

Redstone Rocket

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Sending their love through pictures

Family keeps deployment tradition, grateful for Thanksgiving together

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Jacqueline Broadenax, 3, knows how to take pictures. The budding photographer likes to run around with a little pink digital camera to snap pictures of her mom, grandmother and baby sister.

During the next six months, her dad, Maj. Timothy Broadenax, is going to be relying on his daughter to take a lot of those pictures.

Jacqueline's dad is preparing for a family separation due to his deployment to Afghanistan. And with that deployment, his young family will once again take up a tradition they started on his last deployment.

"There were a lot of changes during that deployment because Jacqueline was born and she was growing so much," Zara Broadenax said. "We sent him a lot of pictures and videos so that he could share in those changes.

"Now, we have Jacqueline and Sabrina, so we will be taking even more pictures to send to him. We've been talking to Jacqueline about props for the pictures we will be taking. We want to use lots of props. We've got to have props."

During the deployment, Zara Broadenax will have the support of her mom, Dale Ramsey, who lives with the family to help care for the girls. The mother-daughter team will keep up with the busyness of the young family, attending church at the west campus of The Rock; enjoying their neighbors and the friendships they've made in the area; visiting family in New Orleans and Birmingham; making sure Jacqueline gets to her play groups, and Mothers Day Out and Steps of Faith dance classes; and participating in military programs, such as the upcoming Operation Christmas Bear, that support Soldier families.

"It's hectic. It's a little challenging," Zara Broadenax said. "I'm not getting a lot of sleep, I am nursing and I am the mother of a very active toddler. So, I am



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Zara Broadenax relaxes with the girls of her family – her mom, Dale Ramsey, and her daughters, 3-year-old Jacqueline and 5-month-old Sabrina. Although Broadenax's job with the Missile Defense Agency has meant some weeks away from home, it is her husband Maj. Timothy Broadenax's upcoming six-month-deployment that will be the most difficult separation for the family.

in demand constantly. But it's fun. We do a lot of things together. And we have a wonderful support group."

The Broadenax family is like many military families who must find ways to live through long separations. But they are also unique in that they are a dual military career family. Maj. Zara Broadenax has worn the uniform for 15 years while her husband has 25 years of Army service.

Both are nearing three years in their assignments at Redstone Arsenal, where Zara Broadenax serves as the assistant product manager for THAAD Launcher, part of the Missile Defense Agency's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense program, and Timothy Broadenax, an air defense officer, has worked for the Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

"We both love our jobs. We've been blessed that we've been able to continue and have a family," Zara Broadenax said.

"As a young father, Timothy doesn't

See Family on page 8



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Baby Sabrina sucks on her bottom lip as her mom Maj. Zara Broadenax smiles for the camera. The Broadenax family will be sending a lot of family photos like this one to their Soldier while he is deployed to Afghanistan.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday event delivers bear hug.

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HAIL AND FAREWELL

Dentist colonel picks retirement from military.

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AT EASE

Marathoner raises funds for wounded troops.

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WIN OR LOSE

Army team falls to Seton Hall.

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RocketViews

What's your favorite part of the Thanksgiving menu?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Larry Tarr
Army Primary Standards Lab
"It would be sharing a meal with friends and family and giving thanks for all the blessings we've received during the past year, and looking forward to a very happy and blessed holiday season."



Martin Ohrenberg
AMRDEC Aviation Engineering Directorate
"Pumpkin pie. It's dessert."



Paula Majors
Mills Road Child Development Center
"I'd have to say the traditional turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and sweet potato pie. Because I have the traditional family dinner every single year – no variation in my house."



Josephine Curry
Mills Road Child Development Center
"Turkey and dressing. Because I like turkey. That's my favorite meat. And I love dressing because my mom always fixed the best kind of dressing. She fixed the best kind of dressing when I was a child. She died at 97 years old. It's not Thanksgiving unless you have turkey and dressing."

Letters to the editor

Repair project planned for parking lot

If you work at the Sparkman complex, you are familiar with the limited parking spaces and the need to park along the outer rim. Now that it is the fall season, the number of parking spaces decreases even further because leaves in the gutters create standing water in many parking spots. The standing water covers two and sometimes three parking spaces and affects both handicap and regular parking spots. It puzzles me that with the attention paid to grounds maintenance during the summer, once the fall season is here that attention goes away. When I have called in the past about this the leaves have been removed within 24-48 hours. I

would assume that cleaning leaves out of the gutters would be a scheduled and routine activity by the Garrison Operations and Maintenance Directorate.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "First, thank you for recognizing this situation and taking the time to bring it to our attention. Upon investigation prompted by your letter we've found that although a hindrance, leaves in the gutters are not the most prominent problem. There are several areas of the parking lot where water ponds due to low spots, thus water is trapped and does not flow to the storm

drains. A maintenance and repair project has been submitted by the Directorate of Public Works to alleviate the problem. The project will be included in the Garrison's FY '12 Sustainment, Revitalization & Modernization projects list. As for the leaves, we know they are a hindrance and unsightly. However, due to funding constraints and direction to reduce costs, our grounds maintenance services have been reduced and this is just one of the visible effects. Thank you for your interest and commitment in helping the Garrison make Redstone Arsenal an installation planning for future success in an uncertain economy."

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 10-16:

Nov. 10: A Commissary employee reported that someone stole an envelope containing \$100 from the cashier's cage.

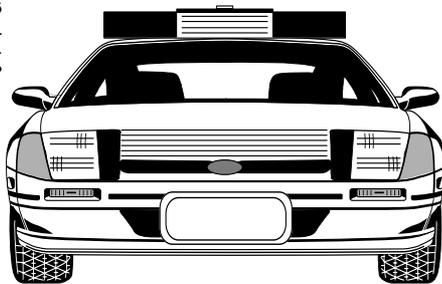
Nov. 11: A Soldier was arrested by Hartselle Police for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who transported him to Fort Campbell, Ky.

Nov. 11: Exchange security officers observed two civilians conceal cosmetic items valued at approximately \$167 and leave the store without paying. Both subjects were processed by Redstone Police and received violation notices.

Nov. 15: Redstone firefighters responded to building 3623 for a private vehicle fire.

Traffic accidents reported: Seven without injury, including one deer strike.

Violation notices issued: 30 speeding, 2 shoplifting, 12 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no insurance, 3 expired registration.



Office thinks pink for breast cancer awareness

The Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office, PEO Missiles and Space, supported October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month by raising money for the Liz Hurley Fund through the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. The effort recognized two courageous women at IAMD, who fought the battle of breast cancer and survived, and also for the personal friends and family members who have also suffered from the effects of this disease.

The event was titled "Think Pink" and the whole IAMD family thought of creative pink treats and desserts to bring and gave donations to support the cause. About 1 in 8 U.S. women (just under 12 percent) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime, and for a man it is about 1 in 1,000. The importance of people becoming more aware of the effects of breast cancer is a must, so any amount to help support a cure is never too small.

Jessica McCutcheon
IAMD Project Office

Quote of the Week

"There is one day that is ours. There is one day when all we Americans who are not self-made go back to the old home to eat saleratus biscuits and marvel how much nearer to the porch the old pump looks than it used to. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American." — O. Henry

RedstoneRocket

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Shoplifting seen on rise at Redstone Exchange

By SKIP VAUGHN

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The Army & Air Force Exchange Service reports a decrease in shoplifting throughout AAFES, but that's not the case at the Redstone Exchange.

"Bad, very bad," Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said of the theft problem. "It's just like this past weekend, two civilian ladies came in and took everything like no one's going to stop them. It's really bad.

"We might look like a little comfy store, but there's eyes everywhere. I would say (shoplifting's) going up."

This year alone, from 16-19 incidents of shoplifting had been reported at the Redstone store.

But an abundance of shoplifting prevention measures such as eagle-eyed Closed Circuit Televisions with

DVR technology, expanded use of high-tech Electronic Article Surveillance and an aggressive youth awareness campaign produced a decrease in theft at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities of 8.5 percent last year, from 5,950 incidents in 2009 to 5,444 last year.

The sophisticated anti-shoplifting measures are also being cited as a factor in reducing the costs of products involved in detected cases from \$655,169 to \$534,525 in 2010.

The exchange service, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army IMCOM, G-9, Family & MWR programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft.

"Shoplifting at the exchange results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders – the military community," AAFES senior enlisted adviser Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm said. "Because the exchange is a command with a mission to return earnings to quality of life pro-

grams, people who steal from the exchange don't only harm themselves but directly impact FMWRC's and service's ability to complete its mission."

If shoplifting is suspected, the exchange loss prevention office turns the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows the exchange to enact a flat, administrative cost (Civil Recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

"Most of the people that are caught are retirees or family members or whatever," Redstone police Sgt. Joe Gorman said. "They're issued a citation and it goes to federal magistrate's court.

"For the military people, it's non-judicial punishment. They're referred to their unit for disciplinary action."

Editor's note: This localized article was based on an AAFES release.



Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Sgt. Matthew Boyle

Job: High Mobility Artillery Rocket System technician, Kentucky Army National Guard

Where do you call home?

Huntsville. I was born in Toledo, Ohio.

What do you like about your job?

The aspect that I enjoy the most about working with HIMARS, or what used to be MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System), is the opportunity to advance in the civilian world. I mean that's really what got my foot in the door for contracting. We learn electrical, mechanical and hydraulic systems. And those are very important for today's industry.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I definitely like to work out – and that's weightlifting, PT. I do a lot of gaming, combat-type online gaming. I enjoy working on my car, as far as restoring. And I'm in the process of adding a turbo and things like that to my vehicle. So I enjoy installing after-market parts on my vehicle (a '97 Chevy Monte Carlo). I like spending time with my best friend, which is also my fiancée, Brooke Bice (from Huntsville).



What are your goals?

What I really want is to get a house – with a very large garage – and be able to afford that house and raise a family here in Huntsville. Right now I live in an apartment complex. What's great about Redstone is you can take your car to the Auto Skills Center. Everything's centralized here (at Redstone), it's a one-stop shop for me.

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

I've recently gone skydiving. I think I would like to go scuba diving and check out like an underwater shipwreck. I think that would be really cool.

Gift cards help stuff holiday stockings

According to the National Retail Federation, more than half of all shoppers in 2010 said they'd like to receive gift cards, marking four years in a row that gift cards have topped consumers' holiday wish lists. And while most any gift card will work for most, military supporters have long struggled with finding the right one for troops serving far from home.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's 3,100 retail facilities in all 50 states and some 30 countries may be the solution for both military members and supporters.

"Exchange gift cards are an excellent way to send troops exactly what they want as they can select their own gifts," Redstone Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "Whether the servicemember who receives the card wants

a cappuccino from Starbucks, some beef jerky from the Exchange or a tank of gas for the family car, the recipient gets support that is tailored to their need."

While only authorized military shoppers can redeem Exchange gift cards, any American can send them by simply calling 800-527-2345 or logging on to www.shopmyexchange.com and clicking "Support Your Troops" and then the "Gift and Calling Cards" icon.

From there, Exchange gift cards, ranging in values from \$10 to \$500, can be addressed to a specific Soldier, airman, sailor or Marine or sent to "any servicemember" through the American Red Cross, Fisher House Foundation, USO, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Air Force Aid Society or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. (*Exchange release*)

Exchange hours keep thanks in Thanksgiving

Shoppers will get a jump on morning Reveille as the Redstone Exchange's doors open at 4 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving, "Black Friday."

"We understand the industry push is to open earlier and earlier with some retailers opening before Thanksgiving even ends, but as a part of the military community, we also understand that time with family, for both customers and associates, is a priority," Redstone Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "While we're opening early Friday, the Exchange's hours will allow shoppers to give thanks with loved ones and still partake in the savings."

The Exchange is prepared for custom-

ers to start lining up as early as midnight Friday morning. To ensure a fun and safe event, the Exchange will hand out numbered tickets to shoppers waiting in line for "door buster" items including laptops, televisions and large appliances.

"Customers waiting in line will be asked which item they are there to purchase and will receive a ticket for that item," Arbo said. "In years past, the 'take-a-ticket' program has been extremely helpful in ensuring people get what they came for."

Complete details on Exchange "Black Friday" weekend sales and specials are available at shopmyexchange.com. (*Exchange release*)

Military children have fun day of their own

Operation Christmas Bear delivers annual festivities

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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On Dec. 10, North Alabama will envelop its military children in one big bear hug.

For the eighth year, Huntsville and the surrounding community will celebrate its military children at Operation Christmas Bear, Saturday, Dec. 10 starting at 1 p.m. at Cahaba Shrine Temple, 6001 Pulaski Pike northwest, an annual Christmas party for the area's military families. All active, Guard and Reserve families, including Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, as well as families of Department of Defense civilians currently deployed in a warzone, are invited. To register call Mary Breeden at Army Community Service 876-5397 or email mary.breeden@us.army.mil.

"As we all know military life

in itself can be demanding on families, especially through the holidays," Russ Kimball, Operation Christmas Bear coordinator, said. "We want to let the Soldiers as well as families know that the community supports them by giving all of them a day of fun and happy memories. They give so much – we want them

to know that we appreciate their service and sacrifices, as well as their family's service and sacrifices."

Santa kicks off the afternoon, arriving by fire truck at 1 p.m., beginning the afternoon of family fun. All families get free professional photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, in addition to the trademark of the event – a teddy bear.

Inflatables, an obstacle course, rock wall, magician, face painting, tons of free food, door prizes, including wooden handmade toys made by the Redstone Toymakers, and other activities will also be available, all at no cost to the military families.

"We just want them to have fun," Kimball said. "It's their day. We want them to leave not only with their free Santa pictures and teddy bear but memories they can always remember."

For Kimball and the volunteers that dedicate

their day to ensuring the kids leave with a smile on their face, that's what it's all about. Even though this year will be the first time since the event began that the Arsenal's larger number of active duty troops are no longer here, due to BRAC, the commitment to the children that are still here is just the same.

"We are asked many times what is the best part of the day for us, for me it is just seeing the kids having fun," Kimball said. "We want them to know they are not alone – there are others just like them. They have a whole community behind them."

The event serves as the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organization Coalition's annual Christmas party. The all volunteer non-profit coalition, comprised of more than 40 veteran and civic support organizations, organizes Blue Star Service Banner presentations, Flag Day ceremonies, Veterans Day parades, Veterans Welcome Home Tributes, Memorial Day observances and a 9/11 memorial event in addition to the Operation Christmas Bear. For more information, call 313-0453.

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson
Children enjoy a visit with Santa at last year's Operation Christmas Bear.



CFC spotlight

Name: Ryan Stott

Title: Analyst, acquisition and sourcing management, Government Accountability Office (currently working on a review of major NASA projects)

How long have you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign?

About three years, when I started working here. The guy running it that year – Bill Allbritton – made sure everyone knew that the campaign was going on. It seemed like a really efficient way to give. Every year we try to bring in a speaker to talk about how CFC has helped their organization. My first year, because we had so many pet owners, we had a speaker from the humane society. This year we have a lot of young parents here, so our speaker was from the March of Dimes because it helps babies with birth defects.

Why did you decide to be a CFC contributor?

To me, CFC just made sense because it's efficient. It's a simple payroll deduction. It's also efficient for the charities that get the contributions because they know from CFC how much money is coming in up front and they can plan more effectively how they will use it. It seems like a win-win situation for the contributors and the charities. I also like how the charities are described in the CFC catalog and how you can see the percentage of money that goes to the charities' efforts. It's all broken down and as an analyst that appeals to me.



What charities do you like to contribute to through CFC?

I split my contributions between animal and environmental charities, and charities that help people. There are a couple that I've tracked all three years. One is the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund because primate habitats are dwindling and, if they are our genetic relations, it would be nice if we preserve them and their habitats. Another one that I like to contribute to is the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. It just seemed like a really good cause. But the CFC catalog is

full of really good causes.

Why do you continue to be a CFC contributor?

I know everything that I am putting into CFC is going right to the charities. Giving through CFC is infectious. If I was doing this by myself, I would be helping but I wouldn't be helping that much. But through CFC, even if you only give a small amount, others are giving too and the donation is multiplied. Also, with Donna Johnson (CFC coordinator), when you see someone that invested in a program, you know she is not in it for an ulterior motive. She is doing this because she believes in CFC and what it can do for the charities it supports. And I want to be part of that.

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 Redstone Rocket will feature a contributor to the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

CFC generosity

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign's Cynthia Robinson, left, and Donna Johnson are proud of the progress that's been made toward the \$2.4 million CFC goal for 2011. This year is the 50th anniversary of the worldwide CFC. The campaign ends in December, with CFC donations then disbursed to designated local and national charities. Robinson is the Combined Federal Campaign director with United Way of Madison County, which is the local CFC fiscal agent. Johnson is the CFC coordinator for the Tennessee Valley campaign.



Campaign seeks bold ideas from work force for future

The Army Materiel Command is soliciting your ideas to become more cost efficient and effective.

Several factors – including a 10-year war – forced America and Army to become a more cost-conscious culture.

Your participation in the Bold Ideas Campaign will allow your ideas to reach directly to headquarters and identify processes and programs that can save money.

The campaign is designed to rapidly gather bold ideas and provide quick recognition for participants. Continual feedback to contributors will be provided as ideas progress through an assessment process.

Ideas deemed of merit will receive recognition and a letter of endorsement from AMC to participate in the Army Suggestion program.

AMC through Dec. 30 will be looking for bold ideas for being more cost effective, changing processes and becoming more energy efficient.

Join us in shaping our future by submitting your bold ideas to <https://hqamc.aep.army.mil> and click the bold ideas icon. (AMC release)



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:

Christmas tree lighting

The Redstone Arsenal Tree Lighting is Dec. 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This free event is open to the entire Redstone community. There will be festive treats and more, including the Army Materiel Command Band, good tidings to troops video messages and children's photos with Santa. For more information, call 842-5231. There will be a Toys for Tots drop-off station. Note: Toys for Tots is not endorsed by the Defense Department and a donation is not required to participate in the annual tree lighting.

Links party

The Links at Redstone's Christmas Party, brought to you by Woody Anderson Ford, will be held Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at the golf course. It features free food, special beverages to taste, fun and fellowship, everything in the Golf Pro Shop on sale, great shopping and free gift-wrapping. For more information, call 883-7977.

Career fair

Redstone Arsenal Defense Tech & Intel Career Fair is Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711 on Aerobee Road. The career fair is only open to job seekers who already have access onto the installation (Military ID or CAC Card). Transition Careers & Sponsor cannot provide access for job seekers regardless of pre-registration. For a list of exhibitors, jobs being offered and to pre-register visit www.TransitionCareers.com.

Turkey shoot

Outdoor Recreation's turkey shoot is Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3 per shot, shells provided. Children can participate with adult supervision. For more information, call 876-4868.

Holiday parties

Book your holiday party at the Weeden Mountain Grill and your golf event with the Links at Redstone. Now is the time to book your holiday parties and golf tournaments for the coming year. For more information, call 883-7977.

Family

continued from page 1

really want to leave his girls and me and my mom. We are his family and he wants to be here with us. But he volunteered for this deployment because of his career and because he wanted to deploy on his own terms. As a military person myself, I kind of understand. It's part of our job. As a mother and a wife, it's difficult. I don't want us to be separated. But this is what we signed up for. This is what we do."

November is designated Military Family Month, a time to especially recognize the families who support U.S. servicemembers all around the world. For the Broadenax family, knowing they have the family of the Army for support does make the separation a little easier.

"The Army is a great community. We are a family amongst a family," she said. "Early in my career when I was single, there were tons of older Soldiers who embraced me and made sure I stayed on the right track. It's what we do in the Army. We are always there for each other.

"The Army gives us a path of opportunities and we have choices. I could have gotten out when I got married and started a family. But there is still so much I want to do, and I enjoy being a Soldier in the Army."

The Broadenax couple met in 2004 through a phone conversation that a mutual friend set up when Zara Broadenax was serving in Iraq.

"He was at Fort Meade (Maryland) and so I just kind of brushed him off," she said. "He was very persistent. About four months later when I came back we met face to face. A month later we were engaged."

The couple planned their wedding in Zara Broadenax's hometown of New Orleans. But when 2005's Hurricane Katrina blew through the city a week before the wedding, the couple changed plans and got married in December 2005 in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The newlyweds signed up for the Army Couple Program so they would be assigned together. They were both at Fort Bliss, Texas, for three years before Timothy Broadenax was deployed to Qatar and Korea.

"He left during my pregnancy with Jacqueline, and he was gone during her birth and most of her first year," Zara Broadenax said.

When he returned, the family moved to Redstone Arsenal. They have bought a house in Madison and, among other things, take karate lessons together.

"We started karate this fall and decided to do it as a family even though he was deploying," Zara Broadenax said. "A pastor who is an eighth degree black belt teaches

the class as part of his ministry. We all got our yellow belt. Now, Jacqueline and I will prepare together for our orange belt."

This deployment will be different in that it will be the first time Jacqueline will be aware of her dad's absence.

"With my job, I go on TDY a lot for a week here or there, and Jacqueline is used to that," Zara Broadenax said. "My husband has really been the stable one for us here.

"I think Jacqueline knows something is really different this time. When he goes to training, she gets really quiet after he leaves."

The family has visited Army Community Service, where they were given books and pamphlets meant to help with the separation and Zara Broadenax joined the Hearts Apart group for the spouses of deployed Soldiers. They also were given crocheted hats for the girls and their dad.

"For a 3 1/2-year-old, Jacqueline is very smart. We don't try to hide things from her. As her dad goes for his training, we talk about it. And when she is missing her dad, she can put on the special crochet hat that is just for her and her sister and her daddy," Zara Broadenax said.

Between Timothy Broadenax's training stints, the family has been working in all the special holidays he will miss while deployed. They will spend Thanksgiving together with family members in New Orleans, and they will return home in time to enjoy the Alabama-Auburn game with the family cheering for Auburn.

"We've celebrated Jacqueline's 3-and-a-half birthday, his birthday, our anniversa-

ry and an early Christmas. Normally, I am a stickler for not putting anything up for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. But that's Timothy's favorite holiday, so this year we had to do it differently," she said.

"I am really thankful Timothy will be with us for Thanksgiving. Out of the six years we've been married, we've been apart for three of those Thanksgivings."

Zara Broadenax hopes the deployment will be a positive lesson for Jacqueline about the commitment her mom and dad have made to the Army and to the country.

"We want her to know about sacrifice and service. We want her to know that sacrifice is not always about us. It's about giving up something for somebody else," she said. "We work to serve the American people. My whole life is dedicated to service. If my daughters grow up to serve, then I've done something right.

"Timothy and I are both into service because we are so strong in our Christian faith. Christ is an example of being a servant. We want to be servants, too."

When he does return from Afghanistan, the family may be making plans for their next assignment. Timothy Broadenax is qualified for a promotion to lieutenant colonel, a job change that will probably take the family to another installation where he can serve as a battalion commander.

"We're hoping we can stay here a little longer," Zara Broadenax said. "We really like it here. We like the community and the people, and how we are close to family. We are hoping and praying we will be here another year."

Fox health center workers share war experience



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, chief medical NCO at Fox Army Health Center, straightens pictures on the Deployed Warrior Wall.

Wall displays pictures of deployed warriors

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Each time a patient walks through the front doors of Fox Army Health Center, they are reminded of the dedication Fox employees have not just to its beneficiaries stateside, but to those Soldiers serving overseas.

The Deployed Warrior Wall, unveiled with Fox's new front entrance last spring, displays pictures of those Fox Soldiers and employees that deploy overseas to support operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan as doctors, nurses and medics.

"It's about giving people the opportunity to be able to see how our employees and Soldiers are still serving in the fight, in addition to those that are serving the beneficiaries," Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, chief medical NCO at Fox, said.

All across MEDCOM, medical facilities are proudly displaying pictures

of their deployed warriors, examples of Army Medicine's dedication to the health, wellness and care of its Soldiers serving overseas. Currently, seven Fox employees have served overseas since 2008. For Fox, the celebration of their deployed warriors is about more than just knowing their employees are making a difference in the life of a war fighter – it's also knowing that when they return, they will bring back a new level of skills and experiences to share.

"The Soldier or civilian is given a chance to get outside these four walls and their everyday norm and help support the war fighter in their mission," Austin said. "When they come back they bring a different experience. They've been into a combat event and that's a world of difference from what we do inside these four walls – it's the lessons learned."

Despite those lessons learned, each employee is missed in their absence.

"Every person brings a different personality and experience in here, and when that skill and person is gone, you feel that," Austin said. "You just can't wait for them to return."

Logistics worker achieves Scouts honor from peers

By **ROBERT SALINAS**

Logistics Support Activity

“Alertness to the needs of others is the mark of the Vigil Honor. It calls for an individual with an unusual awareness of the possibilities within each situation.”

This important honor has been bestowed on James Colson, chief of the Logistics Engineering Division of LOGSA’s Logistics Engineering Center.

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council and Scouting, according to the Order of the Arrow information listed on the Boy Scouts website.

The Vigil Honor is the highest mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those members of the Order of the Arrow, or Arrowmen to their peers, who by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to their Lodge, the Order of the Arrow, their Scouting community or Scout Camp.

This is an award which cannot be won by a person’s conscious endeavors, but rather a vote of one’s peers, according to Colson.

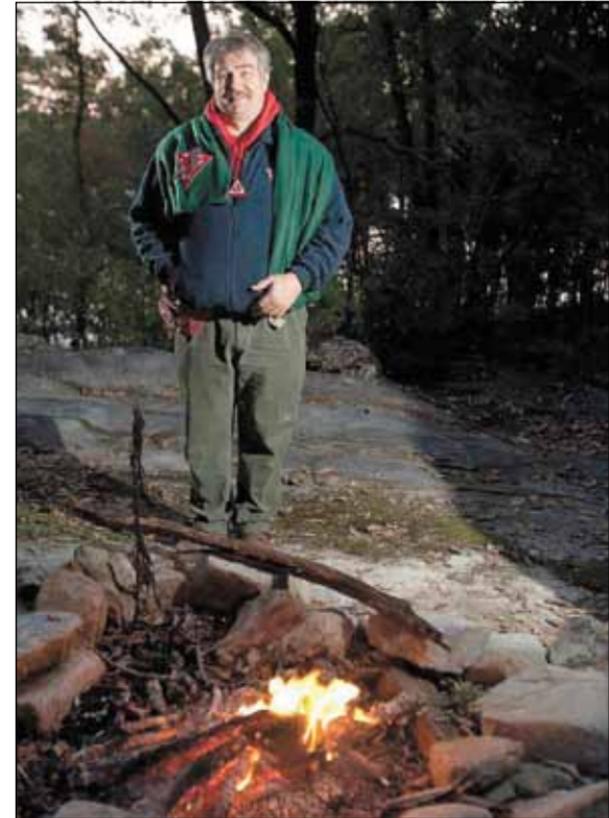
“It’s quite the honor,” he said. “Something I was not expecting.”

Colson, a longtime member of the Boy Scouts, spends quite a bit of time outside work supporting their efforts.

He has been active in the Scouts for more than 40 years. In his two current positions with the Scouts, the Kaskenampo Chapter adviser (Order of the Arrow) and as associate lodge adviser for induction (recruiting), Scouting is still an important part of his life.

Scout documentation and guidance for this award explains that under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation. There is much more to be considered before an award is made.

In this region (Northern Alabama from Birmingham north to the state line), only seven adults were nominated along with seven youths. The award represents “an honor, an accolade bestowed on a person by those he (or she) serves,” Colson said.



Courtesy photo

James Colson, of the Logistics Support Activity, has been active in the Boy Scouts for more than 40 years.

Hail and Farewell

Dentist colonel sinks her teeth into retirement

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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After four years without her husband, Col. Robin Bruno wants to re-group.

So the Redstone dentist retired Nov. 16 and returned to their home in San Antonio, Texas.

“I’m retiring from the military. I’m not retiring from dentistry,” she said after her retirement ceremony in the Fox Den at the Fox Army Health Center. Her husband, retired Sgt. Maj. John H. Hall, was among the attendees celebrating her more than 26 years in the Army.

Bruno served as the officer-in-charge of the Redstone Dental Clinic, which is part of the Fort Campbell, Ky., Dental Activity.

“This is a dental professional, both military and civilian, that absolutely loves her patients,” Col. Jimmy Daniels, DENTAC commander at Fort Campbell, said.

Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers said, “‘Doc’ is a Soldier’s Soldier. All she cares about is doing the best job possible.”

Rogers called her “a great leader and a great dentist.”

Bruno, 54, has served throughout the world, including Korea, Iraq, Germany and Panama. She was born in Hong Kong; her father was American consul general Gori P. Bruno.

“It has really been my pleasure to serve,” she said. “And it’s all about the Soldier. It’s all about the patient.”

Her varied interests range from forensics, anthropology, cooking, hunting, fishing, woodworking and studying the Bible.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Col. Robin Bruno receives her retirement certificate from Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers on Nov. 16 at Fox Army Health Center.

“Right now I’m learning woodworking,” she said. “The best teachers are at the Arts & Crafts Center.”



Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Dominique Pineiro

Shipping out

Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Green embraces his wife before he embarks the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans for a scheduled deployment as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, San Diego, Nov. 14.

Kiowa pilot caps career with flying cross

*Retiring Soldier
cited as hero*

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Children have a way of keeping you planted firmly on the ground.

And for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Patrick Benson, that can be a major feat these days.

This highly decorated aviator will top off his career with yet another award today when he receives the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross at his retirement ceremony. The medal, which will be awarded by Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby during a 10 a.m. ceremony in Bob Jones Auditorium, is presented to servicemembers for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

Benson's wife Stacey and his three children – Collin, 17, Riley, 14, and Layne, 11 – will be in the audience today. Yet, to them their dad is just their dad, a guy who happens to get another medal for a job well done. They are as

matter of fact about it as their dad is.

“I think they agree with me that there's more hoopla than necessary about this,” the 41-year-old Benson said. “When I told them about it they said ‘Really, dad? Do we really have to see you get another award?’ They are happy and they are proud of me. But I think they are happiest to know that this retirement ceremony starts another chapter in our lives and, like me, they are trying to figure out what that means.”

Although the Purple Heart and combat action badge recipient prefers to be low key about the honors coming his way (including an American Legion Valor Award presented in 2010 and featured in a *Rocket* story in the June 2, 2010 issue), he appreciates the significance of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

“It's an extreme honor. It's the oldest aviation award for an aviator that I know of,” he said. “It's a pretty big award. But really, I was just doing my job.”

For 20 years, Benson's been doing the job – flying the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior

helicopter for the Army. During his third combat deployment, on Sept. 8, 2009, Benson and his co-pilot nearly gave their lives for that job.

Deployed with the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Benson flew Kiowa helicopters to protect Black Hawk Medevac units operating in the Regional Command East in Afghanistan. He and his co-pilot, then Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam Stead, were attacked by small arms ground fire in the Shuriak Valley as they protected Medevac operations to pull two wounded Soldiers from the area.

The hit injured Stead, who was left unconscious from a bullet wound to the left rear of his head. Benson was hit in the right leg and

See Pilot on page 23

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Patrick Benson will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross today during his retirement ceremony at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.



Toastmasters sharpen speaking skills, serve community



Photo by Jesse Barber

Redstone Strategic Speakers Toastmasters include, clockwise from left, Derrick Reaves, Tim Powell, president Tom Bramhall, Kenedria Kennedy, Peter Hannah and Claudinette Purifoy.

By **JESSE BARBER**

Redstone Arsenal Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054

Visionaries have the ability to catapult organizations to greater heights. And that is just where president Tom Bramhall intends to lead the Redstone Arsenal Strategic Speakers Toastmasters.

As the club's president he is solidly focused on the club's strategic vision, and this was evident by his comments and atmosphere at a recent club meeting.

"I'm really proud of what this club has done so far this year," Bramhall said. "We hosted the first middle school youth leadership program, and Dr. Avis Williams, principal of Williams Middle School was so impressed with our program's success that she wants us to do another program at the start of the year."

Toastmaster Kenedria Kennedy, youth leader assistant coordinator, said, "These students were impressive! I am so impressed with them. I want to be the next youth leader coordinator."

Bramhall, looking out at his club members, noted "I want to thank all of you for your tremendous support to make this youth leadership program happen, especially URS of Huntsville for stepping up to the plate and providing the funding for the student material and refreshments for graduation."

Spanning the room, you could see that every club member believed in what they were doing and shared Bramhall's vision for the future. Given the success of this

first program, I would not be surprised to see this program become a model for other middle schools in Huntsville, but for now it is just a part of the vision for the Redstone Club.

So you might ask, what else does this club do? Vice president for education Fred Robinson summed it up as follows: "We focus on giving our members new skills while giving back to our community, and that's our commitment to each and every member."

The Redstone Strategic Speakers Toastmasters are focused on a vision, helping its members to be better speakers, presenters and listeners. The Toastmasters principles and concepts teach its members organizational skills by doing. And it is those foundational skills that make the program unique, unlike any other. Tim Powell, division governor and club member, noted that "I've learned to speak, think and observe my audience all at the same time, and this has proven to be an invaluable asset."

If anyone is looking for an exciting way to spend lunch twice a month, come on out to the Redstone Arsenal Strategic Speaker's Toastmasters Club 6054 on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Garrison headquarters, building 4488, room B306. The members of this club will give you a challenge that will help you in all aspects of your lives. I say that because the Redstone Strategic Speakers Toastmasters practice what they teach. It's an experience worth trying.

Families celebrate Thanksgiving at children's center

The Goss Road Child Development Center invited parents to eat Thanksgiving lunch with their youngsters last Thursday.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Kyla Burley, 3, pauses between bites.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Members of the 2- and 3-year-olds class enjoy lunch together.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Maj. Benjamin and Shanelon Garner eat with their daughter, Bailey, 1.

Deskside snacking: Eating well in the workplace

By Lt. Col. TWYLA LEIGH

Army Public Health Command dietitian

It's been a long day at the office. Visions of the vending machine flash through your mind. Caffeine and sugar are calling your name. Stop!

The additional 140 calories from a 12-ounce can of soda and 220 calories (or more) from a candy bar or bagged snack, if eaten on most work days, will create a weight gain of a jumbo 25 pounds per year. Even if the soda is diet and only the candy or bagged snack is eaten, expect a weight gain of 15 pounds per year. Add to that the extra calories we eat when someone brings in doughnuts or “goodies” to the office, or what about that desktop candy jar? These office hazards add to inevitable weight gain that most of us blame on aging, heredity and/or metabolism. We are not doomed to work in “obesifying” office conditions and can make positive changes to manage our health and weight. Be prepared for office pitfalls (even if you work from home) and plan ahead.

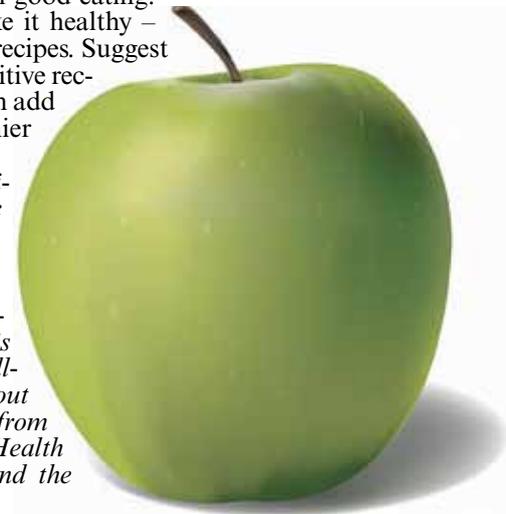
Here is a list of strategies to consider for a healthier work environment:

- Eat breakfast – Breakfast skippers start the day at a disadvantage and may start grazing early and feel they have no willpower or resistance to sugary and fatty foods that they might otherwise avoid.
- Bring healthy (and portion-controlled) snacks – Prepare snacks the night before, portion in snack bags; use a coolie bag if needed. Some examples of healthy snacks include roasted almonds; low-fat cheese wedges (non-refrigerated, like Laughing Cow); fresh seasonal fruit – apples, grapes, cherries or berries; fresh cut vegetables – celery, cucumbers, bell peppers, grape tomatoes, baby carrots, with or without low-fat dressing, or maybe with a couple of olives or slices of pickle; 100-calorie prepackaged snacks; low-fat popcorn if a microwave is available; hard-boiled egg; or low-fat, low-sugar yogurt.
- Eat mindfully – No matter what you are eating, focus on the smell, taste and crunch. Don't eat and work or watch the screen at the same time. This type of “multitasking” doesn't allow you to realize that you are satisfied with your snack and you

may be tempted to keep “grazing.”

- Think thirsty, not hungry – Have lots of cool water on hand to drink throughout the day. Many times we think we are hungry and overeat when we have not had enough fluids.
- Read labels – Look at the content of the vending machine. Ask the person who works with the vending company to add lower calorie, lower fat and higher protein snacks to the mix.
- Move more – Take a walk. Stand up and stretch.
- Identify supportive co-workers – Share recipe ideas for healthy snacks. Encourage one another to eat healthy and exercise more.
- Change the office culture – Model good eating. If you bring in a snack to share, make it healthy – fresh fruit, whole grains and lower fat recipes. Suggest non-food rewards and celebrations. Positive recognition and certificates of appreciation add to a supportive, productive and healthier work culture.

Editor's note: November is American Diabetes Month. The Army Public Health Command focuses on promoting health and preventing disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and military retirees, their families and Army civilian employees. As well, the USAPHC is responsible for effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services throughout the DoD. The USAPHC was created from the merger of the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the Army Veterinary Command.



Motorcycle training changes aimed at making safer riders

By **ART POWELL**

*Strategic Communication Directorate
Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center*

FORT RUCKER – New training requirements for Army motorcyclists went into effect in fiscal 2012, and failure to comply could lead to the loss of on-post riding privileges.

The Progressive Training Model is now mandatory for all Soldiers who ride motorcycles on- or off-post. The

new requirements include completion of the Military Sport Bike Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course within 12 months of graduation from the Basic Rider Course, followed by sustainment training every three years and refresher training after every 180 days or greater deployed.

Keith Coates, Garrison safety specialist at Redstone, said the new requirements also apply to Soldiers at Redstone Arsenal. “You’ve got to take

that (training) every three years,” he said.

Maj. Henry Washington, accident investigator, Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, Fort Rucker, said, “Getting into training like this gives me the opportunity to learn more about safe riding, and how to get out of various situations I might find on the road. We need to complete motorcycle training to get our state driver’s license, as well as complete the military training requirements.

“Working at the Safety Center, we see too many reports of deadly motorcycle accidents, and it’s the job of all leaders to make sure our Soldiers get this motorcycle training and understand how important it is.”

Army safety officials urged leaders to ensure Soldiers are aware of updated requirements in Army Regulation 385-10 and enforce the new standard with their riders. In addition to the progressive motorcycle training, the Army also has instituted a new Remedial Driver Training program that takes the best in the civilian community and utilizes it to try and change Soldier behavior before it results in an accident or worse.

“I began riding when I was young, then stopped riding for about 20 years,” said Bruce Dinoff, lead instructor, Cape Fox Government Services, which provides the Army traffic safety training program. “When I started riding again, I learned I needed training.”

Dinoff, a certified instructor, provides various motorcycle training courses to Soldiers at Fort Rucker.

“I want these riders to get comfortable on their bikes,” he said. “Improper braking and improper cornering are the two biggest problems I find experienced riders face.”

While cornering and braking may seem like basic skills, Dinoff knows complacency has a vote, too.

“You have to practice your emergency skills, because if you don’t use it, you lose it,” he explained.

Master Sgt. John Collins, operations non-commissioned officer in charge, USACR/Safety Center, has 25-30 years of riding experience.

“I’m comfortable I know what I’m doing when I’m riding a bike, but I also know I need refresher training,” he said. “I started out riding sport bikes, now I’m on an Ultra-Classic Harley, so, every time I switch bikes, and don’t ride that much, my skill level drops.”

Collins felt when he completed the on-the-course training following a safety check of his bike and a briefing on what he and other riders would accomplish on the course, he would feel “a lot more comfortable.”

For one member of the Driving Task Force at the USACR/Safety Center, “getting rusty” can happen to both a bike and the rider.

“Being more confident comes with re-exercising what we know, but we have let it get rusty. Riders must understand to ensure that regardless of being a rider or rider coach we all develop bad habits over time,” Earnest Eakins, off-duty safety manager, Driving Task Force, said. “The goal of progressive training is to keep that in mind. None of us like a test, but progressive training will force us to take another course, including a test to keep riding.”

Progressive Motorcycle Training is similar to the Army physical training test, he added.

“If we keep our skills fresh rather than fire once and forget, the butterflies will be fewer, we will think about our training more often, and as a result, be safer.”

Thousands of Soldiers receive motorcycle training annually, and approximately 400 students attend Fort Rucker motorcycle training each year.

Veterans get boost as Obama signs tax credits into law

By **Sgt. 1st Class TYRONE C. MARSHALL Jr.**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama delivered a clear message Nov. 21 when he signed two new tax credits into law to increase the hiring of military veterans and wounded warriors.

“For businesses out there, if you are hiring, hire a veteran,” he said. “It’s the right thing to do for you, it’s the right thing to do for them, and it’s the right thing to do for our economy.”

In August, Obama called on Congress to enact tax credits, included in the American Jobs Act, that will help to get unemployed veterans back to work.

“While we’ve added more than 350,000 private-sector jobs over the last three months, we’ve got 850,000 veterans who can’t find work,” the president said. “And even though the overall unemployment rate came down just a little bit last month, unemployment for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan continued to rise.”

Obama said “that isn’t right,” and he lauded veterans as the “best that America has to offer.”

“They are some of the most highly trained, highly educated, highly skilled workers that we have,” he said. “If they can save lives on the battlefield, then

they can save a life in an ambulance.

“If they can manage convoys moving tons of equipment over dangerous terrain,” he continued, “they can manage a company’s supply chain. If they can track millions of dollars of assets in Iraq, they can balance the books of any company here in the United States.”

Obama noted the United States has benefitted “enormously” from veterans’ service abroad and would benefit greatly from their service at home.

“And that’s why, under my direction, the federal government has already hired more than 120,000 veterans,” he said.

Obama praised First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, for their efforts in the “Joining Forces” campaign, which has secured pledges from private-sector companies to hire 135,000 more veterans and military spouses.

“Today, we’re giving those businesses just one more reason to give veterans a job,” he said.

The president also credited Congress for the legislation. “Today, because Democrats and Republicans came together, I’m proud to sign those proposals into law,” he said. “And I urge every business owner out there who’s hiring to hire a veteran right away.”

Marathoner runs to support wounded troops

Redstone worker raises funds at Marine Corps Marathon

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Victoria Leavell's association with Homes for Our Troops took her on the run of a lifetime.

Leavell, a contract specialist for the Air and Missile Defense Directorate, Army Contracting Command-Redstone, is a runner who likes to train for half marathons as a way to keep a svelte figure without worrying about her diet. A couple years ago, when she began working at Redstone Arsenal, Leavell and a running buddy – Stephanie Crosby, also of ACC-Redstone – set a goal to run a half marathon in each state and a marathon in the U.S. capital. So, last February, Leavell, 24, registered for the Marine Corps Marathon, which is set each year for the last Sunday in October with a course through Washington, D.C. Started in 1976, the Marine Corps Marathon is the fifth largest marathon in the U.S. and the ninth largest in the world. Leavell prepared to start her marathon training in the summer.

But then a chance meeting while volunteering for Homes for Our Troops in June turned Leavell's marathon plans into something bigger than a personal goal.

"I got involved with Homes for Our Troops because they are building a highly accessible house in Madison for an injured Soldier – retired Cpl. Jeffery Williams. They needed volunteers for a wall raising, so I took the day off and went out to help," Leavell said.

"I have a big heart for this organization because of what they do, and because I am the daughter of a retired colonel and I have two brothers-in-law now serving in the Army."

While helping at the home site, Leavell met the project coordinator who found out she was in training to run in the Marine Corps Marathon and told her that Homes for Our Troops had a fund-raising team registered with the marathon.

"So, then my marathon also became a fund-raiser for Homes for Our Troops," she said. "I emailed and Facebooked a bunch of people and that's how I got most of my donations from friends and family and co-workers. I

was able to raise almost \$500 in a very short amount of time."

Leavell went on to complete the Marine Corps Marathon and help raise more than \$50,000 as one of 37 runners on the Homes for Our Troops fund-raising team. She finished the marathon with a time of 4:49:02, putting her at about the 12,000th runner mark in a marathon of 20,895 finishers.

A University of Alabama graduate and a Tuscaloosa native, Leavell decided early in her career to balance her professional work at Redstone Arsenal with her personal running goals.

"When I moved here, I started running a mile a day because I wanted to be able to eat whatever I wanted to," she said. "I wanted running to be a part of my routine. I wanted to build it into my adult life so that it is as common as brushing my teeth."

Leavell is also a person who likes to set goals. So, she set her sights on preparing to run in her first half marathon in April 2010 with a couple girlfriends. A knee injury during training sidelined her for a while, forcing her to postpone her goal until a half marathon in Virginia Beach, Va., in August 2010.

"The Virginia Beach half marathon was part of the Rock'n'Roll series of half marathons and marathons that are organized all over the country," she said.

To prepare for her first half marathon, Leavell followed an eight to 12-week training program that she found on the Internet.

"You have to train your body up to a half marathon," she said. "Even with my training, I was a nervous wreck because I didn't know what was going to happen. I didn't know if I would finish."

She completed the Virginia Beach half marathon in 2:08, and went on to run a half marathon in Huntsville in November 2010 and a half marathon in New Orleans in February 2011.

And then she signed up for the Marine Corps Marathon.

"A couple of friends had done it the year before and I heard from them how awesome it was. I was completely amazed with them for doing it," she said. "I thought about how wonderful it was to reach that goal."

Once signed up, Leavell found another training program online that she followed to ready herself for the October marathon. The program is a series of short runs – about six miles – three



Courtesy photo

Victoria Leavell wears the race gear of Homes for Our Troops, the charity she raised money for while running in the Marine Corps Marathon.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Victoria Leavell of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone is proud of the Marine Corps Marathon medal she earned by finishing the annual race in Washington, D.C. She hopes to collect race medals from each of the 50 states.

to five days a week and then one long run – as short as 12 and as long as 23 – on the weekends.

"I got to a point where I was so sick of running," she said of her training. "It is a big time commitment. It's like having another job because you know you are required to do it or you'll pay for it on race day."

Leavell arrived in D.C. the Friday before the Oct. 30th race. Her boyfriend, Army contractor Joe Tripiano, made the trip with her to provide support.

On race day, she got up at 4:30 a.m. to eat breakfast and get ready. The morning was cold at about 35 degrees, so she dressed in layers.



See Marathon on page 23

Volunteers adorn veterans' graves with wreaths

Huntsville tradition marks its fifth year

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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They do it to honor those who have ever had to spend a holiday away from a loved one, and to remember those that never made it home.

Hundreds of volunteers turned out for the annual Huntsville tradition over the past two weeks. Wreaths for Veterans, now in its fifth year. They helped at all stages of the holiday outreach, from fluffing wreaths and adorning each with a red bow and tag that reads, "Through the generosity and actions of hundreds of volunteers this wreath is donated and placed on the grave of a true American hero" to placing wreaths on area graves. Last week, 750 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves at Valhalla Cemetery; 2,000 were placed on veterans' graves at Maple Hill Cemetery.

"It looks so gorgeous," said Rose Mary Bayer, standing back to admire the volunteers' work Thursday at Valhalla. "It just brings a special warmth to my heart to see and meet all these people who want to volunteer."

What began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery has become a nationwide movement after a picture of the national cemetery's headstones decorated with the green wreaths and red bows, covered in white snow, began circulat-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Huibert Dehaan and Duane Hoffman carry wreaths through Valhalla Cemetery in Huntsville as they participate in Wreaths for Veterans.

ing the Internet in 2005. When Jennifer Hames, a member of the Redstone Garden Club, saw the picture she knew it was something the Huntsville community had to do.

"That was the most impressive picture," Hames said. "It really took my breath away."

Since 2007, hundreds of wreaths have covered the graves of the Tennessee Valley's heroes. Each wreath costs \$5, paid for by the generosity of various military organizations and individuals throughout the community. For the group, all the money raised and work that goes into the effort is well worth it for the impact it has

on the family and friends the veterans left behind, as well as for the memories of the veterans the wreaths commemorate.

"If you come out here and you see family members, you see them crying when they first look at it and they thank us, thank us, thank us," Bayer said. "That means a lot to me because that's what we're all about."

Wreaths for Veterans, Huntsville will join with the rest of the nation and the world Dec. 10 in a wreath laying ceremony



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cecil Ruth and Betty Willis place wreaths on veterans' graves at Valhalla Cemetery in Huntsville.

ny at Valhalla Cemetery at 11 a.m. Volunteers are welcome to join in retrieving the wreaths Jan. 3 at 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery and Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. at Valhalla Cemetery.



Photo by Paul Stevenson

Like father, like son

USASAC security manager Ed Reyes, second from left, and family along with station commander Sgt. 1st Class Scott Reed, far right, gather at the Huntsville Recruiting Station Nov. 15 to bid farewell to son, Justin, second from right, as he heads to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Nashville to begin his Army career. Justin's enlistment follows the footsteps of the elder Reyes, a retired sergeant first class who served 27 years in the Army. Other members of the family include, from left, wife and mother Nancy, Justin's wife Rachel and Justin's son Otto.



Courtesy photos

Retirement honors

Several retirement ceremonies are being held these days for longtime Redstone Arsenal employees. Larry Gunter of Aviation and Missile Command Operations (G-3) presided over two of those ceremonies recently for Bernice Muhammad and Eddie Allen, who have a combined federal service of 85 years. Allen has a combined total of 48 years of service between his careers as a Soldier and a civil service employee. Muhammad had 37 years of civil service. Both retirees received Civilian Achievement awards and Certificates of Achievement signed by the AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

Wounded veteran receives key to new life

Homes for troops delivers residence

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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To the rest of the world it is just a key, but for Cpl. Jeffery Williams, it unlocks a world of independence and possibilities.

Homes for Our Troops, a national non-profit organization dedicated to building specially made homes for severely wounded veterans at no cost to them, gave Williams the keys to his brand new home, built just for him, in a key ceremony Saturday.

"This home is a gift of freedom and independence, the same gift that you fought for on our behalf, and that so many patriots before you have fought for throughout America's history," Larry Gill, veterans' liaison for the organization, said reading from a letter written by Homes for our Troops president and founder, John Gonsalves. "We could not be happier that we are now able to give something back to you. It is my hope that you'll enjoy many years of happiness and comfort in this home that was built with our hands and our hearts especially for you."

It is a future that Williams never imagined for himself when he was injured in Iraq in May 2004.

Born and raised in the country in Wilcox County, after graduating high school Williams joined the Army at 19. Even though he had watched the images of the twin towers falling on that fateful day in September 2001, he didn't necessarily join the military to avenge the actions of Osama bin Laden, but rather, to pave his own way to a better life.

"I did it for a way out," Williams said. "Even though I joined at a time of war, even when the recruiter told us it could happen, we could go to Iraq or Afghanistan, I didn't want it to be me."

A member of 3rd Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., Williams was nine and a half months into his first yearlong deployment to Iraq, when the Humvee he was traveling in on a mission in Fallujah was hit by an IED. The blast killed the vehicle's driver, as well as Williams' battle buddy and right flank, ripping



Photo by Ellen Hudson

As Jeffery Williams arrives, Patriot Guard riders line his pathway to the ceremonial sight on the lawn of his new home.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jeffery Williams speaks to the crowd during Saturday's key presentation ceremony.

him in two, but shielding Williams from the blast. It was a piece of metal that changed the course of Williams' life, a piece that traveled through his buddy, and into Williams' neck, coming out through his back. May 25, 2004 was to be the last day Williams would ever feel his legs.

"When I got injured the medic told me to stand up and I told him I couldn't stand up, but at the time I didn't know why I couldn't stand up," Williams said.

Despite a large hole in his neck, through which he could hear his breath come out and his blood bubbling, Williams remained conscious until the doc-

tors put him under for lifesaving surgery. When he awoke at Walter Reed, he waited for what he thought was a shot from the doctor that would wake his legs up.

"Twenty-one years old – that was horror at first. Why didn't you just all let me stay out there on the battlefield and die? I couldn't see quality of life in a wheelchair," Williams said.

Williams retreated into himself, remaining in bed and throwing himself what he calls "a pity party." It wasn't until he was transported to the Augusta VA where he was able to see other wounded warriors just like himself, that he was able to find hope.

Learning from the example of those around him, as well as occupational therapists who taught him how to be independent, after a year in the hospital, Williams returned home to live with his mother in Wilcox County, where he was faced with a new set of challenges – meeting people that knew him before the injury and the wheelchair.

"People that I know don't know me like this. They're talking to you, but they're looking at you with this look on their face. You hate to see that look on their face," Williams said.

So Williams moved north to Huntsville, where he has built a life for the past six years, living in an apartment that granted him some independence, with the dream of going back to school.

"I do everything except in a different way," he said. "Every man puts his pants on one leg at a time – I don't. I put my pants on two legs at a time."

While he can drive, shower and do other things for himself, his independence isn't what it was before his in-

jury, so when Homes for Our Troops came calling, offering to build him a home specially tailored for him and his needs, including a therapy tub, roll-in shower, roll-under sinks, hard surface floors and automatic door openers, it was an offer he couldn't refuse.

"All the independence I don't have now, they're giving it all back to me, stuff I never thought would be possible. I can cook for myself. It will make my quality of life way better," he said.

It is a gift and mindset, Williams said, that he doesn't think Osama bin Laden intended to give to Americans when he masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks.

"This man thought that he could put fear into our minds, but look at what this has made

us do. You've got total strangers coming together for the sacrifice I made in Iraq," Williams said. "He sent his soldiers out to put a suicide bomb on, and we send our Soldiers over and when they get home we're going to do everything we possibly can for them. That's a great feeling."

Through the hard work of volunteers, the generosity of donors, and general contractor Tod Yarbrough with Renaissance Builders Inc., construction on the home off Nick Davis Road in Madison began in June. After being handed the key to his new home, Williams, surrounded by friends and family, toured the finished product, wheeling around in awe at the outpouring of love and support from complete strangers, which he will be reminded of every time he turns the key to his home.

"I couldn't see this when I first got hurt," Williams told the crowd during the key ceremony. "I couldn't see any of this. When I first got hurt I thought I didn't want to be here anymore. God put people like y'all in my life. You've really uplifted me, you've given me self-esteem, given me the drive to know that anything is possible."

Since its inception in 2004, Homes for Our Troops has built more 100 homes nationwide. Williams' home is the third home built by the organization in Alabama, the first two completed in Irvington in 2008 and Trussville in 2010. Each veteran is given the opportunity to select the city he would like to live in, the floor plan, which typically runs around 2,600 square feet, as well as the colors. For more information, visit www.homesforourtroops.org.

Fortier finishes race, looks toward Boston

Lt. Col. Greg Fortier, commander of the Aviation Flight Test Directorate for the Redstone Test Center, completed this month's New York City Marathon.

"Unfortunately, I did not perform at my best. I fell apart at the 20-mile marker, but finished in three hours, 34 minutes," he said.

Although Fortier fell short of his running goal of 3:15, he hopes his time in the Nov. 6 race will help him qualify for the Boston Marathon, held each April. He would like to run in the Boston race either in 2012 or 2013.

Fortier's story as a marathon runner was featured in the Oct. 26 issue of the *Redstone Rocket*. He is running 11 marathons in honor of his friend, fellow pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matt Lourey, who was killed in Iraq on May 26, 2005, when his Kiowa helicopter came under small arms attack while on a night mis-

sion.

Lourey, who was 40 at the time of his death, had a goal to race in 50 marathons before he was 50. He had 11 of those marathons left to complete when he was killed. Fortier decided to complete his friend's quest in his honor.

The New York City Marathon was 10th in the 11 marathons Fortier will complete. Other races include: Disney World (January 2006, three hours, 20 minutes); Sarasota, Fla. (March 2006, 3:17); Detroit, Mich. (October 2006, 3:20); Disney World (January 2007, half marathon in 1:45 on a Saturday and then a full marathon in 3:31 on the following Sunday); Washington, D.C. (March 2008, 3:29); Richmond, Va., (October 2008, 3:23); San Diego, Calif. (June 2009, 3:39); Virginia Beach, Va. (March 2010, 3:23) and Minneapolis, Minn. (June 2011, 3:26).

Marathon

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"You have to be prepared to take stuff off and toss it along the route," she said. "Runners will wear cheap gloves, hats, sweatshirts, and then they will just toss them to the side while they are running. There is a crew behind us that picks it all up and donates it to charity."

Even though she had trained for the marathon and had studied the route, Leavell questioned whether she was ready.

"The entire week beforehand, I was a train wreck. I was nervous. I was in limbo," she said. "You want to be really prepared, but you don't want to be over prepared. I didn't know what to expect."

"But the actual race itself was fantastic."

The Marine Corps Marathon begins at the Pentagon, and travels into Georgetown, Crystal City and Alexandria, and around the Mall in D.C. One of the highlights is the Beat the Bridge mark, which spans miles 21 to 24.

"It's a really long bridge and it comes at such a point where your body is totally over it and hating you," Leavell said.

"Mile 24 to 25 and a half was the loneliest part of the race for me. My body was ready to stop. But I was too close to the end to stop. Then we had to go up a kind of ridiculous hill for mile 26 and finally we finished at the Iwo Jima Memorial. It was a really awesome finish. But it makes you not want to do it again."

At three different points, Leavell was able to see her boyfriend, her sister and her sister's friend cheering her along

the route with a homemade sign. But for Leavell the best part of the marathon was seeing all the Marines, Soldiers, retirees and injured running in the marathon.

"There were handcycle racers. Seeing those guys who have been injured in the war and they are out there hand cycling their bikes for 26 miles. ... It made the entire thing worth it," she said.

"There was a retired Marine who carried the American flag for the entire race. And it was neat seeing all the Marines out there giving us water and food and our medals. When I started to get bored along the route, I would think about the guys in harm's way in Afghanistan. I wanted to hug every Soldier and Marine in uniform that I saw along the race. It all really reminds you why you do a race like that, especially when you run for a cause like

Homes for Our Troops."

Leavell actually surprised herself with her finishing time of 4:49:02. Her goal was to finish at five hours. And she impressed herself by never falling into a walking pace during the race.

"I felt amazingly good afterward," she said. "I was sore just like any other race, and I was ready to have something to eat and get my shoes off. Otherwise, it was amazing because I know I've done it and that I can do it."

Yet, there are no other marathons in Leavell's running future right now. She is currently training for a half marathon later this month in Georgia.

"I'm going to stick with halves. They are healthier for your body. Marathons and marathon training is very harsh and it demands a lot of time," she said. "But I might consider doing a triathlon."

Pilot

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thigh by a round of shrapnel. Much of the floor of the aircraft at Benson's feet was missing.

Benson was able to recover the aircraft and fly it to a friendly location, Combat Outpost Able Main in Konar, Afghanistan, where the two pilots received medical aid and were flown out of the area. Both underwent several surgeries and long months of rehabilitation.

"I am just happy that Adam and I are still able to be fathers and husbands," Benson said.

Throughout his Army career, Benson has been thankful for the opportunities he has been given to make a difference for the war fighter. By his estimates, he has flown between 1,200 and 1,400 hours of combat flight time during two deployments to Iraq and the deployment to Afghanistan. He has served with units stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Bragg, N.C., and

Germany. His last assignment was at Redstone Arsenal, where he served as the system safety officer for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office.

Benson didn't choose to fly Kiowas. Rather, the Army chose for him.

"I really didn't have a preference after flight school," he said. "I became a Kiowa pilot because of the needs of the Army. But once I got the aircraft, and after learning the aircraft and the mission I realized it's really the aircraft that's involved in every phase of the mission. I'm glad I didn't get anything else."

After his battle injuries, Benson had hopes to fly again. That hope never materialized into reality, which was probably for the best, he said.

"After the type of flying we did over in Iraq and Afghanistan, flying back here in the U.S. would not have been as exciting," Benson said. "And I really didn't miss it because I had a great job with Unmanned Aircraft Systems where I hope I made a significant contribution. The new technologies in unmanned aircraft really open up great

possibilities of the things we can do for Soldiers on the ground in today's fight and tomorrow's."

When asked about his service, Benson said he is no exception, that he is not anymore special than other Soldiers. And yet, people seem to seek him out to thank him for what he has done for the country.

"I was in Murfreesboro, Tenn., sitting and eating with the family. And this guy walks up behind me, taps me on the back and says 'Welcome home' and then walks away," he recalled. "I was like 'How does he know?' It was genuine. How did I stick out? Then I realized I had one of my unit sweatshirts draped over the chair. I am proud to have served Americans like that. It's very humbling. There's no doubt Americans have supported us. It's a duty and a responsibility to serve, to live up to that."

Throughout his career, Benson has relied on his faith and his family for the support he has needed to do a Soldier aviator's job.

"God has helped me make the right decisions. My faith has helped me with

everything – the deployments, the separation from my family, serving on the battlefield. It's got me through everything," he said.

His family's strength has also made him strong.

"They were rock hard. They were solid," he said. "They adapted so easily. We would move somewhere and they would just in-process into the neighborhood, church and school. I didn't have to worry about them or think about it. We all did what the Army wanted us to do."

While stationed at Redstone, Benson's family has lived in Clarksville, Tenn. Benson worked and lived in Huntsville during the week, and went home on weekends. The family is now considering where they will live in the first few years of Benson's retirement.

"All the major opportunities I've seen are associated with Huntsville. I want to do work that allows me to still support the Soldier on the front line," he said. "This next move is not the Army telling us to move. It will be Stacey and me making the right decision for our family."

Military mom cares for triple amputee son

By ELAINE SANCHEZ

American Forces Press Service

SAN ANTONIO – Saralee Trimble hunches over a craft table, meticulously weaving thin strips of material together to form a basket.

The room is noisy with TVs blaring and people chatting and laughing, but her concentration is unbroken as she focuses on her task.

For just a few brief moments, this mom of five is simply focused on piecing together a basket, rather than the life that was nearly lost to her on a roadside in Afghanistan.

Trimble's son, Pfc. Kevin Trimble, was just four months into his deployment when a fellow Soldier standing three feet away stepped on a homemade bomb. The Soldier was killed and Trimble lost both of his legs above the knee and his left arm above the elbow.

Trimble was at home in New Orleans when she got the phone call. It's a call, she said with tears welling up, that she'll never forget.

She and her husband, Daniel, were told their son had been injured and was in serious condition, but was stable and alert. Shocked at the news, they focused on the positive.

"The most important thing was he was alert," she said.

After a few days in Germany, her son arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center here on Sept. 24, and Trimble, her husband and her children rushed there to greet him.

The toughest moment, Trimble said, was when she saw her son for the first time. "I wanted to cry," she said, again tearing up at the recollection. "It was heavy, real heavy."

Not wanting to convey their shock, she and her husband went out in the hall, held each other and cried. Her son had dreamed of being a Soldier for as long as she could remember, and joined right out of high school. She knew how devastating this injury would be to him as a man, and a Soldier.

"It was really hard," she said. "He's 19. He's my baby." She then thought of her other children. Four of her five children are in the service: one in the Air Force, two in the Army and one in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Two have deployed multiple times and one expects to go soon, she said.

"I thought of Kevin and then, 'What about them?'" she recalled.

The long recovery

Trimble steeled herself for the long recovery road ahead. Her electrician husband returned home to a foreman



Photo by Linda Hosek

Saralee Trimble offers suggestions to her son, Pfc. Kevin Trimble, left, as he works on a leather project with his brother, Ben, at the Warrior and Family Support Center in San Antonio, Nov. 10.

job they couldn't afford for him to lose, and she settled in at the hospital. She grimaced as she recollected those early days of recovery.

"It was very traumatic, no way around it, it just is," she said.

Trimble said her son was boiling hot all the time so they placed ice packs on his shoulders and constantly doused his face and neck with cold water. He was on pain medication, but even that couldn't fully prevent the pain.

"You can't avoid it. It's part of it," she said.

Throughout, Kevin remained positive, Trimble said, with only a few moments of despair.

"A few times he's broken down and said, 'Mom, look at me. What good am I?'" she said.

In those moments, Trimble said all she could do was pray with her son and assure him he'd be OK. She never, even from the start, had a doubt that he'd pull through, she said.

Trimble said her son reached a turning point when a group of wounded warriors, including several triple amputees, came to see him at his bedside.

"That encouraged him so much to see other guys the same as him who were actually getting around and able to do something," she said.

Kevin checked out of the hospital less than two months after his injury,

and is about to start his therapy at the Center for the Intrepid, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center just steps away from the hospital.

He's had one two-hour physical therapy session so far, Trimble said, and that one "wiped him out." "They had him getting from the wheelchair onto the floor and then back up," she said, noting that's no easy feat with just one arm. "When he came back he didn't want to do nothing but sleep.

"But that's good," she added. "He needs that challenge."

Next up, he'll be fitted for a prosthetic arm, and later prosthetic legs. The sooner he can use his limbs and gain independence, the better, Trimble said.

Meanwhile, she is helping him get acclimated to his "new normal" by taking him on outings, whether it's to Sea World or to play miniature golf. He had a great time golfing, she said, but was saddened by the children's stares.

"I told him, 'You know you're going to have that the rest of your life,'" she said. "'You are different from everyone else, but that doesn't say who you are. You still are who you are.'"

Challenges of caregiving

It's been a rough couple of months and Trimble acknowledged the stress that accompanies full-time caregiving. Fearful of the devastating impact of a fall, she isn't comfortable yet leaving

her son alone. And she only has brief respites during appointments or when one of her children is there to help. But even a short break can provide a big recharge, she said.

When she's not by her son's side, Trimble finds respite, and solace, in the Warrior and Family Support Center, a sprawling 12,500-square-foot facility here. The center offers a place for families and wounded warriors to relax, reconnect or just have a cup of coffee. Along with computers, video games, movies and books, the center offers a host of outings, and craft classes to service members and their families.

Trimble is a familiar face at the craft tables. One day she'll be seen weaving baskets, and the next she is building a mosaic or stained glass creation. Her son and other family members often join in, as well. On this day, Kevin and his brother and sister – visiting here on military leave – stopped by for a leather working class. They joked and laughed as they worked on their creations. Kevin was making a belt with help from his brother, Ben.

As he worked, Kevin said he was grateful for his mom's presence. "Things would be harder without her," he acknowledged.

Having family around is vital for a wounded warrior's recovery, his mother noted.

"It's very important for them to have support," she said. "Look at Kevin. It's not even two months and look where he's at."

Trimble said they'll most likely be here for another two years. Her son's goal is to graduate from the Center for the Intrepid on his 21st birthday, May 22, 2013.

Meanwhile, Trimble has a long road of caregiving ahead, but said she's up to the task. The toughest challenge for her isn't the lack of time alone or the stress, she said, it's seeing her son in pain.

"That's one reason why you want to take a break," she said. "Knowing that he's suffering. That's very hard."

With two years of separation from her husband looming, Trimble said the time apart will be tough. Plus, she's worried about how he's maintaining their home in her absence.

"I'm sure no one is running the broom while I'm away," she joked.

But despite the ongoing struggles, Trimble said she wouldn't have it any other way. She'll be by her son's side for as long as he needs her to be.

"He's my son," she said. "Caring for him ... I couldn't ask for anything more special."

'A tragedy that never goes away'

Retired general officer remembers lost troops

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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One of the Army's most influential leaders during Operation Iraqi Freedom has a lot of gratitude for the lessons he learned while attending the University of Southern Mississippi.

"Everything good in life started at Southern Miss," retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond told members of the Southern Miss North Alabama Alumni Chapter at a Nov. 15 luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club.

In the Army, Hammond is best known for his command of the 28,000 troops of the 4th Infantry Division and the Multi-National Division while on a 15-month deployment to Iraq in 2007 that brought discipline and structure to Baghdad. Under Hammond's leadership, the division worked to double the size of the Iraqi Security Forces; build more than 200 schools, medical clinics and support facilities; create more than 500 jobs; decrease violence by more than 80 percent; and conduct the first-ever violence-free democratic election.

But the retired major general can't comment on his service in 2007 without mentioning the 94 Soldiers killed and the 3,000 Soldiers wounded under his command. Calling them "beautiful kids," the Legion of Merit and three-time Bronze Star recipient said "in combat when you lose someone wounded or killed you have to move on. But at home it is a tragedy that never goes away."

The Army's Soldiers "continue to serve this great nation of ours. ... I followed Soldiers. I worked for Soldiers. The Soldiers won the fight," he said.

With 32 years of Army service and three combat tours now behind him, Hammond said he begins every day with the same mission – to make a difference. At the end of the day, he asks the same question – Did I make a difference?

He told his audience about a game changing situation in Iraq where one Soldier under his command dared to make a difference. He talked about Sadr City, a suburb city of Baghdad that is home to nearly 3 million Shiite Muslims who were not allowed to leave the area during the reign of Saddam Hussein.

"Other than Somalia, it was the worst place on Earth," he said.

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division

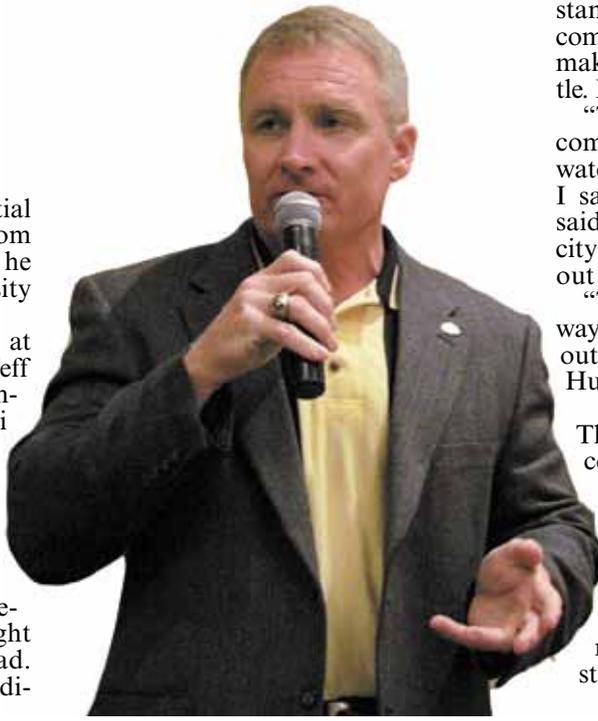


Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond, who led 28,000 troops during the tumultuous days of the surge in Iraq in 2007, talks about his military experience at a Nov. 15 luncheon for University of Southern Mississippi alumni. He is a senior associate director of athletics at Southern Miss, where he is working in athletic development and fund-raising for his alma mater.

were not allowed inside Sadr City for political reasons. And yet, every night, terrorists from within Sadr City would leave its confines, and attack and kill American Soldiers.

"The key to Baghdad, the key to the country was taking down Sadr City. ... But we were not allowed to go in (Sadr City). We couldn't afford to upset the diplomatic apple cart," Hammond explained. "One night, I lost seven Soldiers (because of Sadr City). I called my wife, crying, and I told her 'I'm going to get relieved. We're going into Sadr City.' I was not going to let policy and politics get in the way of protecting these kids."

At first, the siege into Sadr City seemed to make a difference. U.S. Soldiers fought hard and made progress.

"But then we lost the initiative. We lost momentum and the fight came to a halt," Hammond said.

In a meeting with Iraqi military leaders, the country's soldiers expressed their refusal to fight against the terrorists of Sadr City for fear their own families would be killed. The situation was at a

standstill until a Soldier in Hammond's command volunteered, insisting he could make a difference, he could turn the battle. Hammond gave the Soldier 48 hours.

"They went in and in 48 hours they completely secured Sadr City. ... I watched from unmanned vehicles and I saw fantastic leadership," Hammond said, adding that terrorists ran from the city and escaped through the desert and out of Iraq.

"That kid placed himself in harm's way," he said. Unfortunately, on the way out of Sadr City, the Soldier's armored Humvee was attacked and he was killed.

"He chose to make a difference. Those were his words, not mine, at the cost of his life," Hammond said.

Since then, Hammond has visited the Soldier's wife and children. His widow takes comfort in knowing her husband did indeed make a difference.

After his command in Iraq, Hammond went on to serve as the chief of staff of the Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Then Southern Miss called.

"We said our prayers," Hammond said referring to himself and his wife Diane. "We asked 'Should we make a change?' Doors opened. The university called us and asked 'Would you like to come home and be involved in athletics again?'"

From 1976-78, while earning degrees in special education, Hammond was the quarterback and team captain of the Southern Miss Golden Eagles football team. Upon graduation, he commissioned in the Army as a second lieutenant. Among his many honors, Hammond is a member of the Southern Miss Sports and Athletic Hall of Fame.

In September 2010, Hammond retired from military service and became a senior associate director of athletics, working in athletic development and fund-raising for his alma mater.

"We loved Soldiers for 32 years," he said of his decision. "And now it was time to come home to my first love. ... Everything good in life started at Southern Miss. I learned to lead on the football field. I learned social responsibility. I learned how to love the girl of my dreams (wife Diane). Southern Miss taught us not what to think. It taught us how to think. In combat, you can't go through the encyclopedia in your mind and think 'What do I do next?' You've got to be able to react ... to think and react."

At Southern Miss, Hammond predicts a promising future for a university building its reputation on its business school. Saying it will be the center of gravity for Mississippi in 50 years, he said "we must never forget that the strength of the U.S. and Americans lies in the entrepreneurial business skills of young men and women."

He also predicted that the Southern Miss football team, which is part of Conference USA, is on the verge of going from "good to great" and that there is a possibility that it will play Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Hammond is equally as proud of the graduation rate of the university's football players, which stands at 83 percent, one of the highest among Southern universities.

"If we all decide collectively to make a difference, we can take this school wherever it wants to go. ... I want to help push this university over the top into a wow future," he said.

Courtesy photo

Administrative professionals

Wyatt Phillips, logistics management specialist in AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, was guest speaker at the Nov. 15 monthly meeting of the Redstone Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals. He spoke on "Courage in the Workplace for Administrative Professionals." Chapter president Darlene Readus presents him a certificate of appreciation.



Business leaders share forum with Army Materiel Command



Photo by Douglas Brewster

AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody addresses the National Defense Industrial Association's Materiel Enterprise Small Business Conference.

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

The National Defense Industrial Association's Materiel Enterprise Small Business Conference featuring the Army Materiel Command took place Nov. 16-17 at the Westin.

Small business professionals from several federal agencies gathered to provide small and large business owners with the opportunity to obtain firsthand knowledge on how to successfully do business with the Army.

"This conference is timely with AMC's headquarters completing its transition to Huntsville," Tony F. Hodge, program manager for AMC's Office of Small Business Programs, said. "It brings together industry leaders, government as well as the small business community to discuss timely topics that include recent changes that affect small businesses."

AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody briefed the audience on AMC's current condition and way ahead.

AMC supported two wars along with relief efforts in Haiti, Chile and Japan while conducting a move that affected roughly one out of six of the more than 70,000

employees that work for the command.

"It has been a tough decade but we have a lot to be proud of," Dunwoody said. "People, our customers, don't worry about what we do because they know we are going to deliver."

She presented slides on what the Tennessee Valley community could collectively do to assist AMC in overcoming future challenges.

"We are going to be expected to fight and win our nation's wars. We are not going to say, 'sorry I had a budget cut, we can't go do that,'" Dunwoody said. "We can't just do less of what we've been doing. We have to fundamentally change what we've been doing, so we can get after the costs associated with the way we do business. That's where we need your ideas, your innovation and your good inventions."

The conference also offered panels highlighting large businesses, small business success stories, networking opportunities and updates from senior leaders in contracting, procurement and acquisition.

For more information on how to do business with AMC visit, www.amc.army.mil/pa/BusinessOpportunities.asp.

Civilian council serves recreational needs

With this new fiscal year, members of the Civilian Welfare Fund Council want to remind Redstone who they are and what they do.

CWFC is a volunteer governing council concerned with morale, welfare and recreational needs of the civilian community at Redstone Arsenal. The council sponsors and participates in activities that meet those needs.

The volunteer council members represent Redstone tenant organizations and devote time during duty hours to attend monthly business and committee meetings, and participate in CWFC activities. These representatives solicit opinions from and listen to their constituency, and represent that constituency on the council. They also distribute information and publicize activities to their organizations, as well as interact directly with top level leaders in their and other organizations on behalf of CWFC.

Some of the activities the council is involved with are half-price lunch days at Post Restaurant Fund cafeterias, bus tours, sporting events, discount tickets to special events like the Galaxy of Lights at Huntsville Botanical Garden, and stipends to help pay for organizational events.

Newly elected officers for the council include president Loretta Brooks, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; first vice president Cynthia Hawkins, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity; second vice president Carolyn Cunningham, AMCOM G-2; and recorder Linda Wallace, Program Executive Office for Aviation.

If you would like to represent your organization and participate in the stipend program and other activities, call Tom Bramhall at 876-3836, Lisa McWhorter at 313-6839 or Reena Strong at 955-9108. (CWFC release)



Loretta Brooks



Courtesy photo

Career advice

Maggie Funderburk, of AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate supporting the Precision Fires Rockets and Missiles Project Office, speaks to electronics students at Wallace State Community College. As part of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program, she told the students about courses that can prepare them for careers at Redstone Arsenal.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Education week

Kai Ealy, of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation special events, visits the Columbia College table during the Education Center's open house Nov. 16 for American Education Week. Representing Columbia are administrative assistant Hyacinth James, seated on left, and enrollment adviser Ashlee Croomes.

Cullman school shows support for veterans

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

CULLMAN – One local elementary school showed its appreciation for all those who have served and sacrificed to defend and keep America free.

East Elementary School in Cullman recognized more than 50 local veterans, as well as all who have served in America's military, during the school's Veterans Day program Nov. 10.

"I love veterans," Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said. "They are visible reminders in our communities every day about duty, service and patriotism and the values and freedoms that our nation cherishes.

"It is appropriate that you here at East Elementary School have paused from your school week to honor and recognize these veterans and I am proud to be here. Thank you for being such a special school and thank you for being such special students."

During the ceremony, the school showed a video of what Veterans Day means to the students. After the video was presented to those in attendance, the students recognized each of the military branches by singing the service songs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

"I would say each year the program grows

more and more," East Elementary School principal Ashley D. Wiggins Jr. said. "The way our students give these veterans a standing ovation and show their respect to these great Americans makes me very proud. That is what East Elementary is about, what America is all about. We thank every veteran for what they have done."

In attendance were two state leaders who were invited to the ceremony and to witness the school's patriotism as the students honored America's veterans.

"I thought today was very exciting," State Sen. Paul Bussman, who led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance, said. "The comments made by the students, as well as listening to them say the Pledge of Allegiance, were great. If that didn't touch your heart, I don't know what will.

"This is something East Elementary has been very good at educating children on. They are teaching civics, how to react to the flag and how to honor our veterans. It is a tremendous thing."

After the program ended, the other leader talked about how the school made a momentous weekend even more special.

"What an incredible event," State Sen. and Army Reserve Lt. Col. Phil Williams said. "This school has obviously 'got it.' They understand the value of patriotism and remembering our veterans. And not only that, I don't believe I have ever seen a school assembly where the students were



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica speaks at East Elementary School in Cullman during the school's Veterans Day program.

so well-behaved. There is something special here.

"It is a pleasure for me to be here. I am a third-generation Army officer and my son is a brand new officer so this day means a lot to me and my family, and I am just glad I got to be here today."

One student shared her thoughts on the importance of thanking veterans.

"Today was great," sixth-grader Kennedy Wren, secretary of the student council,

said. "I am glad we got to do something for our veterans to show how much we appreciate everything they have done for us."

Another student talked about what Veterans Day meant to her and how she appreciates all that veterans have done.

"Today's event was wonderful," sixth-grader Bailee Ponder, president of the student council, said. "Thank you to all the veterans for coming today and thank you for all you have done for us."

Soldier spends patriotic day at Huntsville school

By JOHN PEARSON
For the Rocket

When Lt. Col. Mike Miller said he would represent AMCOM at Union Chapel School's Veterans Day Celebration, he knew he wanted to make the event special for the kids.

He had no idea how special he would feel at the end of the day.

Miller gave the kids a lesson in the proper military "Hooah" but also wanted to provide a lesson that the kids could truly carry for a lifetime.

"I think it helps to establish a lifelong appreciation for what men and women in the military do in service to their country," he said. "Who knows, some of those kids may be future leaders in our military and to know that I had just a small part in that means a lot to me."

Miller said those who think that the next generation will not value patriotism and the people who serve should just visit schools like Union Chapel in Huntsville and they will get a very positive impression.

"We sometimes hear negative comments about our younger generation. But I am here to tell you that those kids are awesome," he said. "They expressed a lot of patriotism, respect and talent. I asked them to give me a few 'Hooahs' and they really got into that. I think their teachers are going to be getting a few 'Hooahs' in class from now on and that is all right by me."

As great as it was to take the microphone around the bleachers and hear from the kids throughout the event, Miller made it extra special by having his daughters be his helpers in passing out Army toys and pencils. Seeing his kids hit it off with the kids at Union Chapel made it a Veterans Day to remember.

"I always like to include my family when I can," Miller said. "I am fortunate to have such great daughters and they had a great time participating."



Photo by John Pearson

Lt. Col. Mike Miller belts out a "Hooah" after receiving a certificate of appreciation from principal Ted Walton for participating in Union Chapel School's Veterans Day Program. Miller is part of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program.

Citizen Soldiers thanked for making difference

Reservists recognized in homecoming event

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Reserve Lt. Col. Thomas Howko drove 6 1/2 hours just so he could participate in a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award Ceremony held Saturday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"It was beautiful," he said. "We didn't want to pass up the opportunity. So, we bit the bullet and made the drive."

The Cincinnati resident and Corps of Engineers civilian was accompanied by his wife, Anna Dowell-Howko, and his son, 12-year-old Riley Dowell-Howko. All were honored during a ceremony that recognized the sacrifices of both Reserve Soldiers and their families.

"It was well worth coming here for this," Howko said. "And bringing my wife and son gave them a chance to experience this with me."

Howko returned in July from a one-year deployment as a logistics augmentee working with contractors to ensure basic life support was provided for Soldiers in Afghanistan. He and 10 other Reservists, all members of the Army Reserve Sustainment Command, were recognized during the ceremony. Nine others were listed in the program, but were unable to attend. The Reserve Soldiers have been deployed or mobilized with several different units as part of the Army Materiel Command's Army Reserve Element and, as individual augmentees, they did not participate in Welcome Home ceremonies with the units they supported.

"This is important that we recognize Soldiers and their families for the sacrifices they made," said Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, the ceremony's guest speaker.

"These Soldiers have made sacrifices, but so have their families who sacrificed by having their loved one away. Being separated from your family really makes things difficult."

Before taking the command of AMCOM in the fall of 2010, Rogers himself was deployed, commanding the 1st Theater Sustainment Command at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The major general served in operational assignments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2008-10.

"The only reason we survived as an organization (during deployment) was because of the Reserve officers and non-commissioned officers that came to me on a regular rotation," he said. "They

had an expertise that we could utilize" and that was developed not only through Reserve training but also in their full-time jobs as civilians.

"The importance of the Reserves to our Army right now has never been greater. ... They often augment or fill an expertise that we don't have," Rogers said.

Besides recognizing families supporting the Reserve Soldiers, the ceremony also recognized the employers of citizen Soldiers and the volunteers who support Soldiers. Volunteers from AT&T Telephone Pioneers were thanked for providing refreshments for the ceremony.

"These Soldiers make a difference every day whether they are in uniform or not," Col. Jack Graham of AMC's Army Reserve Element said as he talked about the service of civilian Soldiers. "We can't ever pay you enough money for what you do. But it's not about the money. It's about the service when you raise your right hand" to take the oath.

Reserve Capt. Jack Eagly attended the ceremony with his wife and two young sons. He has served as a full-time Reservist twice since 9/11. In 2001, he was the executive officer for the first group of Soldiers to man the gates at Redstone Arsenal in the days following the 9/11 attacks. In 2003, he served in Iraq. When he is not in uniform, Eagly works for Northrop Grumman in support of the Missile Defense Agency.

"This has been a great day," Eagly said. "I'm glad I was able to share it with my wife and sons."

Sgt. 1st Class David Beier was recognized for a total of seven years of mobilization with the 59th Ordnance Brigade. That full-time assignment came to an end in September, when he was among a small group of Soldiers who turned the last of the brigade's facilities over to the Garrison to close out the move to Fort Lee, Va.

"This was really nice. I wasn't expecting this at all. I don't do what I do to get recognition like this," Beier said, referring to a shadow-box encasing a U.S. flag, coins and other gifts he received at the ceremony. "It will be nice to have these things later on to remember the glory days."

For most Reservists, the return from a deployment or mobilization means going back to the routine of life with family and friends, and with co-workers at their civilian job. But that's not the case for Beier, who gave up his job as a maintenance manager during the second year of his mobilization.

"It wasn't fair for me to hang on to that spot and keep someone else from



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. Kelly Peters, acting commander of the Reserve Sustainment Command, offers teddy bear Soldiers to brothers Patrick, 4, and Christopher, 2, after their father, Capt. Jack Eagly and their mother Rebecca Eagly were thanked by Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers. Eagly was among Reservists honored on Saturday during a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award Ceremony.

getting that job," said Beier, who has 25 years of service between active and Reserve duty. "I am looking for something

now and I've had interviews. I am unemployed. But I wouldn't change anything I've done. I'm proud to serve."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Military family

Pvt. Lakisha Owens, her husband Tommy and their son Nashaun, 3, enjoy some playground time.

Letterkenny progresses on Patriot production

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. – Two ribbons were cut by Letterkenny Army Depot commander Col. Cheri Provancha and Scott Jackson, Patriot program manager for Raytheon, during ceremonies Nov. 3 for the Patriot Launcher New Build and the Certified Round Assembly Facility missile final assembly.

The first ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Tactical Missile Repair Center celebrated completion of final testing and approval for the first Patriot Launcher New Build. The Patriot Launcher New Build Program began at Letterkenny in January 2010 to provide Patriot PAC-3 Launcher Stations for Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems.

"The success of this program is truly a testament to the depot as a whole as well as to Raytheon," Provancha said. "Things of this magnitude do not happen in the blink of an eye. It takes planning, dedication, hard work, communication and teamwork."

The partnership is an example of private industry and DoD joining forces to pursue mission accomplishment more effectively, efficiently and powerfully.

"These are extremely complex systems of extraordinary importance in the parts of the world in which we operate today," Jackson said. "What we do matters."

Following the conclusion of the Patriot Launcher New Build ceremony, the Certified Round Assembly Facility missile final assembly ribbon cut-

ting ceremony was held at the Lightner Missile Complex to celebrate the first completed Patriot Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical assembly at Letterkenny.

The Theater Readiness Monitoring Directorate was relocated from Red River Army Depot to Letterkenny as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure of 2005. The depot met the missile mission ahead of schedule and under cost.

"The task to convert the existing Hawk Certified Round Assembly Facility at the Lightner Missile Complex to a new production area with test equipment, fixtures and tooling was monumental, on time and on budget," David Putman, director of the Theater Readiness Monitoring Directorate, said.

The new CRAF Division saw an opportunity to enhance a partnership with Raytheon to provide the final assembly of the Patriot GEM-T missile.

"This first production has exceeded all expectations for quality with a demonstrated dedication and pride you don't see every day from the employees that made it happen," Provancha said.

These achievements did not derive apart from the support of many key groups to include the Lower Tier Project Office, Wiley-CAS, Defense Contract Management Agency, the Letterkenny Munitions Center and the Directorate of Product Assurance. (*Letterkenny Army Depot release*)



Courtesy photo

Scott Jackson, Patriot program manager for Raytheon, and Letterkenny Army Depot commander Col. Cheri Provancha cut the ribbon during the Patriot Launcher New Build ceremony signifying the completion of final testing and approval for the first Patriot PAC-3 Launcher Station New Build.

Air defense system passes first flight test in desert

The Medium Extended Air Defense System successfully completed its first flight test Thursday at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement MEADS Certified Missile Round was employed during the test along with the MEADS lightweight launcher and battle manager.

The test demonstrated an unprecedented over-the-shoulder launch of the MSE missile against a simulated target attacking from behind. It required a sideways maneuver, demonstrating a 360-degree capability. The missile executed a planned self-destruct sequence at the end of the mission after engaging the simulated threat.

Preliminary test data indicated all mission objectives were achieved. "Today, MEADS demonstrated its ability to engage and defeat a target coming from anywhere using just a single launcher," NATO MEADS Management Agency general manager Gregory Kee said. "MEADS provides more capability at a lower cost to protect our Soldiers against a growing air and missile threat. The MEADS lightweight launcher is one of the most advanced mobile launchers in existence today and was designed to be easily adaptable to a variety of vehicles."

Using its 360-degree defensive capability, the advanced MEADS radars and MSE missile, MEADS defends up to eight times the coverage area with far fewer system assets and reduces demand for deployed personnel and equipment, which reduces demand for airlift.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Turkey trotters

Participants in Fox Army Health Center's "Cold Turkey Trot," for the Great American Smokeout, leave after Thursday's event. Four turkeys were given away by a drawing at the end of the run/walk. The winners included Sgt. Dan Hatcher, Eric Bryant, Doris Byrd and Lisa Gipson.

AMC workers walk away from smoking for day

Great American Smokeout urges end of tobacco use

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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About 450,000 people in the United States die every year from smoking. That's equivalent to Huntsville, Decatur and Birmingham combined.

"So that's a huge impact if you think about all those people who die every year," Robin Warren, fitness and resiliency coordinator for the Army Materiel Command wellness division, said. "So the goal is to save at least one."

She organized AMC's "Walk Away for a Day" held on Thursday's Great American Smokeout. Fifty-six people symbolically walked away from tobacco by participating in the one-mile walk, two loops around AMC head-

quarters building 4400.

"Tobacco is the No. 1 killer in the United States," William Marriott, AMC deputy chief of staff for G-1 (Personnel), said during his remarks before the walk.

Participants included members of both AMC and the Army Security Assistance Command, which shares the headquarters building. Afterward each received one of two bags – either for a smoker trying to quit or for someone trying to help a smoker quit.

"All right, that was fun," AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody said as she finished the walk.

Other participants included AMC chief of staff Brig. Gen. John Wharton, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, USASAC chief of staff Col. Bob Pastorelli, retired Maj. Gen. Carl Freeman and retired Maj. Gen. Vincent Boles.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody and retired Maj. Gen. Carl Freeman lead Thursday's "Walk Away for a Day" in support of tobacco cessation.



Installation Management Command has new leadership



Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter is the new commander of the Installation Management Command.

Ferriter was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry in May 1979 upon graduation from The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

His assignments include platoon leader, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry (Mechanized), Fort Riley, Kan.; commander, C Company (Airborne), 6th Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; and commander, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Ferriter's other command and staff assignments include S3 (Operations), 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis; S3 (Operations), 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, S3 (Operations), 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning,

Ga.; commander, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; commander, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning; commander, 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning; and assistant division commander (Operations), 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg.

He served as the executive assistant to the commander and later the director for Operations, J-3, U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.; and deputy commanding general for Operations, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg. He recently commanded the Army Infantry Center and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning.

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt is IMCOM's new command sergeant major.

Aviation association presents annual awards

The Army Aviation Association of America has presented its 2011 Aircraft Survivability Equipment and Avionics awards.

This year's ASE awardee is Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard C. Bebb with 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Wings, Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan.

This national award is presented annually to the person who has made an outstanding individual contribution to Army aviation in the area of Aircraft Survivability Equipment during the award period July 1 through June 30.

Bebb is being recognized for the ASE program he developed and maintained which enabled safe and effective mission

support throughout the Regional Command-South area of operations.

The Avionics award winner is Sgt. Angel L. Jordan, D Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Palehorse, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

This national award is presented to the person who has made an outstanding individual contribution to Army aviation in the area of Avionics during the award period July 1 through June 30.

Jordan was the backbone of the avionics section which provided vital support to combat operations by Task Force Palehorse resulting in their prominent success during Operation Enduring Freedom. (AAAA release)

SMDC member witnesses accident before parade

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

While most eyes in Huntsville were getting ready to watch the Veterans Day parade, one Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command officer witnessed even more excitement.

SMDC/ARSTRAT chief of staff Col. James Jenkins witnessed an accident Nov. 11 in which the driver of a minivan and others were injured. The driver lost control near Monroe and Jefferson streets and crashed near a crowd gathered before the annual parade downtown.

“At first I thought it was an explosion, then, I heard someone scream that a van had run over some bystanders on the curb,” Jenkins said. “I immediately ran to the van and checked inside to see if all seemed OK. It was flipped on its driver side and it didn’t look at first glance as if anyone were seriously injured. I then ran over to the three individuals sitting just behind the van, scraped up and in shock. They couldn’t answer any of my questions about what happened or if someone was pinned under the van.

“Others who had made it on the scene with me had the same thought that someone could have easily been pinned under the van so in unison we flipped the van back over. There were coolers, blankets, purses and other items there but luckily no child as we feared. I then rechecked on the driver, who was in pain, but responders were coming.

“I moved my attention back to the family behind the van,” Jenkins added. “The grandmother saw the van coming and threw her daughter and grandson into the road and threw herself on top of them to avoid getting run over. They were bloodied some and in mild shock, but OK and by this time medical responders were on it.”

One Huntsville official spoke about the cooperation between Soldiers and rescue workers after the accident.

“The cooperation of the city of Huntsville public safety personnel and the Soldiers from Team Redstone was amazing,” Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Police Department communications relations officer, said. “All parties worked together quickly and in unison to turn the overturned vehicle upright to ensure the vehicle occupants were not injured further. The Soldiers also assisted to ensure there were no medical needs for any other members of the community who were near the accident.

“This was just another example of the City of Huntsville and Team Redstone working together for the safety of our community.”

Jenkins also praised the first responders and rescue workers attending the scene as well as the service men and women who rushed over immediately to the crash site and righted the van, with the unconscious driver still inside.



Photo by Eric Schultz

The driver of a minivan and others were injured when the vehicle crashed near a crowd gathered before the Veterans Day parade downtown Nov. 11.

“They picked a great place to wreck, since responders of all types were there in seconds after me,” Jenkins said. “I was most impressed that they allowed those of us in uniform to continue to help versus sweeping us away from the scene. It was a joint effort for the good of all.”

Jenkins talked about how timing is everything and if something had not come up, he may have been a part of the accident as opposed to finding parts of the accident.

“I was a little hyped up for about an hour after this event because Sgt. Maj. John Mattie (SMDC G-3) and I were walking in the direction of the accident,” he said. “If I had not gone to my car for one last errand, we would have been exactly on that spot when the accident occurred.”

Army tests advanced hypersonic weapon over Pacific



Arnews photo

Sensors at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll, located 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii, are controlled from Huntsville.

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army conducted its first test Thursday of a new weapon designed to fly several times the speed of sound.

The Advanced Hypersonic Weapon was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii, at 1:30 a.m. Aleutian time. The AHW successfully reached its target about 2,300 miles away at the Reagan Test Site, Army Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The AHW is a first-of-its-kind glide vehicle, designed to fly within the earth’s atmosphere at hypersonic speed and long range. The flight test was conducted by the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

The objective of the test was to collect data on hypersonic boost-glide technologies and test range performance for long-range atmospheric flight, officials said. They said mission emphasis was on aerodynamics; navigation, guidance and control; and thermal protection technologies.

A three-stage booster system launched the AHW glide vehicle and successfully deployed it on the desired

flight trajectory. The vehicle flew a non-ballistic glide trajectory at hypersonic speed to the planned impact location at Kwajalein.

Space, air, sea and ground platforms collected vehicle performance data during all phases of flight, officials said. They said the data collected will be used by the Department of Defense to model and develop future hypersonic boost-glide capabilities.

The AHW program is managed and executed by the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command program office in Huntsville. The booster system and glide vehicle were developed by Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M., and the thermal protection system by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

The Department of Defense is using AHW to develop and demonstrate technologies for Conventional Prompt Global Strike. As part of the CPGS effort, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency conducted boost-glide flight tests in April 2010 and August 2011. The results of those tests were used in planning last week’s Army AHW flight test, officials said.

Win or Lose

Seton Hall edges Army 53-50 in final seconds

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Seton Hall's Elaine Swaby blocked Molly Yardley's potential game-tying 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded to indicate Army's first loss of the 2011-12 season, a 53-50 setback Nov. 13 at Christl Arena. The Black Knights battled back from a nine-point deficit over the final two minutes and gave itself a chance for the win before Swaby thwarted the end result.

Seton Hall improved to 2-0 on the season, while Army moved to 1-1. A back-and-forth affair for nearly all 40 minutes, the game featured 18 lead changes throughout.

The Pirates' Brittany Morris missed two free throws with 13 seconds remaining to give Army a chance to play for the win. Coming out of a timeout, the Black Knights inbounded the ball at midcourt. Senior co-captain Meagan Doucette found Yardley on the wing, but her 3-point attempt was tipped and fell short as time expired.

"We had the ball exactly where we wanted it," sixth-year head coach Dave Magarity said. "Yardley was coming off staggered screens. She was open for a catch, but not for a shot at that point.

"We had some lapses, some offensive droughts and some defensive breakdowns, but that's going to happen. I was really proud of the way that we never hung our heads. These kids really showed their resiliency today. We got some great performances out of (Jen) Hazlett and (Olivia) Schretzman among others."

Sophomore guard/forward Jen Hazlett led the way with 15 points, 12 of which came over the final 20 minutes. She was 5-for-10 from the field, hit all four free throw attempts and added five rebounds. Junior guard Anna Simmers' productivity continued as she started her second-straight game. Simmers scored in double-figures (13 points) for the second game in a row.

The Black Knights shot 32 percent (18-of-57) from the floor. Seton Hall's Jasmine Crew led all players with 21 points as the Pirates shot 37 percent (19-of-51) from the floor.

Army edged a much taller opposing lineup on the boards, out-rebounding Seton Hall 39-37. Freshman forward Olivia Schretzman led all players with 10 caroms.

Consecutive 3-pointers from freshman guard Janelle Travis and Simmers got the Black Knights going and gave them a 6-5 lead at the 17:16 mark. Simmers went on to hit two more 3-point buckets over the next 5:10, helping the Black Knights to a 12-11 lead at the first media timeout.

The Pirates came out of the break on the run, scoring four-straight transition points to go back on top 15-12 at the 10:49 mark. The Black Knights responded with six unanswered points over the next 1:23 to go ahead 18-15. Hazlett's old-fashioned three-point play capped the spurt with 7:36 on the clock.

The teams continued to trade buckets for the remainder of the half, and Army led 25-24 at the break.

Simmers scored Army's first two buckets of the second half as the teams exchanged baskets to start. Simmers' transition lay-in two minutes into the frame kept the Black Knights on top (29-28).

Back-to-back Schretzman layups (14:10, 13:07) gave Army a 33-32 edge before Seton

See Basketball on page 33



Jen Hazlett

Crimson Tide picked to roll over Auburn

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 409-137 for 75 percent after 11 weeks of college football. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Alabama at Auburn – **Bama**
Arkansas at LSU – **LSU**
Tuskegee at Alabama State – **Ala. St.**

Texas at Texas A&M – **Texas**
Louisville at South Florida – **Louisville**
Iowa at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Houston at Tulsa – **Houston**
Boston College at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
Colorado at Utah – **Utah**
Pittsburgh at West Virginia – **WV**
UTEP at UCF – **UTEP**
California at Arizona St. – **Cal**
Troy at W. Kentucky – **W. Kentucky**
Georgia at Georgia Tech – **Georgia**
Ohio St. at Michigan – **Michigan**
Cincinnati at Syracuse – **Cincy**
Rutgers at Connecticut – **Connecticut**
Rice at SMU – **SMU**
Michigan St. at Northwestern – **MSU**
Iowa St. at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Tennessee at Kentucky – **UK**
Maryland at N. Carolina St. – **NC St.**
Wyoming at Boise St. – **Boise**
Duke at North Carolina – **UNC**
Virginia Tech at Virginia – **VT**
Vanderbilt at Wake Forest – **Vandy**
Purdue at Indiana – **Purdue**
Penn St. at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
Illinois at Minnesota – **Illinois**
Oregon St. at Oregon – **Oregon**
Missouri at Kansas – **Missouri**
East Carolina at Marshall – **EC**
UAB at Fla. Atlantic – **UAB**
La.-Lafayette at Arizona – **Arizona**

Memphis at Southern Miss – **So. Miss.**
Air Force at Colorado St. – **AF**
Florida St. at Florida – **FSU**
Mississippi at Miss. St. – **MSU**
Texas Tech at Baylor – **Baylor**
Washington St. at Washington – **Wash.**

Clemson at South Carolina – **Clemson**
Notre Dame at Stanford – **Stanford**
San Jose St. at Fresno St. – **Fresno St.**
UCLA at USC – **USC**
San Diego St. at UNLV – **SD St.**
Tulane at Hawaii – **Hawaii**

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Coin toss

Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Alexander, senior enlisted adviser for 601st Aviation Support Battalion, tosses his battalion coin before the Kansas Wesleyan University versus St. Mary College football game

Nov. 12. Alexander was there to support the KWU Coyotes who his battalion is partnered with through the Adopt-A-School program. Seniors on the football team wore the 601st ASB emblem on their uniforms this year. The Coyotes lost 21-16 when St. Mary intercepted a pass on the 1-yard line in the last minutes of the game.



Afghan religious advisers partner with U.S. counterparts

By Sgt. 1st Class STEPHANIE L. CARL
Army News Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Religious cultural advisers from the Afghan Air Force and the Afghan National Army met with U.S. Army religious support teams from the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade at Kandahar Airfield Nov. 15 to further expand an evolving partnership.

Chaplains have been a part of the U.S. Army for 236 years, explained Maj. Brian Curry, the brigade chaplain for the 159th CAB, which is partnered with the Kandahar Air Wing of the Afghan Air Force. In the U.S. Army, chaplains help Soldiers to keep their faith and morale, similarly to their Afghan partners.

There have been many miscommunications about what American Soldiers do, said Afghan Lt. Col. Sayed Balkishah, the religious and cultural adviser for the Kandahar Air Wing.

“We have three main missions,” Curry

said of the chaplains. “We nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead.”

To demonstrate how the chaplains nurture the living, Curry and his team showed the Afghan RCAs a coffee shop that was built and is operated by the religious support teams. The shop is run primarily off of donations, many of which come from schools and churches in the United States. It provides a place for Soldiers to take a break from their work, watch movies, read books, play games, or use computers or phones to talk to their families in the United States.

“This is very good for the Soldiers’ brains,” ANA RCA Col. Khalilullah said as he looked around the computer room in the coffee shop. “This makes morale high.”

After the advisers toured the different U.S. facilities, they showed the Soldiers around their area.

“Our officers teach classes twice a month, and our sergeants teach classes

twice a week,” Balkishah said as he showed the Americans their classrooms. The classes focus on cultural and religious training that is guided by the Quran.

The RCAs also run a literacy program and a language program to teach their Soldiers how to read and write, and how to speak English. More than 200 Afghan soldiers participated in the last iteration of the training.

“The Quran tells us that education is important, and so we try to teach our soldiers,” Balkishah said.

To help the soldiers learn, the unit has a library where they can sit and read different books.

“Our library is small right now, but we hope for it to grow bigger,” Khalilullah said.

That is also how the two groups hope their new partnership will be.

“We are happy to have met you, and we look forward to continuing to work



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl

Afghan National Army religious cultural adviser Col. Khalilullah, right, blesses a Holy Quran that Chaplain (Maj.) Brian Curry, center, presented to him during a partnership visit at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 15.

with you,” Balkishah said. “We learn that we have to be related to our God and talk to our God for help, and we are both the same in this way.”

Hellfire team sustaining fight, cutting costs

By PAMELA PROPER
Army News Service

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – As equipment is transitioned out of Iraq, perhaps none is more critical than the Hellfire missile system. Since the drawdown began, more than 750 Hellfire missiles have been shipped to the 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar, where they are serviced, tested and repaired by the Hellfire Forward Test and Repair Facility.

The Hellfire team returned nearly half of those missiles back into theater combat stocks, said Lt. Col. Michael Brown, director of Acquisition, Logistics and Technology,

for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

“Because of this facility, turnaround times for Hellfire missiles are now less than 90 days. That’s a cost avoidance of more than \$39,000 per missile. Plus, this is reducing the workload at stateside depots by about 58 percent,” Brown said.

The Hellfire missile is the primary precision air-to-ground weapon used by joint and coalition services to protect ground forces and non-combatants. More than 11,000 have been fired in combat operations since 2001.

“The Hellfire facility in Qatar is saving the Army money, saving transport time and optimizing readiness by testing, repairing

and resetting missiles in a forward depot,” Brown said.

Acquisition officials estimate the Hellfire facility in Qatar will save the Army more than \$55 million during the next three years.

“This is a great initiative to return critically needed assets back to the war fighter more efficiently and with less downtime than a full depot maintenance effort,” Susan Carlson, deputy chief of staff, Army Logistics (G-4), said after a recent visit.

“To date, assets returned have gone back into the hands of the war fighter and been used against insurgents and other hostile elements, saving U.S. and coalition lives in the process. To be able to turn them around in three-four months vice two-three years saves the Army money, increases our readiness and gets the best systems to the fight,” Carlson said.

Brig Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the Army Materiel Command-Southwest Asia/G-4, U.S. Army Central-Kuwait, also



Photo by Pamela Proper

Al Neilsen, Hellfire site lead, Qatar, explains the test setup and service process for missiles transitioned out of Iraq, to Brig. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of Army Materiel Command-SWA/G-4 U.S. ARCENT, Lt. Col. Micheal Brown, director of acquisition, logistics, technology for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, and Lt. Col. Aaron Cook, commander of 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar.

visited the Qatar site and keyed in on the readiness aspect of the facility.

“Operations here have resulted in a significant increase in the availability and readiness of the joint war fighter’s air-to-ground missile of choice,” LeDoux said.

The Qatar Hellfire Forward Test and Repair Facility was recognized in 2011 by the iSixSigma community for the largest breakthrough improvement project in the customer service category.

That was a direct result of a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt project, which is an aggressive tool used by leaders of industry to reduce waste and improve effectiveness of processes. As the Defense Department faces a future of budget cuts, the Hellfire program is already a frontrunner in practicing lean.

“The efforts by this highly talented group in the 402nd AFSB have embodied the best of what Lean Six Sigma initiatives can do to support our war fighters, by doing more, without more,” LeDoux said.

Basketball

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Hall began to pull away. Swaby scored four unanswered points to ignite a 13-2 run that allowed the Pirates to take their largest lead of the game (45-35) with 8:34 on the clock.

Yardley’s good free throws at the 6:18 mark ended a 4:53 scoring drought for the Black Knights and pulled them within 45-37. The Milford, Conn., native made it five points in a row as she finished a traditional three-point play that made it a five-point game (45-40) with 5:30 to play.

Army continued to chip away down

the stretch. Back-to-back buckets from Hazlett got the Black Knights within four points twice over the next 1:23, but a quick 5-0 Seton Hall run gave the Pirates a 53-44 edge with 2:05 to play.

Hazlett kept the Black Knights alive over the final two minutes, scoring six points in the final 1:56.

Game notes: Army’s starting lineup featured Janelle Travis, Molly Yardley, Anna Simmers, Kait Goodall and Olivia Schretzman. ... Former Army assistant coach Ty Grace made her return to Christl Arena. She is now in her third season as an assistant coach on Seton Hall’s staff. ... Army held a halftime lead for the second straight game. ... Seton Hall is 3-0 all-time against Army. (*goAR-MYsports.com website*)

Rocket Announcements

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

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.

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 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 cbscott76@yahoo.com or visit www.hsv-afa.org.

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.

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.

Women’s connection

Huntsville Christian Women’s Connection will have a luncheon Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. Reservations are due by Nov. 28. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

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 Recog-

inition Ceremony is Dec. 1 at 8:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Rogers will present letters of recognition to Soldiers, civilians and contractors of Team Redstone who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. For information call Cindy Gordon 313-0369 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 Reds.deployed.workforce.ceremony@conus.army.mil.

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.

Civilian leadership summit

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will hold its inaugural Department of the Army Civilian Leadership Summit on Jan. 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This free event will be followed by a Leader Social for all guest speakers and attendees from 4-5 p.m. Those interested in attending can register in the Training Information Program. Log into TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

AMCOM town hall

Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers will host an AMCOM Town Hall on Nov. 30 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. He will discuss “Transforming AMCOM for the Future” and solicit your help in reshaping the command’s future.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Stars and Clowns from the Academy for Academics and Arts will perform a holiday program. For ticket information, call Audra Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

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 313-0365. 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).

Logistics course

Alabama A&M University will offer a logistics and supply chain management course in the spring semester at Redstone Arsenal’s Toftoy Hall, building 3495 off Patton Road. Early registration is recommended because the course is limited to 30 students. For more information, call Bonnie Banks 372-4783 or email bonnie.banks@aamu.edu. Visit the website at www.aamu.edu/business.

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.

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Rocket Announcements

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@senior-view.com.

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://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

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 rsacwccommunityassistance@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.

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.

Social Security office

This Friday all Social Security field offices, including the Huntsville office, will be closed to the public. Employees who work the day after Thanksgiving will focus on backlog reduction. Members of the public can find many services and get up-to-date information online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Breast cancer campaign

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness and Education, Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity is teaming up with Yoplaith for the 2011 "Save Lids to Save Lives" campaign. From now through Dec. 15, drop off your pink "SLSL" Yoplaith lids in the Pink Collection Box located in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the courtyard). For each lid collected, Yoplaith will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research. Join in on the fight to end breast cancer.

Homes tour

The Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association presents "The Spirit of Christmas Past" homes tour Dec. 10 from 5-9 p.m. on Franklin Street in the historic Twickenham District. "Come for an evening of nostalgia, featuring luminaries, caroling, chimes, music, live entertainment and our tour of homes," a prepared release said. Advance homes tour tickets are

\$15 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Marie's Hallmark, 716 Pratt Ave.; Railroad Station Antiques, 315 Jefferson St. north; Hartlex Antiques & Interiors, 181 Hughes Road, Madison; First United Methodist Bookstore and The Weeden House Museum, 300 Gates Ave. The evening of the tour, tickets will be available at each home. For more information, call Julia Wynn King 534-0429 or The Weeden House Museum 536-7718.

Luminary celebration

Come to the corner of Green and Randolph streets for a First United Methodist Church Christmas celebration 5-7 p.m. Dec. 10. This is free to the public. Tickets for the homes tour are on sale in the church bookstore. For more information, call the church office 539-5738.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their family members prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year. Last year's center was a success, with more than 3,900 returns prepared which resulted in over \$3 million in refunds. The center is now accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2011 tax season. Scheduling will be flexible and volunteers are needed to assist with tax preparation. No prior experience is necessary as comprehensive training will be provided. This is an opportunity for the community to give back to servicemembers, retirees and their families. To volunteer or for more information, call Rachael Yeoman 876-9007 or email rachael.yeoman@conus.army.mil.

Holiday ball

The Team Redstone Holiday Ball will be Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Tickets are \$45 per person. For a reservation form, email Barbie Baugh at barbie.baugh@us.army.mil or call 876-7138.

Christmas concert

The seventh annual "Keep Christmas Alive!" concert is Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Concert Hall, featuring Larnelle Harris and the Voices of Lee with Edie Hand and Bob Smith. Tickets are \$25, available at Ticketmaster 1-800-745-3000 and the Von Braun Center box office www.vonbrauncenter.com. For information call Bennie Jacks 603-0894 or Ellen Hunter 508-8126.

Redstone Exchange

The Exchange has the following

Thanksgiving schedule: Thursday – Main Store closed; all concessions closed except the Express, which is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; food court closed; and Human Resources closed. ... Friday – Main Store open from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Alteration Shop open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Barber Shop open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Barber Shop at VBC III closed, Flower Shop open 9-6, GNC open 9-6, Laundry open 8-6, Nail Shop open 9-6, Firestone open 7-6, Express open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Optical Store open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Charley's open 1 a.m. to 6 p.m., Cinnabon open 1 a.m. to 2 p.m., American Eatery closed, Burger King open 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Human Resources open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Saturday – Main Store open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Alteration Shop open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Barber Shop open 8-5, Barber Shop at VBC III closed, Flower Shop open 9-5, GNC open 9-8, Laundry open 9-5, Nail Shop open 9-5, Firestone open 7:30-5, Express open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Optical Store closed; Anthony's Pizza/Sub open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Charley's open 8-6, Cinnabon open 8-5, American Eatery closed, Burger King open 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Human Resources closed. ... Sunday – Main Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Alteration Shop closed, Barber Shop open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Barber Shop at VBC III closed, Flower Shop closed, GNC closed, Laundry closed, Nail Shop closed, Firestone open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Express open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Optical Store closed; Anthony's Pizza/Sub open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Charley's open 9-4, Cinnabon open 11-4, American Eatery closed, Burger King open 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Human Resources closed.

Advent concerts

The Music Ministry of Asbury United Methodist Church will present its 2011 advent concert season at 6 p.m. on three consecutive Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14 in the church sanctuary, 980 Hughes Road in Madison. Instrumental and vocal ensembles will present "Ring" on Nov. 30; the elementary children's choirs will perform the Allen Pote musical "Chimes in the Night" on Dec. 7; and the Chancel Choir and Asbury Orchestra, directed by Susan Farris, will perform "Come Ye Faithful" on Dec. 14. The services are free to the public.

Signal battalion reunion

Former members and spouse/guest are invited to the 279th Signal Battalion National Guard Reunion Dinner at the Top of the River in Gunter'sville

Rocket Announcements

on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. All former members of the Guntersville, Arab, Albertville, Boaz, Huntsville, Hanceville and Jasper units are invited. For more information, email jhart@otelco.net or robin.grubis@us.army.mil.

Bake sale benefit

The board of directors and membership of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals, Rocket City, Alabama Chapter, announces its third annual Bake Sale fund-raiser Dec. 8 at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa. For more information, call Bennie Jacks 603-0894.

Holiday gala

The annual 100 Black Men of America-Greater Huntsville Chapter's annual Holiday Gala is Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. the Von Braun Center's North Hall. The theme is "Preparing Our Youth Today for Leadership Tomorrow," and the program will reflect the organization's emphasis on mentorship and its commitment to growing

and developing community youth. The evening will begin with a reception at 6, and the program will begin at 7 and continue with dining and entertainment through midnight. Tickets are \$62.50 per person and reserved tables for eight can be purchased for \$500 through Dec. 3. Tickets prices increase to \$75/person and \$600/table on Dec. 4. For more information, call Kenneth Anderson 679-4241, James Matthewson 714-8921 or Freeda McDowell at the 100 BMOA-GHC business office 536-8050 where credit card purchases can be processed.

Free performance

The seventh annual free military performance of the Nutcracker Suite performed by the Huntsville Ballet Company will be Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Von Braun Center. Program will be preceded by a performance of the Army Materiel Band's Dixieland Jazz Combo. Active, Reserve and retired military will receive free admission by showing of

their military identification card. For more information, email David Carney carney50@mchsi.com.

Irish Christmas

An Irish Christmas and Whiskey Tasting will be held Dec. 1 from 6-10 p.m. in the Roundhouse at the Historic Depot. Cost is \$50 per person, \$25 for the whiskey tasting. Sponsor tables for 10 are \$1,000. Still Serving Veterans is sponsoring this second annual fundraiser. The distinguished guest is Paul Gleeson, consul general of Ireland-Atlanta. To purchase tickets, visit www.huntsvilleirishchristmas.com.

Tree lighting

The Redstone Arsenal Tree Lighting is Dec. 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This free event is open to the entire Redstone community. There will be festive treats and more, including the Army Materiel Command Band, good tidings to troops video messages and children's photos with Santa. For more information, call 842-5231. There will be a Toys for Tots drop-off station. Note: Toys for Tots is not endorsed by the Defense Department and a donation

is not required to participate in the annual tree lighting.

Police chief opening

The city of Elkton, Tenn., is accepting applications for police chief. This person is responsible for developing policies, procedures and also represents the citizens of Elkton. This position requires good communication, organizational and presentation skills. Applicant will be subject to a background check, high school education or more or GED, must be able to be P.O.S.T. certified, and must reside in Giles County, Tenn., 90 days from hire date. Applications may be obtained at Elkton City Hall, 168 Main St., Elkton, TN 38455. Or submit resume to cityofelkton@bellsouth.net. For more information, call 931-468-2506. Elkton is an equal opportunity employer.

Thrift shop grants

The Thrift Shop will be taking applications for 2012 grants until Feb. 29. These grants are open to all non-profit groups (no individuals please) that impact the Redstone community. For more information, call Lisa Loew 604-8777 or email lloew3@gmail.com.

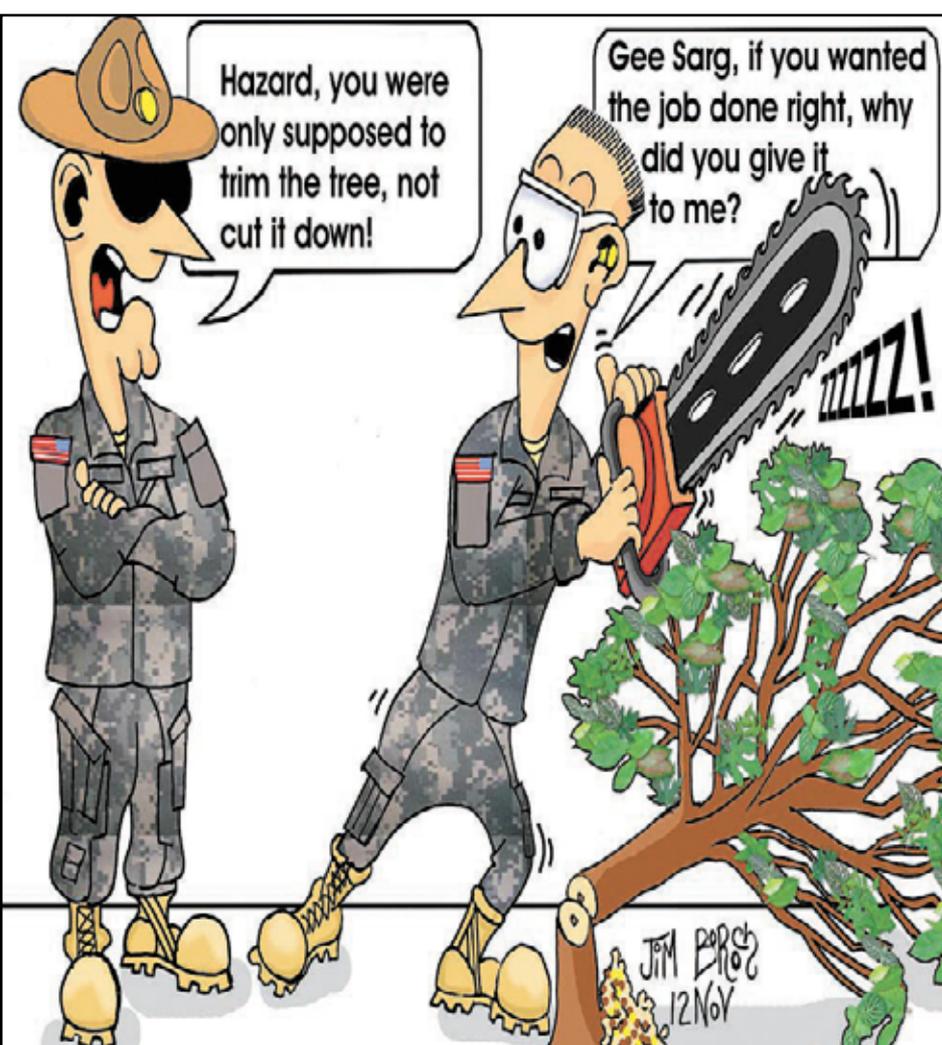


Photo by Bill Diffey

Young hunter

John William Diffey, 10, killed his first deer during the youth hunt Nov. 12 at Redstone. He and his father, AMRDEC engineer Bill Diffey, were recognized by Outdoor Recreation as volunteers of the year for 2010-11.