

Parade of thanks for veterans

Community shows patriotism with Veterans Day activities

By KARI HAWKINS
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It's that time of year when Huntsville celebrates its "red, white and blue."

Patriotism will come out in full force with another supersized Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11, beginning at 11 a.m. in downtown Huntsville. There will be bands, floats, children's dance and martial arts groups, clowns and a big Soldier presence with Redstone Arsenal leadership, local ROTC and JROTC units, veteran and military retiree organizations, and National Guard Soldiers all marching in the parade.

Presented under the theme "Courage, Sacrifice and Duty: Honoring Our Military Veterans," it will be the kind of parade the North Alabama community expects on Veterans Day as patriots of all ages cheer, wave miniature U.S. flags and take pictures along the route.

"It's in our DNA in this town. Patriotism is in our DNA. We bleed red, white and blue," Joe Fitzgerald, chairman of this year's Veterans Day committee and president of Alabama's Association of the U.S. Army, said. "Huntsville is very unique, a very patriotic community."

For Fitzgerald, there is also no other holiday like the one that falls on Nov. 11 each year.

Veterans Day parade
Nov. 11, 11 a.m.
Downtown Huntsville

"Veterans Day allows us to show how much we cherish and are thankful for the service of the many veterans who have given us the freedoms we enjoy," he said.

"This is a very unique holiday. Armed Forces Day lets us show our appreciation for those who are currently serving. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance of those who paid the ultimate price of battle. But Veterans Day allows us to honor



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Veterans wave to the crowd from a float in the 2010 Veterans Day parade as it passes the stands at Veterans Park in downtown Huntsville. Plenty of veterans will again make appearances in the 2011 parade.

and recognize those who served in uniform – living and dead – and all veterans who have written a check to their nation payable with their lives if so called for. These veterans may have served many years, or just two, three or four years. But they did their duty and they are veterans."

This year's parade will be different from years past in a very good and big way by preceding it with the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at downtown Huntsville's Veterans Park, an event that has been more than 10 years in the making. It will take place at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 11, with the parade following.

"The dedication will have a lot of pagantry built into it," retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, a local veteran volunteer who is a member of the memorial's foundation, said.

"It's going to be a very good event. It's going to be historical."

Making history is par for the course for all the Veterans Day activities this community puts together each year.

"We will have upwards of 100 or more

elements in the parade. But that doesn't count each piece of those elements. For example, the Vets With Vettes Corvette Club is one element, but they will have some 60 cars in the parade. A lot of elements are registered that have multiple pieces," Fitzgerald said.

"This is one of the largest, if not the largest, Veterans Day parades in the country."

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, and Redstone Arsenal's senior commander, got his first-ever – "very impressive" – view of the local Veterans Day parade last year as a spectator. This year, he will ride in the lead jeep as the grand marshal with his wife Reba by his side while two of his children march with one of the parade bands, and AMCOM's Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates and fiancée ride in a follow-on jeep.

Rogers was impressed last year by the entire week of festivities that centered around the Veterans Day parade.

"From the luncheon to the breakfast

COMMUNITY NEWS

Conference addresses quality of life.

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HAIL AND FAREWELL

Soldier son completes Army journey.

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AROUND TOWN

Pentagon resource manager discusses budget.

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WIN OR LOSE

Williams Middle School has successful season.

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See Parade on page 20

RocketViews

What's your favorite horror movie?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Capt. David Coates
AMCOM Legal Office
"I'd say 'Scream.' I just like how it kind of pokes fun at the older horror movies like the 1980s, but still a pretty good movie in its own right."



Amy Brown
Phoenix
"Dracula.' I just love vampire movies. I just always have, just always loved Dracula movies."



Johnnie Smith
Army Materiel Command
"The Exorcist.' I looked at it when I was very small, probably around 6 or 7 years of age. It kind of scared me so I always kind

of took an interest to it. For some odd reason, I still like looking at it."



Douglas Edwards
AMC G-6 (Information Management)
"Unforgiven.' It's sort of a depiction of the Wild West as it was coming to an end. And it's pretty gruesome in spots."

Quote of the Week

'We all go a little mad sometimes.'
— Norman Bates
'Psycho' movie (1960)

Exchange's ToyBook offers \$18K in prizes

Jam-packed with the hottest toys, electronics and learning activities, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has unwrapped its brand new ToyBook.

In addition to the varied selection, the ToyBook offers more than \$18,000 in prizes. In fact, the Exchange will award one Cozy Coupe Cab, a riding car for children that includes a toy radio with sound effects. Shoppers can register at

the Exchange through Dec. 4 and drawings will take place on or about Jan. 6.

Every Redstone Arsenal family who picks up this year's ToyBook will feel like a winner thanks to more than \$450 in coupons, including savings ranging from \$2-\$15 off toys from Barbie, Little Pet Shop, Playskool and many more.

"Kids dreaming of a fun-filled Christmas will find all they could ever want,"

Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "Featuring hundreds of items available at both the Exchange and online, the ToyBook is truly a one-stop shopping destination for Redstone Arsenal families."

The 2011 Exchange ToyBook is available at the Exchange and online at www.shopmyexchange.com. (Exchange release)

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Oct. 20-26:

Oct. 21: A Soldier was arrested by the U.S. Marshal Service for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who processed him to his Fort Campbell, Ky., unit.

Oct. 22: In the Post Exchange, a juvenile concealed a memory card and left the store without paying. The juvenile was released to a sponsor.

Oct. 23: When a civilian arrived at Gate 9 lost, he received violation notices for driving under the influence and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Oct. 24: An Army employee reported that his private ve-

hicle was damaged while parked at building 4500.

Oct. 26: A Soldier was arrested by Colbert County sheriff's deputies for desertion. He was held in the Colbert County Jail pending release to Redstone Police who would process him to his unit.

Oct. 26: A military retiree reported that his wallet was stolen while at Pagano Gym.

Traffic accidents reported: One with injury, five without injury, including a deer strike.

Violation notices issued: 10 speeding, 1 driving under the influence, 1 possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 open container, 1 no driver's license, 1 stop sign violation.

Getting to know you

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

Name: Leigh Beard

Job: Administrative assistant for Armed Scout Helicopter deputy project manager

Where do you call home?
Ashland, Miss.

What do you like about your job?
The people that I work with. I just like the people that I work with, meeting new people and learning new things.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Bowling. Community projects. And

working in the church (The Rock Family Worship Center).

What are your goals?

My goals are to complete my master's in acquisition and contracting (from Florida Institute of Technology). And try to expand my employment in that same direction.

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

To take a cruise around the world. It would give me an opportunity to learn about different cultures and see how other cultures live, and just learn about other countries.



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CFC spotlight

Name: Terri Stover

Job: Public affairs specialist, Garrison/AMCOM Public Affairs Office

How long have you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign?

My entire federal career, which is 13 years. There's always been a CFC campaign wherever I've worked. I joined when I worked for the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C., and then as I went to other public affairs jobs at the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and then the Defense Information Systems Agency (both in D.C.) and finally here at Redstone. There have always been CFC volunteers who are available to explain how to fill out a CFC pledge card.

Why did you decide to be a CFC contributor?

CFC appealed to me because you get to make choices. You can donate to the general fund and that money goes to any of the many charities that need financial assistance. Or you can donate to exactly the charities that are near and dear to your heart. That's what I like. I also like that you can do a one-time donation or you can do deduction by paycheck. You can give a little or a lot. No one's pressuring you. No one's looking over your shoulder. It's a very private thing.

What charities do you like to contribute to through CFC?

In the last eight years, my charities have centered around international adoption and charities in Guatemala because both of my children are adopted from Guatemala. As a single woman, I researched countries that would allow singles to adopt babies. My oldest daughter, Elaina, was born in Guatemala in 2002, but I had to wait until 2004 for her to come to me because politics between Guatemala and the U.S. suspended adoptions temporarily. It was the longest wait in my life. My youngest daughter, Joely, came home in 2007 and one month later adoptions from Guatemala were permanently suspended and to this day still are. Because of my daughters, I feel a connection to Guatemala. I want to try to make a difference in the country where my daughters came from. Guatemala is a Third World country in dire need of infrastructure and assistance. I like to give to Guatemala charities that are focused on education or assisting women mostly in teaching them vocations that can help



them to be self-sufficient. Only 25 percent of Guatemalans graduate from high school. Education, to me, is very important and I want to pass that on as best I can through charities that will provide educational opportunities. So, I donate through CFC to Common Hope, a charity that provides education and health care to Guatemalans; and Safe Passage, a new charity that is focused on assisting the 300-plus families that live at the Guatemala city dump by helping them find vocations. I also give through CFC to the Joint Council on International Children's Services to support their work in making sure international adoptions are safe and legal. They put children first. I trust that they are truly wanting what's best for children.

Why do you continue to be a CFC contributor?

It's easy. The catalog and pledge form come right to you at your desk. One thing I love about the catalog is you can look up all kinds of different charities and see how much of a percentage of their donations go to administrative costs. It makes it very easy to give back, and I trust that it's legitimate and the money we donate is being used correctly.

Editor's note: The CFC spotlight is a special feature in honor of "50 Years of Caring." Each week during the annual charity drive, the Rocket will feature a contributor to the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign.

Emergency alert system test slated Nov. 9

FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will conduct the first nationwide Emergency Alert System Test on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m.

The test is part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System program's effort to enhance alert and warning information to the American public during times of crisis. FEMA's IPAWS program was developed to facilitate the modernization of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure to provide federal, state and local authorities the capability to deliver emergency information over more media to more people before, during and after a disaster.

The purpose of the test is to assess the readiness and effectiveness of the EAS and identify incremental improvements to better serve communities in the preservation of life and property. Although the EAS is frequently used by state and local governments to send weather alerts and other emergencies, there has never been a national activation of the system. The test Nov. 9 is the first step; future IPAWS tests will integrate existing and new technologies to achieve the goal of more universal delivery of timely alert and warning messages.

The test will last for approximately three minutes and then regular programming will resume. During the test, listen-

ers will hear a message indicating that "This is a test." Although the EAS test may resemble the periodic, monthly EAS tests that most Americans are already familiar with, there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will be the same for all EAS participants; however, due to limitations in the EAS, the video test message scroll may not be the same or indicate that "This is a test." This is due to the use of the live Emergency Action Notification code – the same code that would be used in an actual emergency. The text at the top of the television screen may indicate that an "Emergency Action Notification has been issued." This notification is used to disseminate a national alert and in this case, the test. In addition, the background image that appears on video screens during an alert may indicate that "This is a test," but in some instances there might not be an image at all.

This event serves as a reminder that everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and emergency plan for themselves, their families, communities and businesses. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Ready Virginia webpage (www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia) for more information about how to prepare for and stay informed about what to do in the event of an actual emergency. (Garrison release)



Photo by Ed Mickley

Costs defined

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers discusses "Cost-Wise Readiness" on Oct. 26 with attendees at the Army Aviation Association of America's Luther Jones Symposium at Corpus Christi Depot, Texas. As a life cycle manager, the Aviation and Missile Command must work to define and articulate Operating and Sustainment costs in order to ensure the future readiness of the aviation fleet.

Total Army family gathers to resolve issues

Two-day conference fosters suggestions

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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For 23 years, Team Redstone has made a mission out of ensuring the installation and the Army are the best they can possibly be. This year was no different as individuals from across the Arsenal gathered to raise the standard of excellence a little higher.

The 2011 Army Family Action Plan conference, held Oct. 26-27 at the Officers and Civilians Club, gave members across the Team Redstone spectrum, including active duty Soldiers, Reserve, National Guard, family members, retirees, surviving spouses, Army civilians and tenants, the opportunity to come together to voice concerns and make recommendations to improve not just the Army quality of life, but the quality of life at Redstone Arsenal.

"Roll up your sleeves and really tackle the tough ideas, tackle the tough issues," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton told attendees as the conference began. "No

idea is a bad idea. Every single one of them is worth identifying and talking about."

Conference attendees broke into three separate groups, medical and dental, consumer services, and benefits and entitlement for two days, where they addressed the difficult topics affecting the Arsenal and Army's quality of life in regard to their specialty, and tried to identify ways to resolve those issues. Over the course of AFAP's 28-year history, 683 issues have entered the AFAP.

"The Army Family Action Program has changed, literally, changed things in the Army for the better," Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Redstone's senior commander, said. "The goodness in this is we all get to get together to see what's rubbing everyone wrong, and then we can talk about it. ... That's the power of AFAP. It's important to us, it's important to Redstone, but it's also important to the Army. We capitalize the 'f' now, just like we do the Soldier, for 'family' because we want to emphasize it's all about taking care of the Soldier and their family, and that includes our retirees."

Each of the three groups presented one major issue they discussed at the conclusion of the conference. The Medical and Dental



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers address Army Family Action Plan conference attendees last week.

into one Total Army Family.

Consumer services cited not enough awareness in community about the activities and services available on Redstone Arsenal, and recommended authorized access to Channel 42, a commander's channel, to all Team Redstone employees, as well as the establishment of a command sponsored FMWR community partners board. Benefits and entitlement recommended the repeal of the decision to remove vehicle decals, citing security vulnerabilities. Re-implementing the decal requirement and reinforcing guard security training were some of the recommendations they offered with their concerns.

Arsenal leadership will review the list of remaining issues discussed throughout the two-day conference in the weeks and months to come. Those that need attention throughout the Army will be recommended for review, discussion and action at the Armywide AFAP conference.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

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

Arts and crafts

FMWR Arts & Crafts Center will have an open house Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is at building 3615 on the corner of Vincent and Gray roads. For more information, call 876-7931.

Youth deer hunt

A youth deer hunt will be held Nov. 12-13 from dusk to dawn at Outdoor

Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive. This is free to Redstone hunters, and open to youths age 10-15. Each child must be accompanied by a Redstone authorized hunter who is 25-plus and possesses a valid hunting license and a valid RSA hunting permit. For more information, call 876-4868.

Turkey shoot

Outdoor Recreation's turkey shoot is Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3 per shot, shells pro-

vided. Children can participate with adult supervision. For more information, call 876-4868.

Angel tree

You are invited to participate in the Redstone Arsenal Angel Tree Program, Nov. 7 through Dec. 9. An angel tree will be set up Nov. 7 at the Exchange. The angels will have the child's information. All gifts should be wrapped with the angels attached to the outside of the gifts. Please turn in the presents to the Exchange or to the Youth Center,

building 3148, by 12:30 p.m. Dec. 9. For more information, call 876-5437.

Basketball tournament

Redstone Arsenal will have a Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 5-19 at 6 p.m. at Pagano Gym. Games will be played Monday through Thursday evenings. This competition is open to all adults on Redstone Arsenal. Cost is \$40 per team. Registration is open Nov. 10-22. The schedule will be based on the number of teams entered. For more information, call Joe Reed 876-6701 or 876-2943.

Native American heritage celebrated with program



By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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For Native Americans, their traditions are a celebration of their heritage, from dancing, to drumming, to singing; but for those not familiar with the culture, why they do what they do can be a mystery.

Red Hawk, of Cherokee Indian descent, will uncover and explain the tra-

Courtesy photo

Red Hawk is the keynote speaker for the National Native American Indian Heritage Month program Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

ditions of his heritage as the featured keynote speaker at the National Native American Indian Heritage Month Program, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

“They open their eyes to the stereotypes and discover why we drum, why we dance, why we sing. It’s an educational, motivational walk through history,” Red Hawk said of his talk.

The nationally known motivational speaker has spoken to more than 1 million people about cultural diversity, leadership and structural inequality.

In addition to his experience as a professional consultant and keynote

speaker in the public and private sectors, Red Hawk is the recipient of the Navy Achievement Medal for his contributions in the field of management theory, as well as commendations for serving in Desert Storm, and the Humanitarian Medal for his services in the rescue of Korean refugees off the Sea of Japan. He was honorably discharged in 1991. He is also the former clan chief for the American Cherokee Confederacy of Georgia, where he sat on the tribal council as spiritual leader, and member of the consulting pool for Georgetown University’s National Center for Cultural Competence.

New web-based staffing system coming to Redstone

All DoD components will transition to web-based software owned by the Office of Personnel Management to fill internal and external Appropriated Fund and Non-Appropriated Fund vacancies as part of the Department of Defense hiring reform initiative.

The Department of the Army started deploying USA Staffing in fiscal 2011 and will continue to deploy the system in FY 2012. This new system is replacing

Resumix, the current web-based system used by the Army. The Redstone Arsenal Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is scheduled to transition to USAS in mid-January.

The vision of the Army Civilian Human Resources Agency community is to provide a single point of entry for all recruitment and hiring activities. USAS has the potential to improve the process for applicants, CHRA professionals and

selecting officials through an efficient web-based interface.

The USAS is a tool that automates the recruitment and hiring process including developing position based assessments, creating and posting vacancy announcements, collecting and reviewing application materials, rating and ranking candidates, issuing referrals, making selections and notifying applicants of their status throughout the recruitment process.

Organizational briefings by the Redstone CPAC will be provided before deployment and training sessions will be provided during and after deployment. Stay alert for announcements via email regarding dates and locations. For more information, visit the Redstone CPAC website at <https://cpac.redstone.army.mil> or contact your servicing CPAC human resources specialist. (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)

Contracting command reaches out to small businesses

By **BETH CLEMONS**
ACC Public Affairs

Local small business owners got the opportunity to learn more about doing business with the Army through the Expedited Professional and Engineering Support Services system during a workshop here.

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs hosted the two-hour workshop Oct. 26. The training provided the opportunity to learn more about doing business with ACC and the Army, specifically through EXPRESS. More than 30 people attended and ACC tweeted seminar highlights.

After an introduction and command overview from ACC Small Business staff, EXPRESS program coordinator Marcia Tully, ACC-Redstone, provided specific information regarding the widely-used local program.

The EXPRESS program is a group of 31 blanket purchase agreements established against General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedules. The program provides advisory and assistance services in support of the Aviation and Missile Command and its customers. The support is provided in one of four domains: business and analytical, logistics, programmatic and technical.

Tully discussed the history of the program, blanket purchase agreements, the four domains of the system, direct awards and standard task order evaluations.

According to Tully, there is a strong focus on small business participation in the program. In fiscal 2011, 67 percent of awarded



Courtesy photo

EXPRESS program coordinator Marcia Tully, Army Contracting Command-Redstone, explains the system to more than 30 small business attendees at the Oct. 26 workshop.

task orders and 42 percent of the obligated dollars went to small businesses.

Kathy Murray, district field representative for U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, also attended to gain some insight into the world of Army contracting.

This was ACC's fifth small business workshop since the command's relocation to Redstone Arsenal. More workshops will be scheduled in 2012. Registration for upcoming workshops will be available online at www.facebook.com/USArmyContracting-Command.

The ACC Office of Small Business Programs provides outreach support to the small business community through a variety of methods. For more information about the ACC Office of Small Business Programs, email Redstone-HQACC-OSBP@conus.army.mil or visit www.acc.army.mil.



Courtesy photo

Professionals honored

Team Redstone employees Barbie Baugh, fourth from left, and Liz Blackmon, sixth from left, received awards at the Rocket City-Alabama Chapter of Society of Government Meeting Professionals annual banquet. Baugh received the Planner of the Year Award; and Baugh and Blackmon received Program of the Year Award. Both work in the AMCOM Protocol Office.

Chinook program lands award for delivering \$400M savings

Product office team earns defense honor

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

“Team Chinook” was awarded the 2011 Department of Defense Systems Engineering Top 5 Awards for the Chinook CH-47F Multi-Year 1 Program during the National Defense Industry Association Award Luncheon on Oct. 26 in San Diego, Calif.

The DoD award is in recognition of the program’s successful implementation of systems engineering best practices, which resulted in approximately \$400 million in savings for the American taxpayer.

“The greatest strength of this program is the commitment and dedication of this team to ensure that we get the best product that we can to the end user,” Lt. Col. Brad Killen, product manager for CH-47F, said. He found out about the award about a month ago when he and others from the Program Executive Office for Aviation, including Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, PEO, were conducting a review of the program with the Office of the Secretary of Defense leadership. “We got a nice round of applause from OSD,” Killen said.

The Department of Defense Systems Engineering Top 5 Program Awards, sponsored by the deputy assistant secretary of defense for systems engineering and the Systems Engineering Division of the National Defense Industrial Association, are intended to recognize excellence in the application of systems engineering, which is an interdisciplinary field of engineering that focuses on how complex engineering projects should be designed and managed over the life cycle of the project. The award is presented to both the government agency or branch of service and the prime contractor of the Top 5 Program selections. Team members from the CH-47F Product Office and the Boeing Company were recognized at the awards ceremony.

Under the Multi-Year 1 program, Team Chinook has delivered nearly 150 CH-47F Chinook helicopters on time and on cost, and has trained and equipped seven Army units including those stationed in Hawaii and Germany. The team’s success is attributable to the total team approach in systems engineering, setting the standard and the foundation of collective collaboration and communication, a firm understanding of



Courtesy photo

Award recipients from “Team Chinook” include, from left, Brian Hite, Joel West, Pat Donnelly, Lt. Col. Brad Killen, Kevin Billman, Dr. Vicki Sholtes, Michelle Staggs and Steve Chisgar.

the requirements and program schedule by all stakeholders, and by ensuring that risks are mitigated early and addressed immediately.

“It’s not rocket science what we do here,” Killen said. “It’s just following defined processes, developing great relationships up and down the chain from our users in our Integrated product teams, and translating those to our vendors to ensure that all that input comes back under one team.”

Killen said the key is to start early and work toward an integrated master schedule, identify risks involved and plan ahead to mitigate those risks.

“It’s not just us doing engineering in a vacuum or in a stovepipe. It’s working with our users at Fort Rucker, it’s pulling folks in from the field, it’s getting information from our vendors and integrated product teams – and then everybody working towards a common goal,” he said.

As a large scale program, the CH-47F platform relies heavily on supplier integration, according to the nomination. One of the major challenges on the CH-47F Multi-Year 1 program was dealing with multiple suppliers and multiple IPTs managing those suppliers. “With two major primes, systems engineering had to be a top priority,” Killen said. The CH-47F is a complex machine in which radios and complex systems are integrated through the Common Avionics Architecture System, the aircraft’s primary software. “Because this platform is so integrated, you can’t make an isolated change,” Killen said.

“We have to communicate,” he said. “When it comes down to hard decisions when we cannot do something, then everybody has to come to the table and lay it all out.”

Recipients of the award from Team Chinook included Brian Hite, Joel West, Pat Donnelly, Lt. Col. Brad Killen, Kevin Billman, Dr. Vicki Sholtes, Michelle Staggs and Steve Chisgar.

Hail and Farewell

Soldier son completes his own Army journey

LOGSA sergeant major retires after 23 years

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Thomas Shelton was a career Soldier who retired in 1979 after 21 years of service. His son Tim followed in his footsteps.

Sgt. Maj. Tim Shelton of the Logistics Support Activity retired Thursday with 23 years of service. His dad, a Vietnam veteran, was among the attendees at the retirement ceremony in Bob Jones Auditorium.

“Same month and same age he was,” Thomas Shelton, 74, of Tullahoma, Tenn., said of his own retirement as a sergeant first class. “I’m proud of him.”

During his remarks in the ceremony, Tim Shelton told stories from his years in the Army. He thanked his mentors, LOGSA co-workers, commanders and family. And he concluded with a special thanks to his dad, his “very first hero,” who was sitting in the front row with his

stepmother, Frances.

“I’m the son of a Soldier,” Shelton said. “I’m very proud of you. Thank you very much, Dad. I love you.”

Shelton, 42, was born in Tullahoma. He lived in various Army installations around the world before his father retired and moved back to Lynchburg, Tenn., in 1979. Shelton graduated from Moore County High School in 1987 and joined the Tennessee National Guard that summer. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Excelsior College, N.Y. He joined the active duty Army in October 1988 and arrived at LOGSA in August 2010.

“To the LOGSA team, I’d like to say thank you for what you do every day,” he said.

LOGSA commander Col. Robert Sullivan, presiding officer for the ceremony, presented him the Legion of Merit, the Gen. Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence, a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation in honor of his retirement, a U.S. flag and his retirement certificate.

“Tim Shelton is the epitome of a pro-

Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOGSA retiring Sgt. Maj. Tim Shelton hugs Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dorothea Johnson, chief of operations for the Corps/Theater ADP Service Center. At right is his father, Thomas, a retired sergeant first class.



fessional NCO,” Sullivan said.

Shelton, who resides in Fayetteville, Tenn., will work at Redstone as the project lead for ProModel Corporation, headquartered in Allentown, Pa. He has three children: Hope, Andrew and Josie Lou.

Photo by Melody Sandlin

Retirement honoree

Col. Forrest C. Wentworth, right, CENTCOM region director, receives the Legion of Merit from USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner during his retirement ceremony Oct. 21 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Wentworth leaves the Army with more than 30 years of service.



Calibration workers encouraged to stay safe

Annual safety day gives information

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The snakes proved to be popular near building 5435 on Oct. 26.

They were exhibited during USATA's second annual Safety Day for workers of the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity. About 232 of the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone game warden Kelly Smith exhibits snakes during USATA's second annual Safety Day. Looking on, from left, are Lamont Davis, Peter Nguyen and Andre Rivamonte.

activity's nearly 900 people worldwide work at Redstone. USATA is part of the Aviation and Missile Command.

"We do a lot of hazardous stuff every day dealing with chemicals, high-voltage radiation, just a lot of things that can hurt somebody – even kill somebody – if we don't do it right," executive director James Johnson said. "We just want everybody to be safe so they can go home at the end of the day."

The workers went through the informational tents in three groups from 8-11 a.m. Representatives included Redstone game warden Kelly Smith, who showed poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes; Fox Army Health Center safety manager Cherie Miller, who provided preventive medicine information on hearing protection, ergonomics, smoking, flu prevention and sexually-transmitted diseases; Redstone Fire and Emergency Services; the Employee Assistance Program, Army Substance Abuse Program; and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, with boating safety information.

"It's our annual Safety Day, just to remind everybody to be safe in all different areas," USATA safety officer Teresa Salmon said.

The activity also had a safety challenge for its workers. There was a room with 11 safety hazards; and any worker who had all 11 correct answers got a prize.

The five winners – Gail Nieves, Dean

Alexander, Cecelia Southern, Vera Britton and Sharonda Grandberry – each received a prize of 59 minutes. The grand prize winner's name, Grandberry, was drawn from that group and she won a Chili's gift card.

"It's very informative," USATA budget

analyst Jonathan Hargrove said of the safety day, "an opportunity to get information that you don't run into every day. It's nice for an organization to put together something like this in order for us to get information of this nature, mainly safety information."

Courtesy photo

Dining out

The Army Materiel Command Army Reserve Unit held its Dining Out on Oct. 22 at the Overlook. AMC's Reserve brigade supports AMC with qualified Soldiers performing a multitude of missions both in the U.S. and overseas. The evening entertainment was provided by an ensemble from the AMC



Band; and the color guard was from Madison County High School's JROTC. Maj. Gen. Gary Bunch, AMC assistant deputy commander, was the evening's guest speaker. From left are Bunch; Col. Jack Graham, AMC-ARE commander; Col. Kelly Peters, Army Reserve Sustainment Command acting commander; Col. Mark Davis, Communications and Electronics Command detachment commander, and Lt. Col. Karen Andreeko, CECOM deputy commander.

Daughter in boots continues family tradition

Soldier follows dad into Army service

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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As a little girl, Pvt. Lakisha Scott said she didn't want to be like her mom or dad when she grew up.

But destiny has a way of changing things. Today, Scott is very much like both her parents, wearing the uniform of the Army.

"I wanted her to join day one," Scott's father, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said.

"She comes from a military background and I always believed that after high school and college she was going into the military."

Besides her dad, her mom, Barbara, also served in the Army. Scott's parents both thought the Army could offer their daughter career and personal development opportunities she couldn't get anywhere else.

"The military is really good for young people," Turner said. "It gives you a good start, a good job. It trains you with a skill. It gives you a place to live and pretty much takes care of you. It prepares you for a career and for life, and it prepares you if you do decide to get out after a few years. I think every young person should give the military two years. It can really make a difference for them."

But, for Scott, that vision was not so clear. There were a lot of stops and starts along the way to Scott putting on the uniform. She had some difficult memories of growing up military, such as being left with other family members when her parents were both deployed. Even when her mom was home, there were many times when Scott's dad was not there. During 33 years of service, her dad, a three-time Bronze Star recipient, deployed multiple times, with many of those deployments with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I held that against my parents, especially when my mother deployed. I was against



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner is proud of the accomplishments of his daughter, Pvt. Lakisha Scott, as she continues the military tradition of her family.

the military because of those memories," she said. "But when I saw the bigger picture, I could see what the military could do for my family."

As a teenager, Scott toyed with the idea of joining the Army. She imagined herself as a Soldier.

"I wanted to join in 11th grade when we lived at Fort Leonard Wood (Mo.)," Scott recalled. "On Bring Your Child To Work day, I visited a basic training unit there and the drill sergeant started teasing me about 'We're going to get you.' So, I was scared and I said 'Nope, I'm not doing it.'"

In 12th grade, while living at Fort Bragg, Scott took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and started thinking about military service again. The possibility of

being deployed to Iraq scared her off a second time. She went on to college for a while, had a child and entered cosmetology school.

"I started talking about joining again. But I didn't want to leave my son at such a young age," Scott said. "When he turned 3, I really got serious about it, but my parents didn't believe I would do it. Then, I went to a recruiting station."

Her father had given up trying to convince his daughter about the positives of a military career long before she finally visited a recruiting station.

"I told her I just didn't want to hear about it anymore," he said. "I was really proud of her, though, when she went to the recruiting station. She was getting kickback, but she still kept trying."

Some issues with scheduling the entry test at the recruiting station made it more difficult for Scott to finally take the plunge into military service.

"I kept crying to my mom about it and she just said 'Oh, just go ahead and do it,'" she said.

"Around Thanksgiving last year, they offered me military occupational specialties as a military police or truck driver when I wanted dental specialist, human resources or supply. When they offered me a 42 Alpha – human resources specialist – that's when it became serious."

Though in good physical shape, Scott was also worried about passing the Army physical fitness test.

"I had a push-up scare. I just couldn't do it and I was freaking out about it," she said. "But WEE Fit (an at-home computer physical training program) helped me get some muscles and I was knocking out those push-ups. I got up to 27 push-ups in one minute. That's when I was good."

Though she finally decided a Soldier's life was her path, it wasn't an easy decision to live up to. She got a stress fracture in her knee during the first week of training and she struggled with homesickness just like others in her class.

"It was hard, but my mom helped me," she said. "She told me before I left that boot

camp was a mind game, and that they would break you down and build you back up. So, I knew what I went through was nothing personal.

"My mom tried to give me advice about what she and dad did, and about what I should do in the Army. But I want to make my own mistakes. I want to do it my way."

There were letters home that gave Scott's father a glimpse of what today's boot camp is all about.

"It's not the same. I look at me as a private and I see her as a private, and it's not the same. Of course, I didn't have a dad who was a command sergeant major," he said.

"Basic training has changed. The Army has changed. The Soldier has changed. But the final results – the impact basic training had on me and on her – that's pretty much the same. Army training still makes Soldiers understand they can go above and beyond what they think they can do. The Army still teaches discipline, respect and all the Army values."

Some of the changes Turner has seen through his daughter's experience are in response to the type of person who is now entering military service.

"The Soldier that comes in today is a lot smarter walking in the door. They know so much more because of the Internet and all the different ways to communicate," he said. "When I went to basic training, it was a total shock. Now, young people can visit the Future Soldiers website and see what they are getting into. They can get advice from other Soldiers, and they can meet other future Soldiers before they are together at basic training."

Pvt. Turner wrote lots of letters home. Pvt. Scott did, too, although there were also some phone calls to her mom and dad.

"We wrote letters to people we knew and even to people we didn't know just so someone would write back," Turner said of his boot camp experience 33 years ago. "When one of us got a letter, we would pass it around so everyone could share in reading a letter."

At basic training today, the cell phone is

See Daughter on page 22

Community sends off Soldiers with well wishes

National Guard's 115th going to Afghanistan

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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It was a day to celebrate accomplishments, a day to recognize sacrifice and, mostly, a day to honor the Soldiers of Company C, 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

And in the midst of Saturday's ceremonial moments, family members, friends and well wishers held on to the last few hours they would spend with their Soldiers before a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. Similar deployment ceremonies for Company A in Florence and Company B in Sheffield have been held in recent weeks. In all, about 450 Soldiers will deploy with the three companies to provide communication support to Soldiers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Thousands of people will be joining you in prayer," said retired National Guard sergeant David Carney, who served as the deployment ceremony's master of ceremonies. "Our thoughts and our prayers go with



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Sgt. Dustin Sims of the Company C, 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, poses with his sons, 7-year-old Austin and 4-year-old Aiden, for a family photo as the battalion waits to be released to their families one last time before leaving on a deployment to Afghanistan.

you," joined in Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. "You are members of our community and your service will do us proud. ... We are sending you off with well wishes, lots of prayers and lots of thoughts."

During a video shown at the deployment ceremony, family members, friends and well wishers in the packed Grissom High School



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander, says goodbye to Soldiers of the National Guard's Company C, 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

auditorium got a glimpse of the training their Soldiers have been going through during the past year in preparation for the deployment. Urban training, driving training, land navigation, language instruction and weapons training were all part of their regimen. In addition, the Soldiers will spend a few training weeks at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Wash., before leaving for Afghanistan.

"I can assure you these Soldiers are well



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Soldiers from Company C, 115th Signal Battalion, stand at attention prior to the close of the unit's deployment ceremony Saturday.

prepared for the mission ahead of us," battalion commander Lt. Col. Steven Grigsby told the ceremony's audience.

To the 115 Soldiers of Company C (known as the Renegades), he said "Your leaders have worked hard to get you to this point. I can assure you this deployment will not be easy. But you are ready."

Company C is headquartered in the armory on Green Cove Road and in a detachment in Moulton. Its Soldiers come from

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Be on lookout for warning signs of gang activity

Parents, students attend awareness workshop

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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There are typically two outcomes from being involved with a gang, according to Huntsville police officer Carl McDuffie – jail or death.

McDuffie and his partner Dwight Atkinson, gang prevention specialists, spoke Thursday to parents and students at the Youth Center about gang awareness. The workshop was sponsored by Family and

Morale Welfare and Recreation's Child Youth and School Services.

"It doesn't matter what school you go to, whether you're black or white – we've got gangs everywhere," McDuffie said.

More than 15 different gangs are known to have a presence in the Madison County and Decatur area, according to McDuffie. While parents may think their child is the perfect kid, education and gang awareness is vital to keeping even the star student out of trouble.

"Our biggest problem is the parents," Atkinson said. "The parents think little Johnny's a little angel, but when little Johnny leaves home he becomes a differ-

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Huntsville police officers Carl McDuffie and Dwight Atkinson speak to parents and students about gangs last Thursday at the Youth Center.

ent person."

The warning signs that your child may be involved with a gang include: refusal to participate in family activities, admitting they are members of a gang, displaying

See Gang on page 22



Soldiers

continued from page 14

as far away as Mobile and include Soldiers from Arab and Albertville as well as Huntsville. For some in the company, this will be their second deployment with the first being to Iraq in 2004 with the 279th Signal Battalion.

During the ceremony, the unit was given an Alabama flag to fly at their unit's Afghanistan base. In addition, each Soldier was given a wood-turned pen made by volunteers at the Arsenal's Arts and Crafts

Center and a Blue Star banner for their family to hang on their home's front door or in a window. The banners were provided by the Blue Star Salute Organization of Alabama.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Max Dean, a Vietnam veteran with two tours, said Blue Star banners were displayed proudly by the families of deployed servicemen during World War I and World War II. But they were not displayed during the Korean and Vietnam Wars because of public sentiment toward the two wars and those who fought in them.

"On Sept. 6, 1970, during my out-brief-

ing as a combat infantry officer it was suggested that I not wear my uniform when I got back home," Dean recalled. "That cannot happen again."

It must be remembered, he said, that Soldiers like those in the 115th are "America's guardians of freedom."

Company commander Capt. Jon Manders described the unit's Soldiers as members of one of the "most highly skilled signal battalions" that is ready for the deployment from a training, tactical and emotional standpoint.

Besides studying convoy operations, map reading, infantry tactics and other elements

of the deployments, the unit has also had to endure the loss in recent months of one of its own. Sgt. Steven Blum was killed in May in a vehicle accident during training.

The devastating loss, Manders said, "has seasoned us as a company and united us for a purpose."

The commander assured family members in the audience that "we will come back safely to you."

In closing the ceremony, 1st Sgt. Brad Snipes reminded the Soldiers of a belief that he has emphasized throughout the unit's deployment training – "God does love Charlie Company!"

AroundTown

Change expected as Army adapts with budget

Pentagon resource manager advises innovative thought

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor
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The Army – its Soldiers, civilians and contractors – can learn a lot from baseball.

Success in baseball as detailed in the book “Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game” by Michael Lewis is about changing expectations and common beliefs, being innovative, using resources wisely and challenging the old way of doing things.

And in today’s economic climate, those lessons can help the Army as an organization ride the wave of financial troubles that now defines the nation, said one of the Army’s three-star generals.

As the keynote speaker at the Women in Defense, Tennessee Valley Chapter’s leadership workshop at the Huntsville Marriott on Oct. 27, Lt. Gen. Robert Lennox, deputy chief of staff for the Army’s resource management, urged his audience to read “Moneyball” and to take away from it lessons they can apply professionally as the Army works to make deep cuts in its budget. His comments on the challenges facing today’s Army fit with the workshop’s theme – Leadership Challenges in National Defense.

“You know what’s coming,” Lennox said. “There will be \$489 billion in cuts (in the Department of Defense budget) in the next 10 years. Based on what Congress does, that could grow to \$600 billion or even \$1 trillion. That’s extraordinarily painful. We have to change how we do business.”

Of that amount, “the Army takes

more than its fair share. We are going to have to figure out how we’re going to adapt,” he said.

The general said the nation’s economic problems are attributed to the recession, entitlements and defense spending. After each war – Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War – defense spending has seen a downturn. The problem this time, though, is the cuts are coming at a time when the nation is still at war, Lennox said, with just under 50,000 Soldiers in Iraq and some 75,000 Soldiers in Afghanistan.

“Those folks are still at risk,” he said.

In the scheme of things, a \$489 billion cut over 10 years is challenging, but also workable as long as the nation is not at war, Lennox said. The cut would mean “\$39 billion a year for the Department of Defense,” he said. “For the Army, one-fourth of that cut is \$12 billion a year or by one-third it’s \$16 billion a year.”

The fiscal 2011 Army budget was \$137.7 billion. The fiscal 2012 Army budget is now set at \$131.6 billion.

“The Army is involved in a negative growth period. The Army is losing when you consider inflation,” Lennox said.

Currently, 21 percent of the Army budget is spent on equipping Soldiers. Forty-seven percent is spent on manning the Army, 13 percent on installations, 12 percent on training Soldiers, 5 percent on sustaining the Army and 2 percent on organization. Lennox said if the equipping budget falls below 20 percent it will have a detrimental effect on modernization.

“We won’t be equipping for the future,” he said.

The general said the Army has grown to be “very generous to Soldiers” in recent years. Ten years ago, a Soldier cost the Army \$75,000 a year. Today, that



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Gen. Robert Lennox, deputy chief of staff for the Army’s resource management, talks about the book “Moneyball” and how its lessons in innovative thinking can help Army leaders as they face issues pertaining to budget reductions. He spoke about leadership challenges in national defense at the annual Women in Defense leadership workshop.

cost is \$138,000 a year for each Soldier. In addition, during World War II it cost \$2,533 to equip a Soldier. Today that cost is \$19,454 for each Soldier.

“Soldiers are what the Army is all about. But we’re making them unaffordable,” Lennox said.

“We’re pricing ourselves out of the market. We’re making Soldiers too expensive to have. We have to figure out how to get that back into balance or we will have a hollow Army with a lot of Soldiers who don’t have training and who don’t have modernization.”

The Army must ask itself, he said, how it will get into and stay in balance between all its expenses, how it will self-price itself in the market, how it will keep the trust of its families and how it will keep an all-volunteer force during a

tough economic time.

“These are all critical issues,” he said.

Lennox is also concerned about the 20,000 Soldiers currently in uniform who are in the physical disability system.

“They are in the Army wearing this uniform and they are not deploying,” he said. “So, we’ve created a bubble of non-deployable Soldiers and we can’t recruit because those jobs are filled.”

He also expressed concern over the job satisfaction of combat Soldiers who have been up-tempo in the fight and then brought home to do everyday tasks like changing the oil in their Humvees.

When it comes to modernization and industrial growth, Lennox said if the Army does not sustain its industrial base it will be a challenge to grow it when the time comes. Likewise, in planning for modernization for the future, the Army must decide what hardware is most important – tanks, aviation, unmanned aircraft systems or something else.

“How are we going to adapt to these kinds of challenges?” he asked. “How are we going to project a budget for the next five or six years that will modernize our Army?”

Since World War II, the U.S. and its Army have sacrificed greatly for Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom along with responding to conflicts that had not been foreseen.

“Who expected Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo or what happened in the ‘90s? Who knew we would be in Afghanistan and Iraq? ... We don’t know the twists and turns out there,” Lennox said, and yet the Army is supposed to plan for the unknown.

See Manager on page 22

Special Olympics has golden day at track

Community volunteers help ensure competition success

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Milton Frank Stadium went through a transformation Oct. 25, filling up with hundreds of cheering fans and competing athletes.

The 44th annual Madison County Special Olympics Track and Field Events drew more than 470 competing athletes from Huntsville city schools, Madison County schools, Madison city school and the Opportunity Center. The 10 competitive events included softball throws, track events and long jumping with divisions based on the athlete's age and gender.

To make such a large event happen, they recruited about 1,400 volunteers and escorts from all over Northern Alabama, including 360 JROTC cadets. The cadets came from eight high schools from around the city, said Willie Burton, the JROTC operations lead.

The cadets helped fill the void created by the move of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School to Fort Lee, Va., under base realignment and closure. The OMEMS Soldiers had tradition-

ally served as volunteers and escorts for the Special Olympics.

"With the Soldiers gone it's a great opportunity for us to step up, fill that void and help out," Burton, a retired chief warrant officer 3, said. "In our curriculum there is a service learning piece. We decided to do a mass effort and help with the Special Olympics which is such a special program."

Each school provided about 40 to 50 cadets for the day, depending on their class schedule availability.

When asked if they would help out again next year, Burton said absolutely.

"We have committed to bringing at least 350 cadets every year," he said.

Having Army support means a lot to the coordinators of the event, said Joni Haas, who has been coordinating the event as chairman since 1999.

"It's a lot of fun for them. The athletes really love having the military guys," Haas said. "It means so much to them to have them out there."

The yearly event takes much planning and coordination.

"We have a committee of 15 people and we start planning in July," Haas said. "The track and field event is the largest that the Madison County Special Olympics hosts every year.

"It is such an important event because it



Photo by Ellen Hudson

A wheelchair race takes place during the Special Olympics at Milton Frank Stadium.

allows these athletes to do things they normally wouldn't be allowed to do in school," she said. "And it's a day off school for them."

To help ensure the event's success, AEGIS Technology donated \$5,000 and assisted in all efforts of the day, providing volunteers, escorts, materials and a barbecue lunch for the athletes and volunteers.

"We wanted to assist in anything they needed and make it happen so the event can take place without them having to worry," Camille Gardner, head of AEGIS's volunteer group, said. "We just want to make it easy for them and make sure the children are happy and they have a memorable, fun day."

Escort Becky Johnson said she volunteers
See Olympics on page 19



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Columbia High School JROTC cadets Matisha Gaillard, left, and Monica Humbyrd dance with Jane Kielsmeier, a special needs student at Challenger Elementary School, during a break in the sporting events. Jane is the daughter of Darin and Angie Kielsmeier, who both work at Redstone Arsenal.

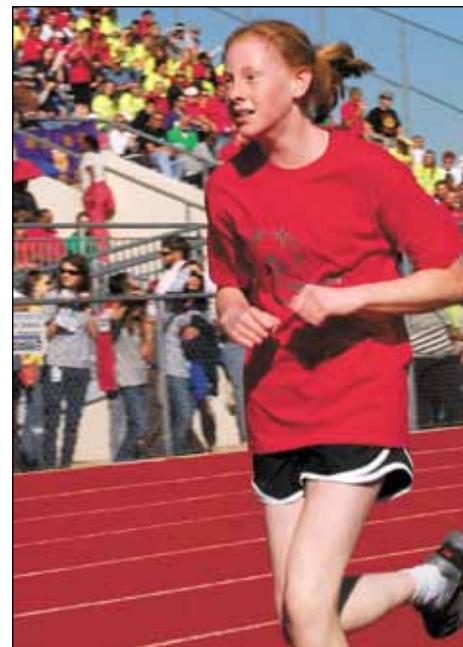


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Hayley Fox runs the mile alone. She also said the oath at the opening ceremonies.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Austin High School JROTC volunteer Jennifer Contreras escorts Special Olympian Tyler Wallace.

SMDC visionary program earns national award

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Team members from the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command have been recognized by their peers for their accomplishments.

The U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation selected the SMDC Future Warfare Center, Eagle Vision/ROVER Responsive Exploitation of Space Products for Tactical Use team as the recipient of the 2011 USGIF Achievement Award for Military. The award was presented Oct. 18 at the GEOINT Symposium in San Antonio.

"It's a great honor to be chosen for this prestigious award by our

See SMDC on page 21



Courtesy photo

From left are Kevin Jackson, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation awards subcommittee chair; Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Peter Wiedel, Eagle Vision 4 noncommissioned officer in charge; James "Snake" Clark, Air Force ISR Innovations director; Justin Novak, Space and Missile Defense Command-Future Warfare Center Innovative Ventures Office computer engineer; Laurence Burger, SMDC-FWC director; and Keith Masback, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation president.

Olympics

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every year to help ensure the kids have a great day.

"They are always so happy to participate," Johnson said. "You just have to look at those smiles."

Monica Humbyrd and Matisha Gailard of Columbia High JROTC not only escorted, but cheered, danced and laughed with their athlete – Jane Kielsmeier of Challenger Elementary. Jane, the daughter of Redstone Arsenal's Darin and Angie Kielsmeier, had a blue ribbon pinned to the front of her shirt.

"We cheered her on in the wheelchair race and she won first place," Humbyrd said. "This has been a lot of fun for all of us."

Three JROTC cadets from Athens High – Pas-

sion Lucas, Devonna Coleman and Sara Clinard – expressed the same sentiments. Lucas ran alongside a hesitant Sara Wiegmann of Riverton Intermediate, who finished the race to the cheers of the three cadets. Each had a high five for Sara after the race.

"I really like this because we are out here helping kids. I like helping kids, especially kids like Sara. It makes me happy to see Sara having a blast," Lucas said.

"It's all about letting these kids have a fun day," Coleman added.

When asked about their day competing and having fun, Robyn Dunn and Zoe Thompson of Harvest Elementary couldn't stop smiling.

"Running fast and having fun," Dunn said of her silver ribbon in the 50-meter dash was for.

"We went on a fun field trip," Thompson said.

Winners for the events will go on to a statewide competition in May.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

JROTC volunteer Taylor Oakes gives a piggyback ride to Special Olympian Jonathan Goad while playing a little football.

Master sergeant earns top honors

Far removed from her native roots in Trinidad-Tobago, an island in the West Indies, Master Sgt. Sandra Hypolite-Bernard earned the distinguished honor graduate title at the Noncommissioned Officer Senior Leaders Course at the Army Acquisition Center of Excellence in Huntsville.

Bernard serves as the NCO-in-charge of the 682nd Contingency Contracting Team, 916th Contingency Contracting Battalion, 410th Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Her daily contract administration duties are conducted at the 802nd Contracting Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

A 92Y unit supply specialist before she reclassified into the 51C acquisition, logistics and technology contracting NCO career field in October 2010, Bernard not only endured the physical demands and academic challenges of the six-week NCO resident course but she encouraged and facilitated after-hour study groups to help her fellow NCOs.

It was this display of leadership skills combined with her academic talents that earned Bernard the class top honors.

The senior NCO further demonstrated her capabilities during the train-the-trainer course where she shared her knowledge of the contracting process and provided major emphasis on instruc-



Courtesy photo

Senior Leaders Course director Master Sgt. Dennis Parmer presents Master Sgt. Sandra Hypolite-Bernard with the distinguished graduate honors.

tional techniques.

After the NCO course, Bernard joined a class of field grade officers for the Army Acquisition Intermediate Contracting Course. There she achieved the highest academic score of 96.8 during the four-week graduate-level course. This course is designed to provide Army acquisition work force officers and NCOs with Defense Acquisition University level 2 equivalency contracting training in intermediate contracting processes and methodology. (*Army Contracting Command release*)

Parade

continued from page 1

to the parade, I've never seen a community celebrate it to this magnitude anywhere else in my career," he said.

"This parade and all the events show the link, the strength of Team Redstone. Veterans Day is not only about honoring veterans, but honoring those cities that support our veterans. These events really show how the community cares about us and how they are an integral part of Team Redstone."

Rogers is looking forward to waving to the crowds of people who line the parade route.

"It is a real treat to see the amount of people who come out to the parade. It really shows this community's support to our veterans," he said.

Celebrations around Veterans Day kick off Nov. 7 with a prayer breakfast at the Hogan Family YMCA on Hughes Road in Madison that begins at 7:30 a.m. Tickets to the event are \$20 and cover the cost of breakfast for both a civilian and a servicemember. Tickets can be purchased by emailing events@ymca-huntsville.org or by paying at the door.

"The breakfast and all the activities we have planned fall under Heroes Week," Fitzgerald said.

"About five years ago, the Semper Fi Community Task Force began bringing in wounded warriors for events around Veterans Day. They started bringing the wounded warriors to Huntsville to show them how much we care for what they did for our country. That began what has become Heroes Week," Fitzgerald said.

"We're excited about all we've got going on. We're excited about the up-tempo of the whole week."

This year, 32 wounded warriors, representing the Marines, Army and Navy, along with their spouses will arrive on Nov. 8. A week of activities will include a boat parade in Guntersville, school visits to speak with students about their experiences, the Marine Corps Ball, a fishing tournament and the Veterans Day activities.

On Nov. 10, the public is invited to a Veterans Day luncheon at the Von Braun Center's North Hall beginning at 11 a.m. Recipients of the Veteran of the Year and Lifetime Achievement award will be announced, and inductees into the Madison County Hall of Heroes and the local Purple Heart chapter will be presented.

Madison County Hall of Heroes inductees include Jon Frederick Evans, Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross; Charles George Blume, Bronze Star Medal with Valor and three Purple Hearts; Dennis Ross Lacy, Army Commendation Medal with Valor; and Kenneth Gene Trickey, Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart. Purple Heart inductees include Jason



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Several local military and veteran groups work together to present one of the nation's biggest Veterans Day parades. Representing some of those groups at a recent work meeting are, from left, Jeff Wishik, Joe Fitzgerald, Tom Dunn and Bob Drolet.

Carter, Afghanistan; Matthew Gardner, Iraq; Grant Rosensteel, Vietnam; and Charles George Blume, Vietnam.

Although the luncheon is funded through corporate sponsors that purchase tables at the event, individual tickets are also available for \$50 each. They can be purchased by contacting Linda Crutcher at linda.crutcher@lmco.com or 722-4260.

"We changed what has normally been a Veterans Day dinner to a Veterans Day lunch. We did this for a couple of reasons. One is because the next day's activities start so early in the day. The second is because of the cost of a dinner," Fitzgerald said. "We would rather reduce the cost of this event by making it a lunch so that corporations and individuals may have more resources to donate to the completion of the Veterans Memorial."

Nov. 11 will begin with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at the Von Braun Center's North Hall, where the community's Blue Star families and Gold Star families will be recognized. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the \$3 million Veterans Memorial will begin at 9:30 at Veterans Park.

The 19th Alabama Volunteer Infantry Regiment will participate in the event along with a list of dignitaries that includes Sen. Jeff Sessions. It will conclude with a three-piece ribbon cutting with veterans organizations cutting the Courage ribbon; donors, and local military and community leaders cutting the Duty ribbon; and wounded warriors and Gold Star families cutting the Sacrifice ribbon. In addition, family members of two Medal of Honor recipients – the late Cecil Bolton of Huntsville, an Army officer in World War II, and the late Paul Luther Bolden of Madison, a Soldier in World War II – will be in attendance.

"This magnificent memorial will be open to the public from that time forward," Fitzgerald said.

The parade will then begin with a cannon firing.

"This year the parade will go in the opposite direction than in years past," Fitzgerald said. "We are doing this be-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Cahaba Shrine is one group that makes the Veterans Day parade in downtown Huntsville fun for kids and adults alike with their costumes, modes of transportation and antics.

cause we want to begin the parade at the Veterans Memorial where our parade stand has been moved. It will end at the Von Braun Center's North Hall on Clinton Avenue."

The Army Materiel Command marching band will lead off the parade. Besides floats, bands and marching groups, the parade will also include at least 12 pieces from the Veterans Memorial Museum, including a World War II jeep, half-track tank and armored car, a Korean War jeep and Vietnam War jeep. The route will go east on Monroe Street in front of the Veterans Memorial, south on Greene Street, west/northwest on

Corps recreation areas waive Vets Day-use fees

WASHINGTON – The Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will waive day-use fees for veterans, active and reserve component servicemembers, and their families at the more than 2,400 Corps-operated recreation areas nationwide on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"This Veterans Day we will honor our veterans, active and reserve servicemembers, and their families with an invitation to visit one of the thousands of Corps recreation sites nationwide, free of charge. As an active participant of the administration's America's Great Outdoors initiative, we hope that you will join us," Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, said.

The day-use fee waiver requires only verbal confirmation of service. This waiver covers boat launch ramp and swim beach fees. The waiver does not apply to camping and camping-related services, or fees for specialized facilities such as group picnic shelters. Other agencies that manage recreation areas

Williams/Monroe Street and west on Clinton Avenue.

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, will be the parade reviewing official. He will be assisted by SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner. Parade entries are still being accepted and can be registered at WAFF.com.

Following the parade, the Veterans Memorial Museum will be open free to the public.

"We always have quite a crowd at our open house," museum director Randy Withrow said. "We like to be open free to the public on Veterans Day because we want to share with the public that may not know about the museum and what it represents for our veterans."

Fitzgerald said it is groups like the Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of AUSA, the Huntsville Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association, Vete-

rans Memorial Museum and the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition that bring together all the plans for Veterans Day and its parade. The group works on the details of the events with the support and coordination of the cities of Huntsville and Madison, the Madison County Commission and several corporate sponsors.

"It takes a lot of work to pull all these projects into a week of Veterans Day activities," he said. "It takes a lot of volunteers and groups to make our Veterans Day parade one of the best in the nation."

on Corps lands are encouraged, but not required, to offer the Veterans Day waiver of fees in the areas that they manage.

"We began this initiative in 2006 to support and honor the men and women who have served our nation and the armed forces, and to encourage them and their families to visit and enjoy one of our many recreation sites," Mike Enschede, chief of operations for the Army Corps of Engineers, said.

With more than 370 million visits annually to 422 lake and river projects, the Corps is the largest federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation in the nation. The more than 2,400 Corps-operated recreation areas nationwide provide a diverse range of outdoor activities to people of all ages, and the Corps estimates that 90 percent of its recreation projects are within 50 miles of metropolitan areas. To discover the Corps recreation site nearest you, visit <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>. (Corps of Engineers release)

Huey sentinel to greet visitors on Veterans Day

Helicopter at museum shows freedom's cost

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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The Veterans Memorial Museum has some new hardware.

And it's all dressed up for company.

On Veterans Day, following the parade, the public is invited to visit the museum just off Airport Road in the John Hunt Park area. The museum will be open for free in honor of the holiday.

Among the jeeps, tanks, helicopters and historical exhibits that visitors can view, museum director Randy Withrow and his staff will proudly show off the museum's most recently renovated Vietnam-era hardware — a Bell UH-1 Iroquois, more popularly known as a Huey helicopter.

The Huey is posted at attention at the entrance of the museum, resting on a cement helicopter pad just for that purpose.

"This helicopter was used in the movie 'We Were Soldiers' with Mel Gibson," Withrow said.

As for its military service, the museum's volunteers have determined the Huey was manufactured in 1963 and saw action at Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam, in November 1965, during the first major battle between the U.S. Army and North Vietnamese Army. The Huey is featured in a photograph that appears in the book 'Chickenhawk' written by Robert Mason, who flew it in the Ia Drang Valley at Landing Zone Xray and Landing Zone Albany during a four-day battle that has been described as one of the most savage



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Veterans Memorial Museum director Randy Withrow and volunteer David Troutman look over the markings Troutman has painted on the front of the Huey helicopter that now stands sentinel outside the museum. Following the Veterans Day parade, the museum will have an open house with admission free to visitors.

and significant battles of the Vietnam War.

"It was a horrible battle," said museum volunteer and veteran David Troutman, who took on the task of refurbishing the helicopter.

The Huey was used to pick up wounded at Landing Zone Albany while under intense fire. The rest of its war record is not determined.

"We think the reason it was saved was probably because it was sent back to be rebuilt and never got back into the battle

because the Army had newer helicopters," Troutman said.

The museum has determined that the helicopter was last used by the South Alabama Air Ambulance and then was taken out of service for use in the Hollywood movie. Three years ago, the Huey was given to the museum by the state of Alabama.

But the gift was not in good condition for a museum display. It didn't look much like the Huey of the Vietnam era.

"It had been painted for the movie," Troutman said. "Most of the paint was beginning to deteriorate. It was really bad. The interior was black. In Vietnam, they were painted gray inside and out."

Troutman sanded down the exterior.

"I wanted to sand it down to a paintable surface with no chips. I went through four different paint jobs when I was sanding it," Troutman said. "After Vietnam it had three other lifetimes and every time it was painted differently. I wanted to put it back to the way it was originally. It's restored inside and out."

The restoration was made possible by donations from local businesses.

"We had it sitting out front with its skids on the ground," Withrow said. "One of the first things we wanted to do was set it on a helicopter pad."

U.S. Concrete donated and poured the pad for the Huey with the pad's rebar frame donated by Service Steel and wood donated by Lowe's. Empire Crane donated the equipment to place the Huey on the pad. Troutman started the restoration in August 2010.

"In refinishing an aircraft with a sander you have to have experience at feathering," said Troutman, who also renovated

an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter for the museum. "You've got to know what you're doing. I've always enjoyed working on a project on my own."

Earlier this year, he stenciled on the correct markings of the 1st Air Cavalry and then this past summer he tackled the inside renovation.

"I took the seats out, gutted it and repainted," he said. "I put the seats back in and redid the instrument panel in gray instead of black."

Inside, there are placards to describe different elements of the helicopter.

Some of the helicopter's original armor remains, including a portion of the back and arm rests for the pilot and the co-pilot, and a sliding door panel on the outside to protect the pilots and the door gunner.

"From the front, there is no armor. This helicopter is totally vulnerable from the front," Troutman said. "A lot of Soldiers died in this helicopter. There were men who died while riding in this helicopter, and that is sobering. It was very, very rare for door gunners to survive even one tour of duty because they were out in the open during battle."

At age 70, Troutman's renovation work was a big undertaking. But it was something this gruff, no-nonsense veteran was willing to take on as long as he was physically able.

"I really wanted to get this helicopter in shape so that people could see it and learn from it about exactly what the cost of being free means," he said. "I have some high school classmates whose names are on the wall (Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.). This is something we don't need to forget."

SMDC

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peers," Justin Novak, FWC Innovative Ventures Office, said. "This award is the culmination of years of experience SMDC has with various experiments and programs including the Flagship Experiment, Alabama Homeland Security's Virtual Alabama Program and the National Guard Bureau's Geospatial Information, Integration, Exploitation Portable, pronounced 'jeep,' program.

"With EVR2EST, SMDC makes space based imagery and radar products available to war fighters and first responders at the tactical level," he continued. "Space and its products can now be leveraged without the need of sophisticated software and complex training through government commercial and open source best practices.

"The requirement for larger bandwidth networks has always been a concern of the modern battlefield. EVR2EST addresses this operational need not by purchasing more costly bandwidth, but by optimizing the information on those networks and reducing the time and size while maintaining the precision and fidelity of the information. This leads to enhanced situational awareness through timely, accurate and network-friendly information."

The USGIF Awards Program annually recognizes the exceptional work of the geospatial intelligence tradecraft's brightest minds. The Intelligence Achievement Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in the tradecraft by an individual or team from the military, government and industry sectors.

Novak talked about how the project has worked in the past as well as in the future.

"EVR2EST, pronounced 'Everest,' allows the rapid distribution of space based imagery and radar products generated by

the Eagle Vision Program's deployable satellite ground stations," he said. "In conjunction with these systems, satellite imagery and radar products can be generated in mere hours after the satellite has collected the information allowing for timely and accurate operational support to war fighters and first responders."

While discussing the award, Novak spoke about how the program is beneficial to the public.

"In the disaster relief and humanitarian assistance roles, EVR2EST supports the Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission by rapidly providing critical space based information to war fighters and first responders," he said. "Information is critical to disaster mitigation planning, search and rescue, and recovery. This allows for timely access to state and federal aid as well as clearer communications of need through better information gathered from these space based products."

Novak said both SMDC and the Air

Force A2Q Division are working hard to make space accessible to the Soldier on the ground and the airmen in the cockpit. SMDC's mission is to "Secure the High Ground" and leverage the advantages space has to offer.

"This effort is a joint program between SMDC and Air Force A2QS (ISR Innovations Directorate) which leverages SMDC's in-house government engineering and rapid prototyping capability augmented with contractor support as needed," Novak said. "EVR2EST is a prime example of dual-use technology (i.e. technology that can be leveraged by both Department of Defense and civil authorities).

"We definitely need to mention the Army and Air Force piece as A2Q was the customer who funded the effort to implement EVR2EST for the Eagle Vision Program. I would also highlight the fact that this effort was an SMDC-FWC project which was developed primarily with in-house government labor and expertise."

Photo courtesy of Sharon Adams/LogiCore

Logistics speaker

SOLE Chapter chairman Deborah McLemore-Baugh presents a token of appreciation to Cathy Dickens, guest speaker at the Oct. 19 luncheon of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics. Dickens is executive director of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone and principal assistant responsible for contracting and director of Contracting and Acquisition Management Office for SMDC/ARSTRAT.



Gang

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unusual hand signals, skipping school or work, displaying gang symbols on books, clothing or walls, possession of a weapon, getting in trouble with police, unexplained cash, unexplained bruises, a decline in performance, being secretive, a disrespect for authority, and interest in gang related things, such as websites. By paying attention to what a child does, what they wear, what's in their room, and what they post or are posted in on Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and Twitter, parents can get an idea of whether or not their child may be involved in a gang.

One of the critical things a parent can do to prevent their child from becoming

involved in gangs, McDuffie said, is to simply spend time with them. The top seven reasons adolescents become involved in gangs are for a sense of achievement, self-esteem, protection, love, belonging, peer pressure and recognition, holes in their life that can be filled by gangs when the family presence is not strong.

"Get back to hugging kids," McDuffie said. "Get back to kissing them. Sit down and play a game with them. We're going to reinvent this whole love thing."

The number one decision a child can make to avoid becoming involved in a gang is to surround themselves with good people and make good choices.

"You decide your fate," McDuffie said. "Please don't let someone else do it. We've got a lot of followers and not enough leaders."

Daughter

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often used as a motivating tool; achieve and win phone time. Some basic units also provide information to families via websites, something Scott's unit didn't do.

"There were 45 in my unit when we started and 15 when we graduated," Scott said. "In the first letter I wrote home, I said I was in the worst camp ever. But I learned to appreciate my time in that unit, and what my drill sergeant taught me about myself and about being part of a team."

Scott again injured her knee while running just before Mother's Day. On that Sunday, her drill sergeant told her the military police were coming to talk to her.

"My first thought was 'I'm going to jeopardize my dad's career.' Then I thought, 'Wait, I didn't do anything. I need a phone to call my parents because I didn't do anything,'" Scott said.

"I was all worried when instead of the MPs coming to see me, it turned out to be my dad. I felt I hadn't seen him for 30 years. I jumped up and hugged him. My knee wasn't hurting anymore. But I was crying."

Turner admits he did take some advantage of his rank to see his daughter. But the very brief visit made all the difference for Scott.

"It just convinced me that this is where I need to be," she said.

Turner took the few minutes they had

together to give his daughter some fatherly advice.

"I told her 'I know what you are going through. You're going to make it. You're going to be OK. You're doing good.' I think that really helped her," he said.

Scott's experience with a tough drill sergeant reminded Turner of some of the drill sergeants he worked with as a battalion sergeant major.

"A lot of Soldiers quit. A lot of drill sergeants quit on Soldiers and send them home. A lot of Soldiers get hurt and have to go home," he said.

"But I had one drill sergeant who was sending a lot more home than any others. I had to fix that and I did it by making him send Soldiers to me instead of sending them home. Sometimes I would call home for them and let them talk to their mom or dad. Sometimes I would cut deals with them and say 'Give me two more weeks, and if it doesn't get better you can go home.' Over time, drill sergeants get to know their Soldiers and they learn what to do to trigger a Soldier."

Also, in Turner's time, men and women were kept separate in the Army. When his wife went through basic, men and women were being trained together but they were still kept separate in the barracks. For Scott, men and women did everything together, including all training and sleeping in the same barracks. But one thing is the same as in years past – fraternization is not allowed at all during basic training.

Manager

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Budget issues go way back for a military branch that prides itself on being a quick-response Army force on all fronts. Before the war started, in 2001, the Army was dealing with a \$56 billion shortfall for equipment. And even though budgets have increased due to the wars, the Army is still playing catchup with modernization.

"We're just now getting the last of the 2 1/2 ton trucks out of the National Guard. We are just now retiring UH Hueys out of the National Guard right now," Lennox said.

Though Army acquisition often gets criticized, Lennox likes to list its successes from the past 10 years, such as nine different body armor improvements, precision munitions and M4 machine gun improvements.

"I don't think Army acquisition is a failure. We've had amazing improvements. But we still have a lot to do," he said.

Before the war, the Army owned 194,000 night vision goggles. Today it



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Cristina Hinkle, at podium, swears in the new officers of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women in Defense during Thursday's workshop luncheon. The officers include, from left, Edwina Mustante, secretary; Cindy Kurt, treasurer; Kathy Broad, vice president; and Patty Popour, president.

owns 575,000 of those goggles. In 2001, the Army had 30 unmanned aircraft vehicles. Today, it has 5,000 in theater. Today's Army is also equipped with nine Stryker brigades and about 50,000 up-armored vehicles, among other new pieces of equipment.

"There's been an amazing effort that's happened," Lennox said. "It's been possible because of the partnership with industry, and the partnerships we have here in Huntsville. It's because of Congress and the people."

"I believe you produce a better Soldier training them together rather than separate," Turner said. "Males give 110-115 percent. But female Soldiers train better than male Soldiers because they aren't afraid to ask questions or admit they don't know something. Men still have that macho thing going on that keeps them quiet. Female Soldiers are also better at helping other female Soldiers."

Turner views the changes in Army training as a positive, as something that must happen if the Army continues to be a good career choice for young people.

"That's what the Army is all about. We're supposed to change. We're supposed to be different," he said.

Besides having a command sergeant major for a father, Scott was also a bit different than other recruits at basic training because of her age. She was 25 when she joined the Army.

"At advanced individual training, some people called me Mama Scott because they thought I was old. But at basic there were 35-year-old females, and they could still hustle just as hard as anyone else," Scott said. "To me, everyone is equal. Age really doesn't matter, except that I had instructors that were the same age as me and they were already an E-6 (staff sergeant), and I could have been them if I had started earlier."

Along with her son, Scott also left her husband behind during her training. The family is now united at Redstone, where Scott

is assigned to the 308th, Bravo Company, Military Intelligence Battalion. Scott's husband works as a contractor.

After her five-year commitment, Scott is not sure whether she will rejoin. It's too early to tell if she'll try to top her father's 33 years of service. For now she is using every opportunity the Army has to learn and better herself.

"My main focus will be to get back in school and get my degree in business marketing," she said.

So far in her young career, Scott has not leaned on her father to help her along the way. Likewise, her father has kept their relationship quiet in Army circles.

"He didn't tell my recruiter who he was until it was all done and I was signed up, and then as we were leaving the recruiting station he gave the recruiter a coin," Scott said.

"I told her it was best not to be obvious that I'm her father," Turner said. "You just don't know. It may help you. It may not. I told her the best thing is to not say anything about it."

Even though their secret is just now getting out, Scott felt the support of her family from the moment she made the decision to join.

"They supported me the whole way. My mom was excited. She was happy. My dad was just glad I had made a decision," Scott said. "In boot camp, I wrote them tons of letters and they wrote back."

It seems some things never change.

Kiowa Warrior returns to the fight after repairs



Courtesy photo

Col. John Morgan, 1st Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade commander, receives the log book for the repaired OH-58D Kiowa Warrior from Corpus Christi Army Depot's Kiowa Warrior crew chief Douglas Brubaker. Looking on, from left, are Corpus Christi commander Col. Christopher Carlile and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

Reynolds wins annual AMRDEC 5K run



Courtesy photo

Runners start the AMRDEC 5K run Oct. 18 at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area.

More than 150 people participated in the second annual AMRDEC 5K and one-mile Honor Walk on Oct. 18.

The event, part of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Organization Day activities, took place at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area.

The 5K winners included:

Men – 1. Greg Reynolds (17:13), 2. Brett Wilks (17:50), 3. Nathan Graham (18:47).

Women – 1. Kathy Youngren (19:33), 2. Melissa Lee (22:33), 3. Nicole Waits (24:12).

Corpus Christi depot transfers helicopter

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A needed OH-58D Kiowa Warrior was returned to the fight when Corpus Christi Army Depot commander Col. Christopher Carlile handed the newly repaired helicopter's log books to 1st Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade commander Col. John Morgan during a transfer ceremony Oct. 26.

The Kiowa Warrior is destined for the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Riley, Kan.

"I salute the endeavor that brings us together; the forward thinking, determination and hard work of the depot and industry as they team to turn out mission capable armed reconnaissance helicopters for the war fighter," Morgan said. "Every single Kiowa Warrior is counted on in the fight."

In 2010, Morgan, an OH-58 pilot, led his squadron of Kiowas directly over the enemy lines at low altitude, to draw fire from Taliban away from U.S. forces pinned down by the Taliban. He and his co-pilot, once their ammunition was exhausted, remained on station firing an M-4 rifle in to keep the Taliban at bay. These actions earned Morgan the Silver Star, the nation's third highest wartime medal for valor.

"This is a great day for the Army, to be handing over a new Kiowa Warrior to take to the mission and at that to be handing it over to Col. Morgan, a recognized American hero," Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, said. "It takes an integrated team approach with the Army and industry to reproduce a new Kiowa at cost-effective rate for our Soldiers."

This is the depot's third OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, but the first War Replacement Program aircraft to return to the fight, a program to increase the number of Kiowa Warriors at a time when cost-effective measures are critical to support the war effort.

The Wartime Replacement Aircraft Program is an Army initiative to replace OH-58Ds that have been either destroyed or deemed uneconomically repairable and therefore must be attrited from the force.

"Equally impressive is the fact that this initiative is providing cost effective solutions as we begin to navigate the sobering reality of resource constraints," Morgan said. "These are efficient solutions to provide Kiowa Warriors to our Army."

The Army is replacing wartime losses suffered by the OH-58D fleet by taking existing "A" model cabins and upgrad-

ing them to "D" model cabins and capabilities. This is done through an element of the WRA program called the "A2D" conversion program, which also allows the Integrated Materiel Management Center to meet their OPS29 requirements and have "D" cabins on the shelf and on hand to repair damaged OH-58D aircraft. The cabin is the aircraft fuselage extending from the nose to the tail boom attachment point. The cabin also includes the complete wiring harness, firewalls, rotor support structure, engine mounts, oil system, fuel system, hydraulic system (partial), environmental system, flight controls, instrument panel, glareshield and doors.

"What this means to the Army is an opportunity to give combat forces the ability to have armed reconnaissance over our Soldiers', sailors', airmen's and Marines' heads during combat and it protects and saves their lives," Carlile said. "That's why everyone loves this aircraft because when they look up it's right over their shoulder in the fight with them. It's just like having a big brother there."

The Kiowa Warrior is a single-engine, two-seat reconnaissance and direct-fire support aircraft that has logged more than 600,000 combat hours between Iraq and Afghanistan, where it battles sand, snow and high altitudes. Used extensively in Afghanistan, the OH-58 Kiowa Warriors are in short supply due to their supposed phase-out and replacement by the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, a program that has since been shut down.

The repair program began in November 2008 when Corpus Christi, together with the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office, Aviation and Missile Command, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and Bell Helicopters, inducted a crash damaged OH-58D aircraft to be repaired. With the first successful rebuild of the battle-damaged Kiowa and the expertise in place, the Army will continue this effort.

Corpus Christi is working with Bell Aircraft Corporation, the original Kiowa Warrior manufacturer, to repair and rebuild OH-58D Kiowa Warriors to a like new (zero time/zero hour) standard, assuring Army aviation readiness in the 21st century without replacement of these aging systems.

Every Kiowa Warrior is an integral part of the Army's force projection in theater and will be a critical piece of combat aviation brigades for several more years. The program manager instituted the program as part of the Army's effort to reduce platform sustainment costs and contain the expense of replacing aging helicopters. (Corpus Christi Army Depot release)

Win or Lose

Williams Middle football has good year

With several military family members on the team, J.E. Williams Middle School finished 5-2 in just its second year of football.

The Hawks capped their season by beating Providence Middle 34-28 on Oct. 24 at Goldsmith-Schiffman Field.

"The biggest game was two weeks ago (on Oct. 18). We beat Chapman, and they were undefeated," the team's trainer Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Barnett, of AMCOM, said. "It's only the second year of the program."

His son Caleb, an eighth-grader, played defensive end and tight end. Eighth-grader Jimmy Smallwood, son of Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood of the Army Materiel Command, played on the offensive line/defensive line.

"I believe they lost the first two (games), they won all the rest of them," Sgt. Maj. Smallwood said. "They had really good kids."

The Hawks lost to Ed White 22-6 and Huntsville 42-14 before beating Hampton Cove 38-22, Westlawn 36-12, Challenger 24-8, Chapman 22-14 and Providence.

Reginald Winston coached the Hawks. Players with Redstone connections included Barnett, Smallwood, running back/cornerback Alize Ford, running back Joshua Gary, defensive lineman Joseph Wheeler, quarterback/running back Juwan Washington, running back Donovan Wise, offensive/defensive lineman Jonathan Herrera, defensive lineman Deonte Dothard, cornerback/safety Jaylen Johnson and defensive lineman Tony Craig.

Courtesy photo

The J.E. Williams Middle School football team finished its season on a five-game winning streak.



Golfers raise \$5,000 for Army Emergency Relief



Courtesy photo
Scott Dublin with Radiance presents a \$5,000 check to Army Emergency Relief officer Kerri Branson.

Radiance Technologies held its fourth annual Radiance Cup Invitational on Oct. 3 at the Canebrake Club in Athens. The event raised \$5,000 this year for Army Emergency Relief.

Winners of the golf tournament included:

First Flight – first overall and winner of the Radiance Cup, Scott Dublin, Scott Weaver, Hobie Frady and Randy Jenkins. Second place, Dave Diaddario, Steve Moore and David Little. Third place, Blake Sanders, Craig Zraggen, Lance Breitenbach and Drake Daggett. **Second Flight** – first, Tony Lindeman, Will Lambert, David Gregory, Chris Gothart. Second place, Dan Jones, Hajin Kim, Dwayne Dawson and Bob Payne. Third place, Lance Harwell, Matt Weaver, Philip Harwell and Jeff Shelton.

Skills competition winners – Lance Harwell and David Allen.
Straightest drive – Steve Glasier.

Alabama defends turf against Louisiana State

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Skip's Picks were 316-93 for 77 percent after eight weeks of college football. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

- LSU at Alabama – **Bama**
- Tulsa at UCF – **Tulsa**
- Florida St. at Boston College – **FSU**
- USC at Colorado – **USC**
- Utah at Arizona – **Utah**
- Washington St. at California – **Cal**
- South Florida at Rutgers – **SF**
- Texas A&M at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
- Kansas St. at Oklahoma St. – **OSU**
- Syracuse at Connecticut – **Syracuse**
- Minnesota at Michigan St. – **MSU**



- **Ga. So.**
- TCU at Wyoming – **TCU**
- Duke at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
- Tulane at SMU – **SMU**
- Chattanooga at Samford – **Chattanooga**

- Indiana at Ohio St. – **Ohio St.**
- Louisville at West Virginia – **W.Va.**
- Michigan at Iowa – **Michigan**
- Texas Tech at Texas – **Texas Tech**
- Vanderbilt at Florida – **Florida**
- New Mexico St. at Georgia – **Georgia**
- Virginia at Maryland – **Maryland**
- North Carolina at N. Carolina St. – **UNC**
- Kansas at Iowa St. – **Iowa St.**
- Appalachian State at Furman – **ASU**
- The Citadel at Georgia Southern

- Alabama A&M at Alcorn State – **A&M**
- Stanford at Oregon St. – **Stanford**
- Mississippi at Kentucky – **Kentucky**
- Northwestern at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
- UTEP at Rice – **UTEP**
- Purdue at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
- Troy at Navy – **Troy**
- Army at Air Force – **Air Force**
- Southern Miss at East Carolina – **So. Miss**
- Cincinnati at Pittsburgh – **Cincy**
- M. Tenn. St. at Tennessee – **UT**
- Notre Dame at Wake Forest – **ND**
- Missouri at Baylor – **Baylor**
- Houston at UAB – **Houston**
- South Carolina at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
- Arizona St. at UCLA – **ASU**
- Tennessee-Martin at Mississippi St. – **MSU**
- Oregon at Washington – **Oregon**
- Boise St. at UNLV – **Boise St.**
- Utah St. at Hawaii – **Hawaii**

Sports & Recreation

Slot car racing

Marshall Space Flight Center has begun a 1/32 slot car club for enthusiasts and is looking for new members. Membership is open to all those who work on the Arsenal (NASA employees, active/retired military, DoD civilians and contractors). The track is assembled in building 4666, and the club races most Friday evenings from 5-7. If interested, call Dave Cockrell 544-1279 or David Wilkie 544-3140.

Basketball tournament

Redstone Arsenal will have a Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 5-19 at 6 p.m. at Pagano Gym. Games will be played Monday through Thursday evenings. This competition is open to all adults on Redstone Arsenal. Cost is \$40 per team. Registration is open Nov. 10-22. The schedule will be based on the number of teams entered. For more information, call Joe Reed 876-6701 or 876-2943.

Bowling benefit

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama will have its annual Bowl for Kids Sake Nov. 13 at Plamor Lanes in Huntsville. This year, more than ever, BBBSNA needs community support to keep the organization up and running, according to a prepared release. A federal program was recently cut, which provided \$147,000 of the agency's budget. Satellite offices in Marshall and Limestone counties have already been closed and there is a serious impact to the number of children the agency will be able to continue to serve. So, if you like to bowl, sign up on the Big Brothers Big Sisters website at bbbsna.org. Put a team together and challenge your friends and co-workers to do the same. A recommended donation of \$25 per bowler is suggested. To contribute or for more information, call 880-2123 or visit bbbsna.org.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. For more information, call 842-2964.

Protestant women

Beginning Thursday, you are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel as they meet for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. Choose from three sessions: morning from 9:30-11:30, lunch time from 11:30-12:30 and evening at 6. Some child care is available at the morning session, upon registration with Youth Services.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. 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.

Engineering workshop

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers will conduct a workshop series Friday and Saturday at the Von Braun Center. The IEEE workshop will cover topics on the cutting-edge of technical innovation today. It will offer two full day courses in Smart Grid, Software Engineering Essentials, Wireless Communications Engineering, and a career assistance track designed to help engineering and technology professionals. Attendees can earn CEU credits for the courses they attend. The workshop will include a reception and plenary speaker address Friday. Former NASA administrator Michael Griffin will address attendees during the evening's reception. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.ieee.org/metroevents>.

Men's ministry

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

Air Force association

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the

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Air Force Association will hold its fourth quarter meeting Dec. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the ground floor auditorium at 655 Discovery Drive in Huntsville. Lt. Col. William "Burke" Hare, chief of operations for the Flight Test Execution Directorate at the Missile Defense Agency, will provide a short presentation on the history of manned spaceflight. An AF Space and Missile Operations officer, Hare was recently honored as one of three inductees out of 60 nominees into the 2011 Hall of Fame Class at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The meeting is open to the public (AFA members and anyone interested in space travel). For more information, call Cathy Scott 503-8038, email cbsscott76@yahoo.com or visit www.hsv-afa.org.

Losing weight

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter AL 0047, Huntsville, invites all who are interested in losing weight the safe way to its weekly meetings at the First Christian Church, 3209 Whitesburg Drive, at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The purpose of TOPS is to help you follow your doctors' recommendations on losing weight through mutual help. For more information, visit <http://www.tops.org/default.aspx> and http://www.ehow.com/about_5415201_weight-loss-tops.html.

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.

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have its annual dinner dance Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured speaker is Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, deputy for test at Missile Defense Agency. For more information and reservations, call Anna Gamble 922-9300, ext. 100, or email anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com.

Southern Miss alumni

Retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond will speak to the University of Southern Mississippi alumni associations and friends Nov. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The luncheon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in ballrooms 1 and 2. Cost will be \$16 per adult and checks payable to USM North Alabama Alumni Association. Send by Nov. 12 to Stacy A. Busby at 106 Rockingham Circle, Madison, AL 35756. For more information, email usmnov2011@busbyfamily.org. Hammond served as chief of staff for Forces Command. He

also served as commander of the 4th Infantry Division and of the Multi-National Division in Baghdad, Iraq. He was a quarterback for the Golden Eagles from 1976-78. He joined in the Southern Miss athletic department in October 2010, and serves as the chief fund-raiser for the department.

Deployed workforce ceremony

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Team Redstone operations for OIF/OEF. The Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is Dec. 1 at 8:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Rogers will present letters of recognition and command coins to Soldiers, civilians and contractors of Team Redstone who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. For information call Cindy Gordon or email cindy.gordon@us.army.mil. Send the following information: full name of deployed person, contact information (phone numbers and email address) and name of organization or office supported by the nominee's deployment to Redstone-DeployedWorkforceCeremony@us.army.mil.

Small business forum

The Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville is conducting its 12th annual Small Business Forum from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 18 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, University Center. This is an opportunity for small businesses to talk with contracting professionals, program managers and subject matter experts from Huntsville Center about their programs and upcoming opportunities. The Huntsville Center supports very specialized missions that require unique technical expertise in programs that are generally regional or global and are very broad in scope. For more information about Huntsville Center programs visit <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil> and review our "Fact Sheets." Pre-registration for the Small Business Forum is encouraged to help ensure appropriate representation of subject matter experts. Registration is free with information available on the web at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>. If you have questions or comments, email sbo-hnc@usace.army.mil.

Small business conference

NDIA 15th annual Small Business Conference is Nov. 16-17 at the Westin Huntsville. This features the Army Materiel

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Command small business enterprise. For more information, visit <http://www.ndia-tvc.org/wpfallconf/>.

Administrative professionals

Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 17th annual Seminar and Education Forum, with keynote speaker Ron Woods, on Feb. 6 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The topic is "My job would be easy if it weren't for other people!" For more information, call Alpha McRae 313-1957 and Gala Horry 842-8389.

Engineer society

The North Alabama Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will meet today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in room 50-M, Von Braun Research Hall, University of Alabama-Huntsville. Dr. Bill Wessels will speak on reliability engineering. For information and reservations, email Rob Getman at rpgetman@asme.org or visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama>.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Scheduled speaker Luke Slaton, an historian, newspaperman and preservationist, will discuss "Joseph 'Fightin' Joe' Wheeler – The Man, His Life and His Plantation." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women is holding a brunch meeting Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. The speaker will be Annie Houle, a trainer for Start Smart, a joint project of the WAGE Project and AAUW, helping young women learn how to negotiate salaries/wages, starting from their first jobs. Meals are \$15. RSVP to 880-8643 or herb.guendel@knology.net by 5 p.m. Thursday. The meeting is open to the public.

Women's group

The Madison County Democratic Women will hold its November meeting Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Shay M. Farley, legal director for Alabama Appleseed, will speak on the state immigration issue and Alabama Appleseed's part in the suit against the Alabama Immigration bill. Lunch costs \$20. Limited non-eating reservations are available. Call 536-2701 or

email marilyn.robertson@knology.net.

Organization birthday

The American Association of University Women is celebrating its 130th birthday nationwide by holding a Cocktails and Convo (conversation) event, with up to 1,000 branches throughout the nation participating. The Huntsville Branch will hold its event Nov. 8 from 5-7 p.m. in the Privé Lounge at Monaco Pictures. Kellee Crawford, senior coordinator for career development at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, will speak briefly on Successful Wage and Salary Negotiation for Women. The event will be "Dutch treat." RSVPs are appreciated but not required by calling 880-8643 or emailing mar172@yahoo.com. The meeting is open to the public.

Reserve officers

The Reserve Officers Association, Department of Alabama Local Chapter 20, will meet Nov. 16 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The goal of the meeting is to reactivate Chapter 20. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ruby Lardent 799-1246 or email ruby.lardent@us.army.mil.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army 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>. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Nicole Massey 842-2564. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone

Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Education test center

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

Ride needed

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

Senior volunteers

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

Logistics achievement awards

The Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award Luncheon/Ceremony is Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This will present two awards: the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (or military equivalents). These awards are presented annually to recognize Team Redstone individuals who have provided outstanding service in logistics support, made notable contribution to the efficiency and quality of logistical support, and demonstrated excellent and professionalism in his or her assigned duties. Tickets are on sale through Friday for \$18. For tickets call Barbara Harris 876-3805, Jennifer Marchant 842-6768, Desiree Galloway 842-0848, Kelly McDaniel 313-1641, Darlene Readus 876-2392 and Kim Lund 842-2468.

Driver safety course

In honor of all veterans, AARP is waiving the tuition for veterans and their spouses and spouses of deceased veterans for their Driver Safety Courses offered during November. A course on Redstone is being offered Nov. 8-9 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at the Community Ac-

tivity Center, building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. Completion of this eight-hour classroom refresher, designed for the older driver, may qualify participants 55 and older for an auto insurance discount. (Check with your insurance agent.) To register for the course at Redstone, call instructor Vince Guarin 880-6928. Class size is limited to 25. For other course locations, call AARP at 888-227-7669.

Resumes for college students

LogiCore will hold a free resume building workshop for college students or recent grads Nov. 17 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 920 Explorer Boulevard, Suite B. The workshop will educate students on how to write a powerful resume, perform effective job searches and master the interview process. To register, attach your resume and email resumeworkshop@logicorehsv.com. Space is limited, so reserve early. This is not a job fair.

Fraternity's gala

The Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. announces its Centennial Achievement Week/Founders' Gala will be held Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. The speaker is NASA administrator Charles F. Bolden Jr. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. was founded Nov. 17, 1911 on the campus of Howard University by three undergraduate students and their adviser. Proceeds from this event will benefit the chapter's community programs. "We invite you to be a part of this Black Tie Centennial Gala," a prepared release said. For more information, call 852-4417 or 656-2741.

Children's center

The MSFC Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal accepts anyone with Arsenal access and currently has openings for children in the Preschool area and mobile/older infants. "If you have RSA access, we welcome you," a prepared release said. For more information or a tour, call Kelli Wright 544-8609 or see the website at <http://mcdd.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Jazz concert

Smooth Vibrations, a benefit concert for education featuring jazz keyboardist and composer Brian Simpson, will take place Saturday from 8-11 p.m. at Calhoun Community College-Research Park, 102 Wynn Drive. All proceeds will support the Jack & Annie Anderson 2nd Chance Endowed Scholarship at Calhoun Community College. Tickets are \$50 (VIP) and \$35 (general admission) and can be purchased through PayPal at www.maximumlifeenhancement.com, by credit card at http://www.eventbrite.com/myevents?org_id=1242635, or by check by calling 679-4241.

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Contracting workshop

"Government Contracting 101 – Are You Ready?" will be presented by University of Alabama-Huntsville procurement specialist Mary Jane Fleming from 9-11 a.m. Nov. 29 at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County auditorium, 225 Church St. This is sponsored by the UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center. The fee is \$20 per person (pay day of event with check or credit card). To register call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

Understanding solicitations

UAH procurement specialist Mary Jane Fleming will present "Understanding Government Solicitations" Dec. 13 from 9-11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County auditorium, 225 Church St. This is sponsored by the UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center. The fee is \$20 per person (pay day of event with check or credit card). To register call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

Community assistance

Each year the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club distributes money to a variety of requesting nonprofit organizations. "Thanks to all of our enthusiastic and supportive members who contribute their time and talent to make each fund-raising event a huge success," a prepared release said. Several fund-raising events are being planned this year to continue the club's humanitarian efforts to benefit the military and civilian communities. Applications for the RSACWC community assistance grants are now being accepted. Forms are available at the RSACWC website at www.rsacwc.org (click on community assistance) and will be used to collect the same information from each requesting organization. By doing this, it will reduce the influence of such things as professionally prepared advertising, writing styles, supporters and the amount of information the club receives. All requests must conform to the RSACWC Community Assistance Request Form. Send to rsacwcommunityassistance@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of the grant request is Jan. 28. All requests must be postmarked no later than the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered.

Army museum

The National Museum of the United States Army, scheduled to open at Fort Belvoir, Va., in 2015 will be the nation's only museum to present the complete Army's history since 1775. Its immersive exhibits, Soldier artifacts and venues will tell the stories of selfless service and personal sacrifices of the 30 million Americans who have worn the Army uniform. For more information, call 1-800-506-2672 or visit

www.armyhistory.org. The 2011 Army Commemorative Coins, benefiting the museum's construction, will no longer be sold by the U.S. Mint after Dec. 16. The \$5 gold coin, silver dollar, and clad half-dollar made available to the public early this year celebrate the Army's storied history. All three coins can be ordered at www.usmint.gov/catalog or by calling 1-800 USA-MINT (872-6468). The pricing of the coins includes a surcharge – \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each clad coin – which is authorized to be paid to The Army Historical Foundation to help finance the museum.

Veterans' dinner

The Disciples Men of Madison Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will honor veterans with a free steak and baked potato dinner Nov. 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Madison Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1400 Hughes Road in Madison. All veterans and friends are welcome. Donations will be accepted.

Idol concert

American Idol singer Bo Bice will perform Nov. 18 at Club Xplosions, 3832 Highway 31 South in Decatur. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each or two tickets for \$20. For more information, call 280-8163 or 274-2986.

Benefit walk

Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, Beta Pi Chapter, Huntsville, is sponsoring the fourth annual Give Thanks Walk to raise money for the children of St. Jude and to help St. Jude fight childhood cancer. A 5K walk will be held Nov. 19 inside Madison Square Mall at the food court entrance. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the Walk starts at 8:30. There is no charge to participate. Donations will be accepted. All participants that pre-register online with a donation of \$35 or more can choose their shirt size and will receive a shirt on walk day. A limited number of shirts and sizes will be available at the Nov. 19 registration with \$35 or more donation to St. Jude. To pre-register or for more information, visit www.givethankswalk.org.

Von Braun exhibit

"100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey" is now on exhibit at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The exhibit showcases the life of Dr. Wernher von Braun in honor of his 100th birthday on March 23, 2012. It reviews von Braun's American experience, beginning with his surrender to U.S. forces and continuing on through his death in 1977, and including his technical achievements with NASA, the Army and private industry. The exhibit will continue through May.

Horse clinic

The "Fall Equine Clinic" will be held

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Nov. 17 from 9-11 a.m. at the Veterinary Clinic. All registered horses present at 10:30 will be seen. Completed registration forms are required. If you have multiple horses, the owner information only has to be filled out on the first form but please complete all information for each horse. For more information, call the Veterinary Clinic 876-2441. Its fax number is 955-0188.

Chili dog fund-raiser

The Lead AMC Integration Support Office will hold a Tailgate Chili Dog Sale to raise funds for Army Emergency Relief from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Sparkman Center south hall of building 5300. The cost is \$5 for two chili dogs, chips and a drink. For more information, call Joanna Southerland 955-8868.

Motorcycle ride

D.O., a benefit ride for ALS patient and veteran David Oyler, will be held Nov. 12 at noon. It will start at the Visitors Center at Gate 9, ride through Redstone Arsenal with a stop at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area on the Tennessee River and end at the Veterans Museum on Airport Road. Entry fee is \$25 per person. Proceeds will benefit the ALS Association Alabama Chapter. To register call 519-9030 or visit alsalabama.org.

Healthy eating day

The American Heart Association will have its annual Start Eating Healthy Day today. Start Eating Healthy Day is dedicated to the health and wellness of all Americans. It's vital to maintain a

healthy and well-balanced eating pattern as well as engage in physical activity – on Start Eating Healthy Day and every day. Start Eating Healthy Day encourages you to make small changes each day to incorporate healthier food choices. Through this day, the American Heart Association's "My Heart. My Life" platform will increase awareness of the importance of good nutrition; provide education, tools and resources to companies nationwide; and raise funds to help in the fight against heart disease and stroke. For more information, visit www.heart.org/starteatinghealthyday.

Blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives include the following: Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400, and from 7-noon at 4488. ... Nov. 4 from 6:30 a.m. to noon at Corps of Engineers, and from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for NASA-NEACC at Intergraph building 700. ... Nov. 10 from 7-noon at Von Braun II Complex building 5222 (MDA). ... Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316, and from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center. ... Nov. 23 from 7-noon at 5400.

Charity market

Delta Zeta Marketplace will be held Nov. 18-20 at the Von Braun Center South Hall. The marketplace, which raises funds for local charities, is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 18-19, and noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 20. The event has grown into a large specialty marketplace offering a wide variety of merchandise to include pottery, vintage jewelry, children's

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books, home décor items, purses, gourmet food and toys. New this year will be photos with Santa. Admission is \$2, with children 12 and under free. For more information, call Anna Beach 842-6568 or visit the Delta Zeta website at www.deltazetamarketplace.com.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Dec. 6 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. Call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilley or Spc. John Hill 842-3032 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up is Nov. 15.

Thrift shop

Winter and Christmas consignments are now being accepted at the Thrift Shop. Note that only three Christmas items may be consigned per sheet. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each

week. 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 the month from 10-2. Visit the Thrift Shop this Saturday to do some early holiday shopping. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

Wreaths for veterans

Wreaths for Veterans seeks more volunteers from the community. Here is its schedule for this year: Preparing wreaths on Nov. 8-9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Veterans Museum, 2060 Airport Road; placing wreaths on Nov. 16 at 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery and Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at Valhalla Cemetery; wreath-laying ceremony 11 a.m. Dec. 10 at Valhalla Cemetery; retrieving wreaths 9:30 a.m. Jan. 3 at Maple Hill Cemetery and 9:30 a.m. Jan. 4 at Valhalla Cemetery. For more information, call Joy Parker 881-5487 and Jennifer Hames 772-8944.

Community awareness

In an effort to bring awareness to a local nonprofit organization, members of the IMMC Maintenance Director-

ate sponsored the Harris Home for Children annual fall festival Oct. 28. Founded in 1954, the Harris Home for Children has been serving the Huntsville area for more than 50 years as a foster care and child placement agency, providing an array of programs and services for abused, neglected and abandoned youth ages 12-21. More information about the Harris Home for Children and how you can help their mission can be found at harrishomeforchildren.org.

Gala benefit

The Parent Association of Pope John Paul II Catholic High invites guests to its 15th annual gala, "An Evening in Monte Carlo," Nov. 12 from 6 p.m. to midnight in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Proceeds will be used to furnish the school with state-of-the-art technology and educational materials. Gala tickets are \$75 per person and include a steak and chicken dinner, dessert and complimentary beer and wine. The evening's festivities include a live and silent auction. This year's grand prize is a 2011 Jeep Compass sponsored in part by Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep. Car raffle tickets are sold separately at \$100 each; you need not be present to win. Event tickets and car raffle tickets can be purchased on the school's

gala website at www.jp2gala.info or at the school, 7301 Old Madison Pike, Huntsville, 35806. Order forms may be printed from the website and mailed to the school address with payment. For more information, call 430-1760 or email jp2gala@gmail.com.

Commissary news

The Commissary is open Veterans Day, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Education forum

What is tenure, how it affects local school policy, and why tenure reform is a hot button topic for segments of Alabama public education will be the topic of a special education forum organized by The Schools Foundation Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at Redstone Federal Credit Union, 220 Wynn Drive. Woody Sanderson, board attorney for Madison and Madison County skills, will be the keynote speaker. Admission is \$5 for Schools Foundation members, \$10 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2418012340>.

Art museum

Huntsville Museum of Art will have a closing ceremony for its World War II quilts display Nov. 13 from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call Deborah Taylor 535-4350, ext. 217.



Photo by Irene Smith

Thrift Shop convenience

Shoppers can now use their debit cards at the Thrift Shop. "We've gotten a lot of positive feedback since we started it," Cathy Vins, the shop's marketing representative, said of the consignment store's new debit card system. "And I think it will generate more sales." Shop customer Tammy Parker, left, uses her card with cashier Chrissy Judd.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Breast cancer awareness

Participants in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Fox Army Health Center gathered at the flag pole at noon Friday to begin their walk around the trail circling the center.