three more in the ninth. May, Darnell and Cody Murtle each posted two hits in the second game as the Black Knights outhit the Leopards 13-7 in the contest.

"Clint showed great discipline at the plate today," Sottolano said. "He got some good pitches to handle, and he took advantage of them. Clint has obviously had a great career for us, and he continues to play well."

Army took a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the opening game as Price singled, stole second base and scored on Moore's RBI double.

The Black Knights extended their lead to 3-0 in the second inning as the visitors pushed across a pair of runs. Army used three hits and took advantage of two Lafayette errors in the frame. Darnell produced the big blow in the inning as he ripped a two-out RBI double over the head of LC's center fielder.



Army Athletic Communications photo

**Army senior Clint Moore slammed four home runs as the Black Knights swept Lafayette in a doubleheader April 25.**

The early run support was more than enough for Army starter Chris Rowley (3-3), who was dominant throughout his outing. The Black Knight sophomore retired the first nine Lafayette hitters and did not allow a hit until the fifth inning.

Army blew the game open in the top of the sixth inning as the Black Knights scored six runs on five hits and one Lafayette error to establish a commanding 9-0 lead. Darnell began the uprising as he doubled into the left-center field gap. Price was then hit by a pitch and Ben Koenigsfeld singled to load the bases for Moore, who smashed a grand slam home run over the fence in right field.

Joey Henshaw then reached on an error by the Lafayette second baseman and May doubled down the left field line to chase Leopard starter John Gentile (1-6) from the game. Peterson greeted Lafayette reliever Ben Meer with an RBI single to center field, scoring Henshaw from third base. J.T. Watkins followed with a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring May from third base with the Black Knights' sixth run of the inning.

Rowley gave up just two hits en route to his first career shutout and his second complete game of the season. The native of Duluth, Ga., struck out three and walked two in seven innings of work. He faced just three over the minimum and only threw 70 pitches during his outing.

"The biggest thing today was being able to get ahead and I kept the ball down," Rowley said of his performance. "J.T. Watkins did a great job behind the plate, and our defense made a lot of nice plays behind me. I think the offense, defense and pitching all fed off of one another today. We scored that run in the top of the first inning and I took the mound confident that our offense was going to put up some more runs for us."

Gentile was roughed up for nine runs (eight earned) on 12 hits in five-plus innings.

Army outhit Lafayette 16-2 in the first game. The Black Knights did not commit an error, while the Leopards made four miscues.

After two scoreless frames, Army jumped on top 2-0 in the top of the third inning of the nightcap as the Black Knights scored two runs on two hits and two

Lafayette errors. Watkins began the rally as he reached on an error by the Lafayette third baseman. He advanced to second base on Murtle's sacrifice bunt, and scored on Darnell's RBI double. Darnell later took third base on a wild pitch and he came around to score when Price lined an RBI single into left field.

Lafayette sliced Army's lead in half in the bottom of the third inning as the Leopards scratched out an unearned run. With one out, Rob Froio laid down a bunt single and he moved to second base when Black Knight starting pitcher Scott Lucado's throw sailed wide and down the right field line. Then, with two outs, Alex Bechta stroked an RBI single up the middle to score Froio from second and snap Lafayette's 13-inning scoreless streak.

Army extended its lead to 5-1 in the top of the fifth inning as the Black Knights scored three runs on three hits. Murtle and Darnell hit consecutive singles to open the frame, and Price laid down a sacrifice bunt to put two men in scoring position.

Koenigsfeld drove home Murtle with a sacrifice fly to right field, making it 3-1, and Moore followed by smashing a two-run home run over the fence in left-center field.

Lafayette got one run back in the bottom half of the fifth to pull to within 5-2. Kevin Casey led off the inning with a single and he moved to third base when Froio doubled down the left field line. Casey then scurried home on Brian Davila's RBI groundout.

Army broke the game open in the top of the seventh inning as the Black Knights scored four runs on four hits. Murtle singled to lead off the frame and he moved to second base on Darnell's sacrifice bunt. Then, after Price walked, Koenigsfeld drilled an RBI single to center field to score Murtle from second. Moore capped Army's four-run uprising when he crushed a three-run home run over the fence in dead center field.

The Black Knights rounded out the scoring in the top of the ninth as Moore and Henshaw smacked back-to-back solo home runs over the fence in left field and Shaun Wixted ripped an RBI single.

Gunnar Carroll (2-1) pitched 4.2 innings of scoreless relief to pick up his second career victory. He allowed just one hit during his outing.

Lafayette starter Connor Ortolf (2-3) took the loss for the Leopards after yielding five runs (four earned) on five hits in 5.0 innings.

Froio had two hits to pace Lafayette in the nightcap. The Leopards only mustered a combined nine hits in the two games.

"It was huge to come out today and pick up three wins against a very good Lafayette team," Moore said. "I thought coming out and winning the suspended game to start the day got us off on the right foot for the rest of the day. The bats came alive and our pitching was unbelievable. It was a great day of baseball."

"I had been a little jumpy at the plate, but things have started to slow down, and I was able to put some good wood on the ball today. They left some pitches up and I was able to put some good swings on the ball. There's not a better feeling than knowing that you helped your team win a ball game, so it was a great feeling to contribute in a couple of wins today."

# U.S. kills bin Laden in intelligence-driven operation

By JOHN D. BANUSIEWICZ

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – An intelligence-driven U.S. operation in Pakistan killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden on Sunday, President Barack Obama announced in a nationally televised address from the White House late Sunday night.

“Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan,” Obama said. “A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability.”

“No Americans were harmed,” he continued. “They took care to avoid civilian casualties. After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and took custody of his body.”

Obama noted that bin Laden had been al-Qaida’s leader and symbol for more than 20 years and continued to plot attacks against the United States and its allies.

“The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation’s effort to defeat al-Qaida, yet his death does not mark the end of our effort,” Obama said. “There is no doubt that al-Qaida will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must, and we will, remain vigilant at home and abroad.”

The president revealed that shortly after taking office in January 2009, he ordered CIA Director Leon E. Panetta to make bin Laden’s death or capture the top priority of the U.S. war against the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

“Then, last August, after years of painstaking work by our intelligence community, I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden. It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to ground,” he said.

The president said he met repeatedly with his national security team as information developed indicating bin Laden was at a compound in Pakistan, and that last week he determined enough information was available and authorized the operation.

The president emphasized that the war against al-Qaida is not a war against Islam.

“Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader,” he said. “He was a mass murderer of Muslims. Indeed, al-Qaida has slaughtered scores of Muslims in many countries, including our own. So his demise should be welcomed by all who believe in peace and human dignity.”

Counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped in finding bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding, the president said.

“Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people. Tonight, I called (Pakistani) President (Asif Ali) Zardari, and my team has also spoken with their Pakistani counterparts. They agree that this is a good and historic day for both of our nations, and going forward, it is essential that Pakistan continue to join us in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates.”

The president praised those who worked to find bin Laden and those who carried out the operation that killed him.

“Tonight, we give thanks to the countless intelligence and counterterrorism professionals who’ve worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome,” he said. “The American people do not see their work, nor know their names. But tonight, they feel the satisfaction of their work and the result of their pursuit of justice.”

“We give thanks for the men who carried out this operation,” he continued, “for they exemplify the professionalism, patriotism and unparalleled courage of those who serve our country. And they are part of a generation that has borne the heaviest share of the burden since that September day.”

Former President George W. Bush released a statement after he received a call from Obama:

“Earlier this evening, President Obama called to inform me that American forces killed Osama bin Laden the leader of the al Qaida network that attacked America on September 11, 2001. I congratulated him and the men and women of our military and intelligence communities who devoted their lives to this mission. They have our everlasting gratitude.

“This momentous achievement marks a victory for America, for people who seek peace around the world, and for all those who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001,” Bush said. “The fight against terror goes on, but tonight America has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done.”

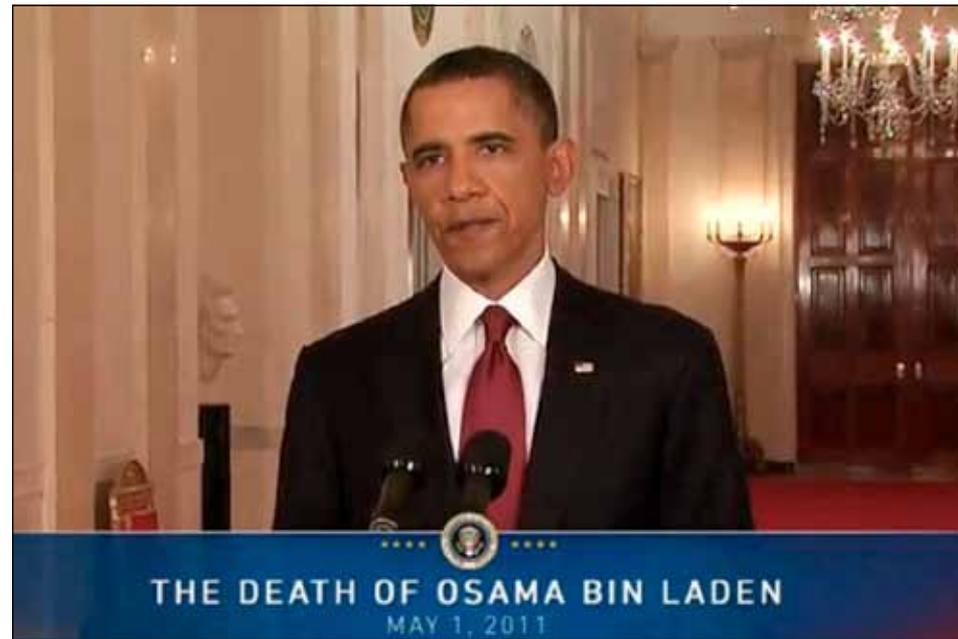


Photo credit DoD Screen grab

**“Justice has been done,” President Barack Obama said in announcing the death of Osama bin Laden in a U.S. military operation in Pakistan. The attack ends a manhunt of almost 10 years. Bin Laden and his henchmen planned and executed the attacks of September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 innocent Americans in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.**

## Sports & Recreation

### Golf tournament

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

### Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide a Boating Safety six-week course continues 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.

### Disc golf benefit

A Disc Golf Tournament, to benefit Army Emergency Relief, will be

held 2 p.m. May 12 at the Disc Golf Course near the recreation area on Vincent Drive. Cost to play is \$15. The three divisions include beginner, intermediate and advanced. Disc golf related merchandise will be awarded as prizes in each division. To register or for more information, call Paul Sieja 842-9408 or email paul.sieja@us.army.mil.

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

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

### 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

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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.

### 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.

### 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. Bre-

akfast 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 and visit 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. Registration fee is \$425; visit Course Catalog F113TW in TIP. The conference will hold tutorials, technical program, TST 303

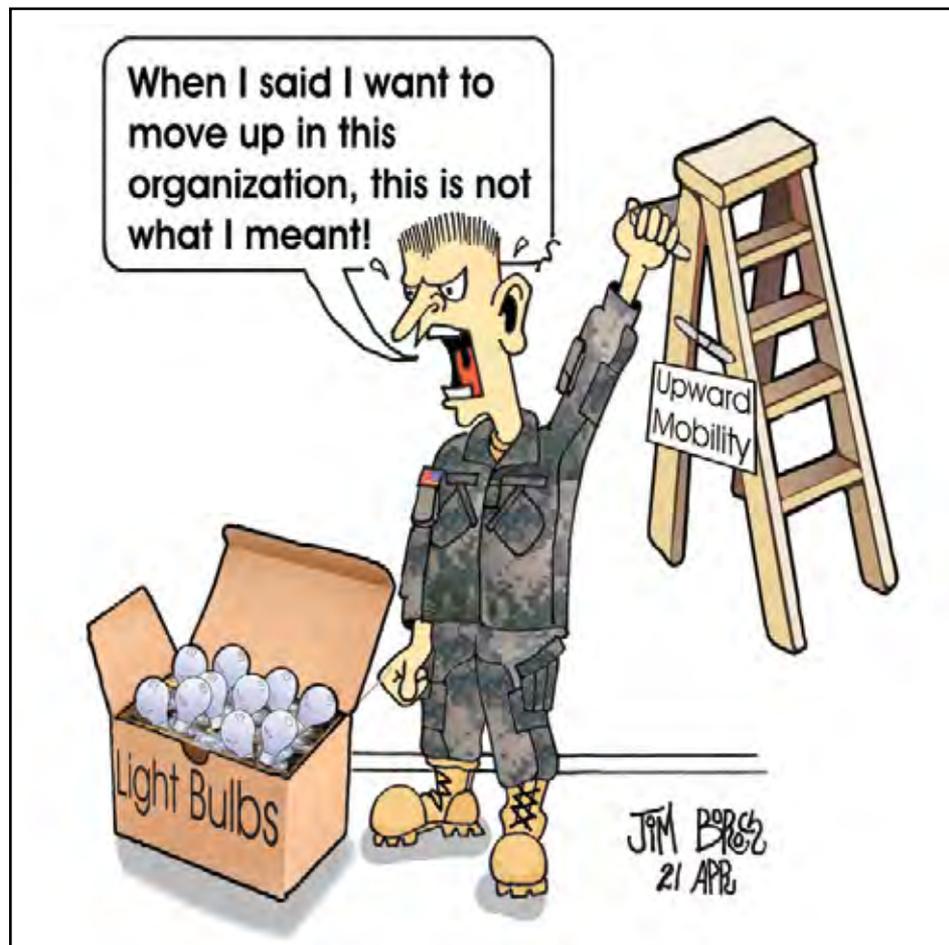
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Courtesy photo

## Education outreach

Louise Darnell, chief of Supply Operation Division, talks with a Sparkman High student during a mock job-interview program. Darnell appeared as part of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program.



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certification, exhibits and other events. For more information, call event coordinator Sherry Hilley 842-6715 or e-mail [sherry.hilley@us.army.mil](mailto:sherry.hilley@us.army.mil).

## Toastmaster clubs

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

## 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.

## Support group

The Greater North Alabama Sarcoidosis Support Group will meet Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall Wellness Center Training Room. A physical therapist as the guest speaker, followed by open discussion. There is no charge to attend and all are welcome. The Medical Mall is located at 1963 Memorial Parkway southwest Huntsville. For information call 325-3696 or email [Karen.reynolds@knology.net](mailto:Karen.reynolds@knology.net).

## Tennessee Valley summit

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

## Space development

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

## Weight watchers

Weight Watchers at Work meetings are held Thursdays at the Sparkman Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Weight Watchers new PointsPlus program makes it easy to lose weight without that dreaded four letter word 'diet,'" a prepared release said. "The Weight Watchers PointsPlus program works because it's not a diet. You'll learn how to eat right and live healthy. The PointsPlus program is based on the latest nutritional science, and factors in the way your body actually processes food. Combined with the proven advantages of the Weight

Watchers approach, the program helps you make healthy choices for long term success." For more information, call Pat Sandy 313-5655 or e-mail [pat.sandy@us.army.mil](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.

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Sesame Workshop photo by Richard Termine

## On Sesame Street

Dr. Jill Biden and First Lady Michelle Obama visit Sesame Street on April 18 as part of the White House's "Joining Forces" initiative and Sesame's military families project, to tape public service announcements asking all Americans to support military families.

**Surplus sale**

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

**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, go-

vernment employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

**Education test center**

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

**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 has begun its search for the exceptional caliber of men needed to compete in the 2011

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"Mr. Man Premiere." This year's event is Aug. 27 at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville. Candidates will go through a screening process for the final selection. Finalists will have runway preparation and etiquette training for the pageant. For more information, call Samuel Brown 683-3083 or visit [www.mrmanpremiere.com](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 May 21-22 at 27 Berryhill Lane in Fayetteville, Tenn.

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

**NCO Academy finale**

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold a Colors Casing Ceremony on June 2 at 10 a.m. at the NCOA field directly behind 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

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**WASTE...**  
**...RUINS MY TASTE**



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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. As part of Base Realignment and Closure, the NCO Academy will be moving to the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Va. Training for the CMF 94 Senior Leaders Course is already being conducted at Fort Lee, and remaining courses are now or will soon be in their last iteration on Redstone Arsenal.

## 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.

## Rag tag recycling day

Christmas Charities Year Round will hold our annual Rag Tag Recycling Day on Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon. "Accepting all clothes and rags in any condition," a prepared release said. "Just bag 'em, tag 'em (usable clothing or rags) and bring the bags to us! We also accept shoes and purses in any condition." The two dropoff locations are Star Market on Bailey Cove Road and CCYR at 2840 Jordan Lane. For more information, call 837-2373.

## Thrift Shop

The Thrift shop is now accepting summer items for consignment. The shop also accepts healthy plants in good soil and containers. Call the NO-LIST number at 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop will have

a plant sale Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Remember: Mother's Day is Sunday. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5 and the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. It's located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible. If you are interested in volunteering, stop by or call 881-6992.

## Military Sunday

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

## Day of prayer

A prayer experience for the entire community will be held Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the UAH Baptist Student Center, 450 Sparkman Drive. "Come on your lunch break and pray for the nation and the military," a prepared release said. No

lunch is served at this event. For more information, call Marilyn Merkel 679-7912 or email merkelm@knology.net. For directions call 837-9140.

## 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>.

## Fiesta fund-raiser

The Cinco De Mayo Fiesta, a fund-raiser for the Tut Fann Veterans Home and the Huntsville Veterans Memorial, will be held today from 6-8 p.m. at Las Trojas Cantina, 3760 Highway 53 in Huntsville. Go north on Research Highway from Gate 9. The \$20 cost includes dinner, soft drinks/sweet tea and entertainment. For more information, call 852-6381.

## Scholarship dinner

The Madison County Democratic Women will hold its annual JFK Scholarship Dinner on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn downtown. Guest speaker is Justice Mark Kennedy, newly-elected chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party. Scholarships will be awarded to local students. For information and reservations, call 536-2701 or email marilyn.robertson@knology.net.