

Redstone Rocket

WWW.THEREDSTONEROCKET.COM

November 30, 2011

Vol. 60 No. 36

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

'Good leadership can be contagious'

Senior enlisted Soldier sets example at AMC

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

Credibility. The ability to inspire belief and trust. That's what every command sergeant major – every Soldier and civilian, in fact – should strive for as they serve the Army.

Developed with a mix of experience, knowledge, leadership capabilities and commitment to the Army values, credibility is the key to success in the Army. For Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling of the Army Materiel Command, it is what he hopes to bring to the table every time he talks with the command's civilian and Soldier work force, and when he advises its four-star commander.

"To be a good leader, to be an effective command sergeant major, you have to have credibility, and you build credibility by taking the tough assignments and doing the hard jobs," Riling said.

"All through my career, I've asked the Army 'Where do you want me to go? What do you want me to do next?' I've never questioned the answer to those questions. I went to the needs of the Army and did what the Army wanted me to do."

These days, the Army has put Riling in a position to help guide one of its largest and most significant commands. He joined the staff of the Army Materiel Command in August upon the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger.

Riling's resume of nearly 29 years of experience certainly makes him a credible addition to the command's leadership. He is the recipient of a Silver Star, the third highest military decoration, earned during a combat mission to rescue a Marine squad in Ramadi, Iraq, while serving with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division of Fort Riley, Kan., in April 2004. He is also a recipient of the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster and several other medals. Riling's last assignment was with the Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., and other assignments have included serving in leadership positions with the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry, Fort Lewis, Wash.; 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; and First Army, then of Fort Gillem, Ga.

"I think by doing many different jobs at the senior level, it has helped me prepare for being the AMC command sergeant major," Riling said. "Being a former division CSM, First Army CSM and FORSCOM CSM have all given me different experiences and have prepared me to assume these duties."

"I tell folks all the time one of the reasons command sergeants major are put into positions is because of their experience and their leadership capabilities. Having a background with different assignments and different types of jobs, and working with many different leaders allows you to share ideas and experiences that you have learned from past jobs. In today's Army, we need leaders that can adapt and do different jobs,



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, a highly decorated war veteran, is proud to serve with the civilians and Soldiers who make up the Army Materiel Command. The war memorial in front of the command's headquarters is testimony to its commitment to supporting the war fighter.

and who can share those experiences with others."

At the Army Materiel Command, Riling is charged with serving as the senior enlisted adviser to its commander, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, on matters pertaining to its 69,000 military and civilian employees, and its worldwide mission that impacts all 50 states and 147 countries. He is especially interested in Soldier professional development, safety, education, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, family programs and quality of life. He works with command sergeants major from the Department of the Army headquarters, Army Command, combatant commands and other Army commands on Army Materiel Command strategic themes, objectives and issues; advises in the command sergeant major selection process for the

See Leadership on page 21

COMMUNITY NEWS

Post tree lighting
countdown starts.

PAGE 4



AROUND TOWN

Rear admiral visits
university campus.

PAGE 12



STILL SERVING

Honored veteran
preserves history.

PAGE 20



WIN OR LOSE

Army volleyball team
places second in league.

PAGE 23

RocketViews

What's your 'me' time?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Patsy Pilgrim
Unmanned Aircraft
Systems Project Office

"Spending time with family. Going to Broadway plays, movies. My family means a lot to me, so I like to do a lot of things with

them. That's my immediate family plus my brothers and sisters. I have a new grandbaby, too; that's really special. He's 6 months old. He's been a joy – my first grandbaby."



Maj. Adriane McGlathery
Army Materiel

Command G3/5
(Training Division)
"I really don't have 'me' time. I have four children. If I could just relax, which I don't get much of because

I have four kids. You're always on the go. So my 'me' time is spending time with my children. That's my 'me' time. Enjoying my ride – sometimes. I have a convertible M6 BMW, so that's 'me' time for me."



Josh Kennedy
AMCOM G-3 (Operations)

"When I go run. Early morning run. Because usually it's predawn, before the kids wake up. And that's when I get my running done."



Brandell Majors
Missile Defense Agency

"My 'me' time is actually when I run during lunch through the woods over by Pagano Gym. It's a chance to get out and get in the fresh air. You can think about anything you want. Not to mention it's good for you."

Letters to the editor

In gratitude to God for a loving father

Thanksgiving means something different for everyone. We all have different experiences that teach us that nothing is certain and nothing should be taken for granted. If we are wise, we will heed these lessons and pass those blessings and feelings of gratitude to others. No matter how much you attain in life, if it is not appreciated, it immediately loses value to you and everyone around you.

This year, I lost my daddy (Joseph Phillip Gaiters on Sept. 7) and even though he knew how special he was to me and my family, he is appreciated more now than ever. He instilled in me

strong values, and independence. He always taught us to believe in ourselves and never give room for doubt, as this will hinder the goals we have set forth for ourselves. He was a man who didn't have much education, but the wisdom and knowledge that God blessed him with, seems hard to believe that education was what he lacked. He was a man of high standards and respect for others, a man who had a heart of gold who would help anyone in times of need.

My daddy was the example of what every little girl dreams of having in her life as she grows into womanhood. He

was someone to emulate, to learn from, to respect, to cherish and to laugh and talk with. He had stories, some funny, some sad. He was a man of few words, but what was said was always appreciated and remembered. He was a man I was proud to call my daddy, someone who I will never forget and never stop loving.

Thank you, Daddy, for being the best father any child could hope for. And thank you, God (first and foremost), for placing such a man in my life that had the kind of traits that only you could instill in him.

Niecey Dorsey

Holiday shopping can present unique risk

Here's advice to deter theft

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become distracted and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips from the Directorate of Emergency Services can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a

wallet or purse. They are prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.

- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to the store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
 - Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
 - Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
 - If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, ask a security guard for an escort.
- Shopping during the holiday season can present unique risk. Taking a few preventive measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. You may call the Directorate of Emergency Services law enforcement desk (876-2222) or local municipal law enforcement agency for assistance or to report any crime. In an emergency, call 911.



Quote of the Week

'The secret to creativity is knowing how to hide your sources.'

— Albert Einstein

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

Email: skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

Rocket articles are available at:
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

Rocket Staff
Editor-in-chief: Col. John Hamilton, Garrison commander
Editor: Skip Vaughn
Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins
Reporter: Amy Tolson
Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley
General Manager: French Salter
Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith, 256-260-2212 or shelia.smith@theredstonerocket.com
Anna Hyles, 256-260-2213 or anna.hyles@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected

with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The Redstone Rocket is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Redstone Rocket newspaper are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Public Affairs Office.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office. Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense,

under exclusive written contract with the Department of Army. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Getting to know you

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

Name: Sgt. 1st Class LaVone Sharp

Job: Career counselor, 2nd Recruiting Brigade

Where do you call home?
Tampa, Fla.

What do you like about your job?
I like servicing Soldiers. Only because the Army is downsizing and it's hard fulfilling the desires of the Soldiers, and that's the part I like to fulfill.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Go to the movies with my girls (daughters Destiny, 12, and Cici, 5). And I like to read.

What are your goals?
My goals are to retire in two years (with 24 years service) and to complete my master's in human resource manage-



ment from Trident University. And live happily ever after with my husband (Roland, a retired sergeant first class).

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
Win the lottery, because the chances of winning are slim to none.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 17-23:

Nov. 18: A civilian was cited at Gate 9 for driving without a license. He and the three other adults in the vehicle were checked through Immigration and Customs Enforcement with no results. Their vehicle was towed and they were released off post.

Nov. 18: A juvenile was processed for shoplifting in the Post Exchange. He opened a can of lighter fluid, poured it

into his personal lighter and then left the store. He was released to his sponsor.

Nov. 21: A government employee reported that she has been receiving harassing communications on her government computer.

Traffic accidents reported: One without injury.

Violation notices issued: 14 speeding, 2 failure to obey a traffic control device, 1 driving without a license, 1 failure to stop at stop sign, 1 failure to signal intent.

Fire officials shed light on decorating safety

The winter holidays are a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining, and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment.

Keep your holidays safe and follow these tips, from the DES Fire and Emergency Services, for decorating and lighting:

- Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Purchase only lights and electrical dec-

orations bearing the name of an independent testing lab (i.e., UL), and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload wall outlets or extension cords.
- Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation (i.e., use clips, not nails or staples).
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

CFC spotlight

Name: Gayl Catt-Glenn

Job: Military pay review technician, Defense Military Payroll Office (supports about 2,500 Soldiers assigned to such organizations as the Army Materiel Command, Garrison, Army Recruiting Command, 143rd Army Guard Reserve, Orlando, Fla., and Central Command, McDill Air Force Base, Fla.)

How long have you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign?

Nineteen years. I was working in Indianapolis, Ind., for the Defense Information Systems Agency when I was introduced to CFC and it just seemed like a good fit. The office representative for CFC gave us an overview and explained everything. I was a little uncomfortable because at my previous employer we gave to United Way and there was a lot of pressure on us to participate in that program. ... But there was no pressure with CFC. And I wanted to see charities close to my heart get something so I trusted that I could do that through CFC. I decided it was worth a try and I've never regretted that decision.

Why did you decide to be a CFC contributor?

To me, CFC was a great opportunity to help charities. And there was nothing about "you need to give so we can get an award for 100 percent participation." It's confidential and it's all about doing what you can to support the charities that are close to your heart. If you have someone in your family suffering from an illness, if you have a spouse that is deployed, if you have children, there are CFC charities that help those different groups of people. There is something for everyone. There is a variety in charities so that CFC can appeal to everyone.

What charities do you like to contribute to through CFC?

I am a cat person and I love animals, so my favorite charities are animal welfare organizations. I like to give to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals because they work to eradicate animal abuse. Another is the Humane Society of the United States for their work in areas of animals and disaster relief. And then there is Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine that does alternative biomedical studies



to show that results in the advancement of medical science can be done without using an animal base. And I also like to give to international animal welfare groups. Animals have always had a special place in my heart, and I have a calling to do what I can to advance the welfare of animals.

Why do you continue to be a CFC contributor?

CFC gives me an opportunity to donate on a larger scale to cover more bases. I may not be physically able to participate in activities of the organizations I support, but I can provide financial support. Charities aren't able to advance their causes without financial support. And with CFC, the donation is automatically taken from my paycheck instead of me having to remember to write a donation check every couple of weeks. With CFC, I can touch organizations financially without having to have the discipline to continuously remember to make a donation. I can see the good CFC does, how it impacts the lives of many organizations. Even if you only give a nominal amount, it's more than your charity had before you gave. I can't imagine not giving to charities from my heart. I've also made some wonderful friends through CFC.

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.

Celebrate season with tree lighting at O' Club



By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Soon, Redstone Arsenal will be lit up with the spirit of Christmas.

Team Redstone will celebrate the Redstone Arsenal Tree Lighting, Friday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Come for the ceremony that starts at 5:15, with a tree lighting at 5:30. Stay for the festive treats, performance by the Army Materiel Command Band, good tidings to troops video messages and children's photos with Santa. The event is free and open to the entire Redstone community.

In preparation for the holiday season, the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club decorated the O' Club earlier this week, as they have

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Last year's tree lighting decorated the lawn at Bicentennial Chapel. Friday's event will be held at the Officers and Civilians Club.

done for the past 15 years. Eleven Christmas trees and other festive decorations have the O' Club radiating the holiday spirit from corner to corner.

"It's just a really fun way to kick off the holidays," club president Tonya Daniels said of the club's decorating tradition. "We feel like the club is home to us. We take it very personal."

The decorations set the stage for the Christmas tree lighting Friday, as well as the Holiday Ball, and other holiday parties that will be held at the O' Club this month.

The Team Redstone Holiday Ball will be Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the club. Tickets are \$45 per person. For a reservation form, email Barbie Baugh at barbie.baugh@us.army.mil.

"We provide the background, the scene, all they have to do is show up and have a good time," Daniels said.

Other holiday events on post include Fox Army Health Center's tree lighting Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m., and The Links at Redstone's Christmas Party Friday, beginning at 6 p.m. at the golf course. Free food, beverage tasting, fun and fellowship, as well as great sales and free gift-wrapping will be available. For more information, 883-7977.

Marshall Space Flight Center will celebrate its rocket-lighting ceremony Thursday from 4:45-5:15 p.m. at Marshall's Rocket Park, near the intersection of Rideout and Mercury roads. Hot cocoa, cookies and music by the children of the Marshall Child Development Center will be provided as Marshall Center deputy director Gene Goldman and Santa officially light the thousands of colored lights that decorate the Saturn I, the tallest of the park's rockets.

Plenty to do locally during Christmas holidays

With Santa Claus coming to town in just a matter of weeks, there's plenty to see and do in North Alabama to get you in the holiday spirit. Here's just a sampling of what's happening in the Tennessee Valley in December. To see other holiday events in the Huntsville area, visit <http://www.huntsville.org/visitors/calendar>.

- Huntsville Botanical Garden's Galaxy of Lights, now through Dec. 31, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$20 per car. For more information, visit www.hsvbg.org.

- Santa's Village, now through Dec. 23 at Alabama Constitution Village, 109 Gates Ave., Huntsville, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cost: \$20 per family, up to five people. For more information, visit www.earlyworks.com.

- Kris Kringle's Candlelight Christmas at Burritt on the Mountain, 3101 Burritt Drive, Huntsville, Friday and Saturday, 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.burrittonthemountain.com.

- The 35th WAAY-TV Christmas Parade, Saturday at noon, downtown Huntsville.

- Madison Christmas Parade, Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Parade begins at Hughes Road and Plaza Drive.

- North Alabama Railroad Museum's Santa Train, Saturday and Sunday, 694 Chase Road, Huntsville. For more information, call 851-NARM.
- Fantasy Playhouse's "A Christmas



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Santa's Village is open through Dec. 23 at Alabama Constitution Village, 109 Gates Ave., Huntsville.

Carol," Dec. 2-4 and Dec. 8-11, Von Braun Center Playhouse, 700 Monroe St. Show times are 7 p.m. on Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays, 7 p.m. Dec. 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 8. For more information, visit www.letthemagicbegin.org.

- Decatur Christmas Parade, Monday, 6 p.m. Parade route follows Second Avenue, Lee Street and Bank Street.

- First Baptist Huntsville's Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 15-18, 600 Governors Drive southwest. Show times Thursday and Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3 and 5:30 p.m. To reserve free tickets, visit www.fbchsv.org/lect.

Nurse has lead role in Huntsville holiday favorite

The Nutcracker's sugar plum fairy

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Alicia Wright knows all the right moves to get a vision of a dancing sugar plum in your head.

Wright, the daughter of Gary Wright, a test officer at Redstone Test Center, will join dancers from across the Tennessee Valley, including other children and grandchildren of Arsenal employees, in the Alabama Youth Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* this weekend at Butler High Theatre.

"Christmas is just not the same without it," Wright said. "*The Nutcracker* makes Christmas. Our *Nutcracker* is very special because it is a hometown *Nutcracker*. All the dancers are from Huntsville. It's a fun way to expose the community to the arts."

A dancer since she was just 3, Wright has held many roles in the holiday ballet throughout her dancing career, but this year's role will be her biggest role yet, both in *The Nutcracker* and as a dancer – the sugar plum fairy. While she will be taking on one of the most famed roles in ballet history, for Wright, the role of sugar plum fairy has simply become a part of her, something she has been practicing for since September.

"The minute you hit the stage it all comes back to you," she said. "You don't think about the nerves."

As Wright helps audiences escape to the Land of Sweets as she performs the climactic pas de deux, for the Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children pediatric ER nurse, dancing is an escape in itself.

"It's an art, it has the creative part to it," she said. "I feel at home when I'm doing it."

Wright danced all through grade school and high school, but took a break while attending the University of Alabama, to focus on her nursing studies. Since graduating in 2010, she has rediscovered her free time and her passion, becoming involved with the Alabama Youth Ballet, where she is a member of the senior company. When she's not busy taking care of others, she's dancing – whether it be in class at AYW or rehearsing for an upcoming performance.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Alicia Wright, daughter of Gary Wright, a test officer at the Redstone Test Center, rehearses the part of the sugar plum fairy for the Alabama Youth Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* this weekend at Butler High Theatre.

For Wright, having a place she can turn to for both enjoyment and stress relief is vital.

"You have to find something that you're passionate about and you enjoy doing, because you have got to have that outlet," she said.

The Alabama Youth Ballet will present the holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, this weekend at Butler High Theatre, 3401 Holmes Ave. Show times are Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for students, seniors and military. Parking is free. For more information, visit www.huntsvillenutcracker.com.

Secretary Panetta congratulates 'Dancing with the Stars' champ

By CHERYL PELLERIN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The injured Army Iraq War veteran who earned first place with his partner on the television show “Dancing with the Stars” symbolizes the strength and tenacity possessed by the nation’s wounded warriors, defense secretary Leon Panetta said.

“I am writing to extend my most sincere congratulations on your ‘Dancing with The Stars’ victory,” Panetta wrote in a recent letter addressed to Jose Rene “J.R.” Martinez.

“Over the course of this competition,” the secretary added, “your spirit captivated the nation and your victory sends a powerful message about the strength and resilience of our wounded warriors.”

The secretary has also called Martinez to offer congratulations and to invite him for a personal visit to the Pentagon.

Martinez and partner Karina Smirnoff were crowned champions on the ABC reality program after a final dancing competition against other contestants Nov. 22 in Los Angeles.

On the show, celebrities are paired with professional dancers and over several months perform predetermined dances and compete against other dancers for judges’ points and audience votes.

In 2003, Martinez was a 19-year-old Army infantryman assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. He was driving a Humvee there when the vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

Martinez suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns to more than 40 percent of his body, including his face and hands.

He was evacuated to Landstuhl, Germa-

ny, and later transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he spent 34 months. He has undergone 33 cosmetic and skin-graft surgeries.

While in recovery, the former infantryman began to visit other patients in the hospital, sharing his story and listening to theirs. Since then, Martinez has spoken to audiences at corporations, veterans groups, nonprofits and schools.

In 2009, Martinez was honored by the nonprofit Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America with the Veterans Leadership Award, given in recognition of his dedication to the nation’s newest generation of veterans.

“In the eight years since your injury,” Panetta wrote to Martinez, “you have done extraordinary work assisting other wounded warriors and raising public awareness of the challenges our servicemembers and their families face when they return home, and I would like to commend you for your tireless efforts in this arena.”

The secretary added, “You represent an entire generation – what I call the next greatest generation – that has been willing to put their lives on the line for our country.”

In 2008, Martinez landed a role as an Iraq war veteran on the ABC soap opera, “All My Children,” which led to his “Dancing with the Stars” appearances this year.

“I know you’ll continue to be a passionate advocate for our wounded warriors and all our veterans in the years ahead,” Panetta wrote.

“So, thank you for your continuing service, for your sacrifice,” the secretary added, “and please accept my warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season for you and your family.”



Leon Panetta

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Flying Cross recipient

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Patrick Benson, right, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross from Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, during an awards ceremony Nov. 23 that preceded Benson’s retirement ceremony. Benson received the nation’s oldest aviation award for heroic actions he took to protect

a Black Hawk Medevac unit and his own Kiowa helicopter and co-pilot during a firefight in Afghanistan’s Shuriak Valley on Sept. 8, 2009. Both he and his co-pilot were seriously injured in the battle. Benson also received the Order of St. Michael and Legion of Merit awards during his retirement ceremony.



Volunteers can deliver fun to military children



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Payton Benjamin and her little sister Joanna take a look inside a snowman's garden with Mrs. Claus during last year's Operation Christmas Bear.

Christmas Bear helps needed

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

With just a few weeks away, Operation Christmas Bear needs a little extra holiday help. The eighth annual organization wants more volunteers to help ensure a success.

Held by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, the event gives children in North Alabama with a deployed parent a day to enjoy the holiday season and a good time.

"It's a great day for the kids," Russell Kimball, chairman for the event, said. "Santa will be there and everyone can have a free professional picture made with him. There is food, a magician, face painting, crafts, inflatables and lots of activities. Also everyone who takes a photo with Santa also gets a Christmas bear that says, 'My dad or my mom is a hero.'"

In its eighth year, Operation Christmas Bear is an open event to all active duty, Guard, Reserve and families of DoD civilians currently deployed in a war zone. It will be held Dec. 10 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shrine Temple in Huntsville.

Although the event runs from 1-4, Kimball says volunteers will be needed for the entire day.

"We need help with food, crafts, helping get the kids around, the inflatables, Friday's setup and Saturday's tear-down," he said.

In the past the Soldiers from the Ordnance school were the main volunteers for the event. But with their move to Fort Lee, Va., because of Base Realignment and Closure, Operation Christmas Bear needs the community to step up and help take care of these families.

"Sometimes the Soldier gets a lot of the focus and the kids can be left behind. We wanted to give them a day that was all about them and all theirs so they can have fun," Kimball said. "It's a day for military families and their children."

Kimball has been involved with the event since it began. He said it gets bigger and better every year and many people really enjoy volunteering.

"We get the constant volunteers that can't wait to come back," he said. "They will call up asking when we are having it and when they can help."

Anyone wanting to volunteer should email Valerie Coffey at valerie.coffey@mda.mil. Anyone wishing to donate should visit <http://www.navfoc.org>.

Deadlines to mail Christmas packages approaching

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – If you want to send cookies or crocheted underwear to your Soldier overseas and have it in his hands before Christmas, the time to drop it in the mail is now – or at the latest, Dec. 17.

There’s actually a range of deadlines the Military Postal Service Agency has established to ensure before-Christmas delivery of packages and letters to servicemembers in deployed locations.

To get mail to a servicemember by Christmas at APO/FPO/DPO AE 090-092, 094-098, 340, or 962-966, the latest a package can be sent to arrive on time is Dec. 17 – that means senders have to pay for Express Mail. If senders have already got packages ready and they want to send earlier – and pay less – they can put them in the mail by



Army photo

The deadlines to send mail and packages to deployed Soldiers and have it arrive before Christmas is fast approaching.

Dec. 10 and pay for either 1st Class or Priority mail.
Mail to APO/FPO/DPO AE 093 must

be sent by Dec. 3, regardless of the class of mail service used.

Mail sent to deployed servicemembers is handled almost entirely by commercial contractors – almost. By the time it reaches what the Army calls “the last tactical mile,” however, it might also be handled by Soldiers, Marines, sailors or airmen.

“Once it gets into Afghanistan the military postal folks will sort it, to get it out to the different combat outposts,” said Peter Graeve, with the Military Postal Service Agency. Getting it out to the combat outpost, he said, might involve “a military helicopter or a ground convoy – or whatever access they have available at that level to get it out to the furthest reach of the spear.”
Where it used to take weeks or months

to deliver mail to deployed Soldiers, it now can be done in days, Graeve said. That’s good for moms, spouses, significant others and Soldiers.

“It’s a real morale booster, a touch of home, if you are sitting out there in a combat outpost and getting shot at and you get a card from home,” Graeve said. “A little perfume from your wife or girlfriend means a lot to a person that is under a lot of stress out there. Getting some cookies when you’re used to eating MREs (meals, ready-to-eat), that’s a good thing. We try to keep that in mind when we are processing the mail out to the folks.”

Those sending mail to overseas locations should also consider that customs forms may need to be filled out before items can be sent.

More information about military mail and mailing dates can be found at: <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/>.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nativity scene

This is the Nativity scene at the Downtown Rescue Mission. The wooden cutouts are life-sized.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mood music

The AMC Jazz Band plays during lunch Nov. 22 in the Sparkman Cafeteria.

AroundTown

Rear admiral visits Huntsville hometown for holiday

Addresses UAH students on his Navy experience

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Warning to college students: If your cell phone goes off during a presentation by a top Navy officer, you'll probably have to do pushups.

Rear Adm. C. Kenneth Carodine, a Huntsville native, was just kidding of course. But cell phones did ring twice while he was speaking Nov. 21 to a class at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

He addressed an Information Systems Class on Computer Forensics. About 65 students, mostly information technology majors, attended in UAH's Business Administration Building. Carodine returned to his hometown Nov. 20-26 for Thanksgiving with his folks.

"I'm pretty sure I'm the first Navy ad-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rear Adm. C. Kenneth Carodine speaks to students Nov. 21 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

miral from Huntsville," he said.

Born in Bessemer and raised in Huntsville, he is a 1977 graduate of Johnson High. He graduated from the U.S. Naval

Academy and has a master's in information systems from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Carodine, 52, is deputy commander of the Navy Warfare Development Command in Norfolk, Va.

Dr. John Burnett, associate dean of the business school at UAH, introduced him to the class. Carodine then gave an overview of the Navy and showed two videos, one on its humanitarian efforts and the other on its warfare skills.

He explained the "70-80-90 rule," which a student correctly interpreted when he asked the class during the question-and-answer time at the end of his presentation.

"Seventy percent of the world's covered by water, 80 percent of the world's population is near the ocean and 90 percent of our trade takes place on the ocean," Carodine said.

He affiliated with the Navy Reserve

in 1989 and mobilized in 1990 with the Navy Reserve Carrier Group 770 to support Carrier Group Seven/Battle Force Zulu. During combat operations, he served as the Force Over-the-Horizon track coordinator during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm on the USS Ranger in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

"We are the world's largest Navy — been around about 236 years," Carodine told the class.

Of his Navy career, he said, the travel has been "absolutely amazing" but the "No. 1 thing I take away from my Navy experience is the people."

"A lot of fun, it's been a fantastic experience," Carodine said.

His relatives in Huntsville include his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Carodine, his brother Fred Jr., youngest brother Craig and sister Pamela.

Meagan Methered, a graduate student in MBA, was among the students he addressed.

"I thought it was very impressive," she said. "And I learned a lot of things I didn't know about the Navy."

Liaison officers connect with international customers

By **MICHELLE HARLAN**
USASAC Public Affairs

Employees of the Security Assistance Command are in regular contact with their customers around the world through the Foreign Military Sales program. USASAC is often referred to as the “Army’s Face to the World” because the organization is the first contact a foreign customer has within the Army. By maintaining liaison officers throughout the major combatant commands, USASAC’s reach is that much closer to their international partners.

“I am there to relay the priorities of the COCOM back to USASAC and vice versa,” liaison officer Jay Dywan said. “I interface between the two commands to help USASAC best meet the needs of the COCOM and our international partners.”

Dywan has lived in Stuttgart, Germany since April 2010 working as a liaison officer at European Command headquarters. Dywan also works with country program managers in USASAC’s EUCOM Regional Operations Directorate and with the Offices of De-

fense Cooperation at each U.S. Embassy.

“LNOs are there to assist the CPM and USASAC leadership in order to fill their responsibilities in security assistance,” Dywan said. “We have direct contact with ODCs in each country and can help prior to an official letter of request and throughout the entire FMS process.”

USASAC implements foreign military sales and training for eligible foreign governments through letters of requests. As a connection between FMS customers and the Army, liaison officers are available to answer questions on the FMS process and requirements. And with a LNO in the same country, and time zone, there is the added convenience of instant communication with the foreign customer.

Liaison officers also regularly speak



Photo by Michelle Harlan

Jay Dywan serves as the liaison officer in EUCOM for the Security Assistance Command.

with CPMs, EUCOM and service component staff and ODCs. These relationships that are built bridge the gap between governments and help the li-

aison officers make foreign military sales a success.

“Knowing the right people to connect to solve a particular issue is a big part of the job,” Dywan said. “I am proud to be a cog in the process and able to help.”

With a background in security assistance, Dywan also educates new desk officers as they rotate into positions at EUCOM who are unfamiliar with the foreign military sales process.

Dywan served as an international military student officer and attended the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management while on active duty with the Army. He worked at the Security Assistance Training Field Activity and DSCA before accepting the four-year assignment as liaison officer with EUCOM.

“I enjoy working with the security assistance enterprise and hope to continue doing it in the future,” he said.

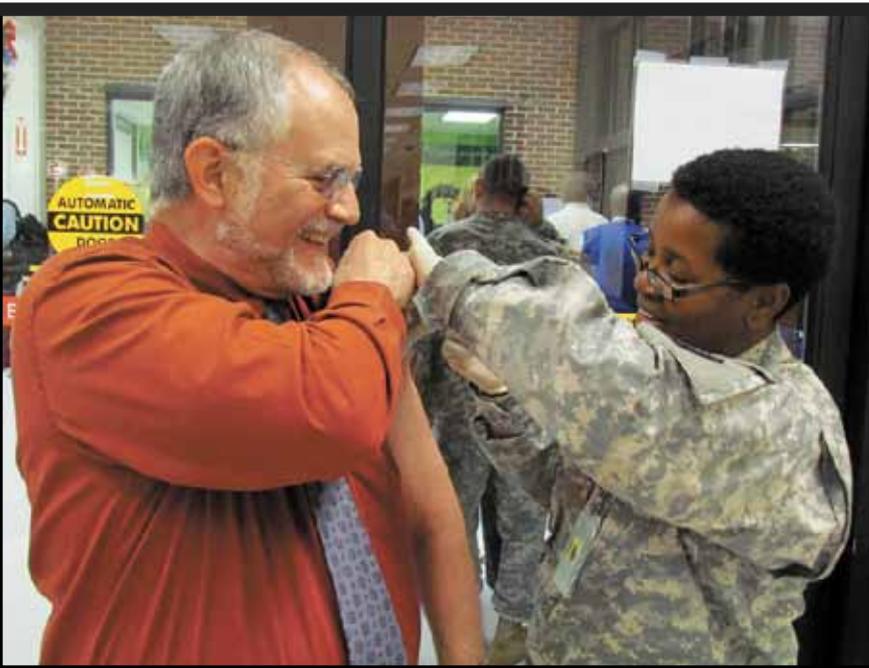


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Flu shot

Angelo Moretti, an aerospace engineer at AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate, receives a flu shot Nov. 22 from Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine at Fox Army Health Center. Fox provided the flu vaccine that morning at the Commissary to DoD civilian employees, active duty and military beneficiaries.

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 Friday from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The ceremony starts at 5:15 and the tree lighting at 5:30. 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 Friday 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 Thursday 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.

Bowling center hours

Redstone Lanes, effective Thursday, will be open Mondays and serving lunch. Its new hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-8 p.m. Sunday. Brooklyn's Sports Bar will be closed Saturday and Sunday.

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.

Marine recognized for giving back to community



Courtesy photo

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Daniel G. Stoy receives the Outstanding Veterans Award.

By Marine Corps Cpl. ANDREW D. JOHNSTON
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – An active duty Marine Corps noncommissioned officer was recognized for his outstanding service to the city of Jacksonville, N.C., during a Nov. 22 ceremony at the municipality’s town hall.

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Daniel G. Stoy, assigned here to the 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, received a standing ovation when he received the city’s Outstanding Veterans Award.

Stoy, who earned three Purple Hearts from wounds he received in Iraq, serves as the sergeant-at-arms of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Beirut Memorial Chapter 642.

“Each of the different veteran chapters here in Jacksonville was allowed to put up one nominee for the award, which is basically for your service in the community,” said Stoy, who hails from Hudson Falls, N.Y. “This is the first time that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has had an active duty member up for the award in two or three years.

“Basically (the award is for) all of the volunteer work I’ve done after the tornadoes hit,” he added. “I had my whole (team) out there working with me.”

Some tornadoes struck the Jacksonville area in late summer, destroying homes and leveling businesses. Stoy gathered up a group of Marines

to help out.

“If there is any time that we need help, Staff Sgt. Stoy always gets his troops for us,” Verl H. Matthews, senior vice commander of the local Purple Heart Chapter, said. “He asks for volunteers and he and his guys always come and help.

“These guys are some of the hardest workers,” Matthews continued, “and I just got done signing about 20 appreciation letters this morning. He has just done so much for us and the community.”

Stoy, a married father of three children, said he juggles his duties as a Marine, a community volunteer and husband. He said his wife makes it all work.

“I wouldn’t have been able to do this without the support of my wonderful wife,” Stoy said. “She has fully supported me in everything. She’s here taking care of the home front while I’m out volunteering. It’s that basic love and your basic husband and wife support – she has been great.”

Stoy said he was very humbled to receive the award. He attributes his love for community service to his late father.

“It feels good to be honored like this because my father, who just passed in October, always used to tell us, ‘What you give is what you get,’ so it meant a lot to get it,” he said. “Between the balance of work and the balance of volunteering it was tough. But just being able to see the looks on people’s faces, when you’re out there helping just makes it all worth it in the end.”

World AIDS Day spreads disease awareness

AIDS has killed more than 25 million people worldwide between 1981 and 2007. An estimated 33.3 million people, including 2.5 million children, worldwide now live with HIV, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history.

In the United States more than 16,000 people with AIDS were estimated to have died in 2008, and nearly 594,500 people with AIDS in the U.S. have died since the epidemic began.

World AIDS Day is celebrated on Dec. 1 each year around the world. It has become one of the most recognized international health days. World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. This year's theme for World AIDS Day is about "Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS Related Deaths."

The recognized "Red Ribbon" is a global symbol and sparks a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

Recently, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addressed the National Institute of Health in support of a global fight to prevent the spread of HIV infection, as well as provide treatment programs for those who are already infected with HIV. She discussed some of the global goals and successes of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief initiative, which was launched by the George W. Bush administration.

Clinton spoke of three tools, which if used in combination could turn the tide to Zero New Infections:

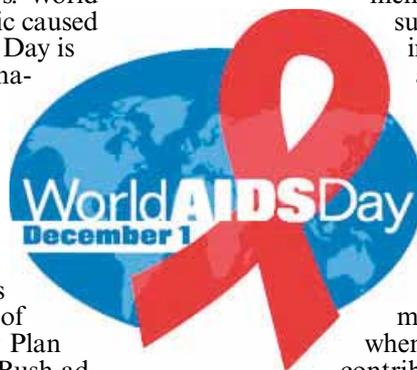
- Prevent babies from being infected at birth: One in seven new infections worldwide are from mother-to-child. Treatment programs and antiretroviral medications can help prevent mother-to-child transmissions; Clinton recognized that PEPFAR has helped prevent 114,000 babies from being born with HIV.
- Offer voluntary medical circumcision: This is a procedure that has been shown to

reduce the risk of female-to-male transmission by more than 60 percent. Since 2007, some 1 million men have been circumcised for HIV prevention, with three-fourths of the procedures having been funded by PEPFAR.

- Offer greater access to treatment: Because of scientific advances, being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence. Recent studies have shown that antiretroviral drug treatment not only keeps those with HIV infection alive, but reduces the risk of transmitting the infection to a partner by 96 percent. Treatment programs and health centers can also offer other health initiatives such as HIV testing, counseling, birth control, health screenings and immunizations. Screening and treatment programs for tuberculosis are critical as TB is one of the leading causes of death among people infected with HIV. The good news is that HIV-infected persons can be effectively treated for tuberculosis infection. Stigma and discrimination remain high around the world, driving many people away from life-saving prevention and treatment services offered to the general population. Eliminating barriers to access of care is essential for the prevention or treatment of HIV infection.

The approach in the fight against HIV/AIDS now appears to embrace both prevention and treatment. World AIDS Day is a reminder that everyone is impacted by the AIDS epidemic. It is a day when all can either learn more about HIV/AIDS or make some kind of contribution or commitment that helps in the prevention or treatment of HIV. Approximately 50,000 people in the United States will become infected with HIV in the next year. About 1.2 million people in the U.S. are now living with HIV infection and about 1 in 5 are unaware of their infection.

Learn more about HIV/AIDS by visiting the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention website. You can also call Fox Army Health Center, Preventive Medicine, at 955-8888, extension 1026, for information on HIV and sexually transmitted infections and preventive measures and prevention of spread of infections. *(Fox Army Health Center release)*



'Army Wives' reality show comes to Alaska

By Staff Sgt. MATTHEW E. WINSTEAD

Army Alaska Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – A television production company is looking for military family members to appear in a new show about military spouses in Alaska.

The company, 44 Blue Productions based in Los Angeles, is developing what it describes as a documentary series for the Oprah Winfrey Network.

The show, Army Wives of Alaska, is to focus on the real-world lives, struggles and sacrifices of military spouses stationed in the 49th state.

"This program will help to raise the awareness of the national community of the sense of duty that the family has, as well as the Soldiers in uniform," Lt. Col. John Clearwater, film and television liaison for Army public affairs in Los Angeles, said.

The production company is scheduled to meet with spouses in Alaska the week of Nov. 28.

The show came about, in part, due to the efforts of Stephanie Woodard, whose husband, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian "Clint" Woodard, is a

UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

"I found information on an old casting for a show that never launched and asked if they were still looking for volunteer cast (members)," she said. "They said 'no,' but I started talking about some of the wives' experiences anyway and they got interested."

It's important for military families to be able to tell their stories to the public, Woodard said, especially in an era of repeated deployments.

"Yes, there are tough times.

Yes, there are fears that naturally come with a deployment, but the close bonds you can form with other military families are unique and will get you through those times," she added. "No matter how hard someone tries, you just can't get that kind of understanding from someone who has never been in that situation."

After several phone calls and mee-



Arnews photo

Army families greet Soldiers returning home from a deployment.

tings with producers, the Army warmed up to the idea, Woodard said. Eventually, Army public affairs granted approval for 44 Blue to cast volunteers for the show.

The show is the first of its kind to be approved for production on a military installation, Clearwater said.

"This is a cutting-edge project," he said. "There hasn't been a program similar to this at any time previously within the Army. This is an opportunity to show the nation just how much effort our military families contribute to the service of their Soldiers. It's a commitment just as deep as (that of) any servicemember."

It is also a commitment that many Soldiers say they couldn't do without.

"My wife has been an invaluable asset to me," Staff Sgt. Germaine Pitt, a section chief for the fuel platoon assigned to Company A, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, said. "She has always been supportive. I couldn't be as successful as I am without her."

Stephanie Drachkovitch, one of the co-founders of 44 Blue, is uniquely

qualified to help portray military families in Alaska. The daughter of a career Army officer, Drachkovitch lived in Alaska, her mother's home state, while her father served in Vietnam.

"My mother and father actually met while he was stationed up there in Alaska during his first assignment there," Drachkovitch said. "Alaska is a beautiful area and I just so happen to know a little bit about the kind of bonds people can make while living there, which is just one of the many reasons I think the show will resonate with viewers."

Drachkovitch said she wants to see as many people apply for the casting as possible.

"We expect to, ultimately, cast the same number of families from each area (Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson) in the end," she said, "so everyone should feel free to still apply."

Many of the wives are doing just that. Traci Moran, whose husband, Spc. Jared Moran, is a paralegal representative for 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, has submitted her application in the hopes of getting a positive message out to the public.

"I wanted to make sure that we help show a true portrayal of a real Army wife," Moran said. "We're not all about drama and scandal. We're not completely helpless while our husbands are deployed either. We are strong, independent and able to fill the roles of our husbands while they're away."

"I want to do my part and help show how we hold things together while they're gone," she added.

The show's producers say they hope there will be more families who are willing to share their stories.

Honored veteran preserves military history

Steve Ray recognized for lifetime of service

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

Preserving military history is something that veteran Steve Ray does not take for granted.

And now he too is part of that history.

Ray, a 19-year board member of the Madison County Military Heritage Commission, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Veterans Day luncheon Nov. 10. The award is presented annually by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

"I was absolutely surprised by this. Shocked would probably be the more operative word," Ray said.

Admittedly a background kind of guy who likes to do the heavy work to make things happen, Ray was recognized primarily for his work with the heritage commission, which is the curator for the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes and other military displays exhibited in the lobby of the Madison County Courthouse. Every year, the heritage commission honors a select group of veterans as inductees into the Hall of Heroes.

But Ray is also active with other programs that have a patriotic mission. For several years, he has helped with the "I Love America" production at Whitesburg Baptist Church, where he is a member. He served a year as the state historian for the American Legion, and he has been active with the VFW Post 5162, Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans, American Red Cross board of directors and the veterans coalition.

"It's hard for me not to get my fingers in too many patriotic pies," he said.

The heritage commission was formed in 1975 to promote interest in the study and preservation of Madison County's military heritage; to encourage better appreciation and understanding of the part Madison County's military have had in the development of the nation; to conduct and encourage research of the county's military heritage; and to honor Madison County citizens who have served with valor in the armed forces since Madison County became

a territory Dec. 13, 1808.

In 1992, Ray, a Lockheed Martin employee, first got involved with the commission board through a friend who invited him to a meeting. It wasn't long before he became his company's representative on the eight-member commission board. During those early years, Ray often led the commission, serving as its president. Besides maintaining the county's military history and its exhibits, the commission also planned a Hall of Heroes inductee recognition ceremony every year at the Madison County Courthouse following the Veterans Day parade.

Since then, the commission's interests have grown with the number of veterans and veteran groups in Madison County. In 1999, the commission joined forces with the veterans coalition and the Redstone-Huntsville Association of the U.S. Army to add the Hall of Heroes inductee program to a special Veterans Day program. It also became active with the Veterans Memorial Museum and Veterans Memorial board of directors, which opened the county's memorial in downtown Huntsville on Veterans Day.

"Steve was nominated for this award because of all the work he has done for the commission," said veteran Tom Dunn, the heritage commission's president and a Hall of Heroes inductee, who nominated Ray for the lifetime achievement award. "But it also recognizes all the other work he has done for veterans organizations here. He's been a very loyal volunteer."

The exhibits at the courthouse are of special importance to Ray because of their educational value, both for school-age students and adults who visit the courthouse.

"People can actually come to the courthouse and see the patriotic history of the citizens of Madison County," he said. "They are able to see pictures



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Steve Ray, right, receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Max Bennett, president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, during the Veterans Day luncheon Nov. 10.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Steve Ray straightens a plaque that's part of the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes display at the Madison County Courthouse during a visit to the exhibit area with Tom Dunn, president of the Madison County Military Heritage Commission. Ray's 19 years of volunteer service to the commission led to his Lifetime Achievement Award.



and medals of true heroes and the sacrifices they made for our freedom. When you see the names of our heroes displayed like that it allows you to reflect and associate with people who were willing to give their last measure for the defense of our nation. That's a very powerful statement."

The displays include information on the Hall of Heroes inductees as well as the names of Madison County heroes who were killed in action and the service medals of the military branches.

"It's so important to give these veterans the recognition they deserve and that many did not receive," Ray said.

"It's important to them as well as to their families and to all of our nation's veterans."

Ray served in the Air Force out of high school, continuing a path started as a member of the Air Force JROTC cadet battalion at Butler High.

"I chose the Air Force because I was familiar with that branch and its rank structure," he said. "And because of my experience they gave me a higher rank when I enlisted."

From 1971-76, he worked in Air Force security, providing law enforcement and air base defense and security. He served yearlong tours in Vietnam, Thailand and Korea during that time. He then went on to serve in the Alabama Army National Guard until 1980.

"In my family, there was never a question of service. Everyone in my family volunteered," Ray said. "My father served in the Army during World War II in Italy. One of my brothers served in the Marine Corps, the other in the Navy. In my family, it wasn't if you served, but when and where you served."

Military service taught Ray an appreciation for the "type of discipline and motivation that it takes to get things accomplished."

It also gave him friendships that he still enjoys as a charter member of

the Vietnam Security Police Association, which has grown from 16 to 1,500 members since it was founded in 1995.

"I made many lifelong friendships from those years," he said. "When you share some of the same hardships it really creates a bond of brotherhood that you just can't get from any other experience. And Vietnam will give you that experience."

The military also gave him attributes that he carried with him into his civilian career as an auditor of Lockheed

See Veteran on page 22

Leadership

continued from page 1

command's major subordinate commands; and serves as a member of the Sergeant Major of the Army board of directors, which advises the sergeant major and the chief of staff of the Army on issues such as the Soldier uniform and physical training standards.

Riling's path to the Army Materiel Command began with a phone call from Mellinger.

"The command sergeant major community is a very small community. Jeff was one of my mentors. We've been friends for a long time. There's been a lot of coaching and mentoring done by him," Riling said. "I am very honored to backfill a guy like him."

While his previous assignment at Forces Command involved leading an organization with a mix of 98 percent Soldiers to 2 percent civilians, the Army Materiel Command gives him nearly the opposite mix at 97 percent civilian and 3 percent Soldiers. It is the largest civilian organization in the Army.

"Taking care of civilians is just as important as taking care of Soldiers at AMC," Riling said. "We have as much dignity, respect and care of our civilians as our Soldiers. I am here to support and provide advice to any Soldier or civilian that works at AMC."

The Army Materiel Command has 11 major subordinate commands, including the Aviation and Missile Command, and the Security Assistance Command.

"The command sergeant major supports their commanding general. I am the eyes and ears for our commanding general," Riling said of his work both within the Army Materiel Command and throughout its major subordinate commands. "People will tell me things before they'll tell the commanding general. I have direct contact with the commanding general so that I can provide information that she can use to make good sound decisions for the command. Listening to others and sharing their ideas can be very powerful. My main purpose is to support the command and support the Soldier."

In that role, Riling knows he can help make the Army Materiel Command more efficient and effective by honing in on the needs of the war fighter.

"We are the single Army command for logistics. We work with other services and the Department of Defense to sustain our combat forces deployed worldwide. We provide America's war fighter with the decisive edge" in terms of equipment and supplies, he said.

"As I visit major subordinate commands, I am seeing very effective organizations that are making AMC better every day. I'm seeing really great organizations of Soldiers



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, standing near a Soldier statue in the reception area at the Army Materiel Command, has led Soldiers in combat. He is now helping to lead the Army Materiel Command's work force as it continues to provide Soldiers with the best equipment the Army has to offer.

and civilians who take a lot of pride in what they do and who are very dedicated to supporting the war fighter."

Although he knows he won't be able to visit all Army Materiel Command sites and the sites of organizations affecting the command during his three-year assignment, Riling will visit as many as possible while balancing that mission with his work at the headquarters facility at Redstone. Recently, he has visited the 407th Army Support Brigade at Fort Hood and the Human Resources Command in St. Louis.

Riling began his career in the Army in 1983, enlisting straight out of high school.

"It was the adventure that really attracted me," he said. "I wanted to be a member of a team of an elite force. I wanted to serve my country and defend America. And I wanted to see different parts of the world and go to different places."

As a young Soldier, he listened to his mentors, who told him the tough assignments would pay off.

"I've always had pride in serving the Army and serving Soldiers. I'm the guy who wanted tough assignments and the challenge," he said. "I always wanted to do my best. I didn't want to always be the best. But I always wanted to do my best for the Army, and I wanted to make sure I did the best for my team. I wanted to pull my fair share."

As he assumed positions of more responsibility, Riling developed his leadership skills, and learned what it took to guide other Soldiers to success.

"You have to coach sometimes and other times you have to teach. You have to mentor others to be good leaders and show

Soldiers how to get where you are at," he said. "You have to show them what right looks like. ... We have to mentor and mold the junior non-commissioned officers who will one day replace us. We have to set what right looks like for the future."

An effective command sergeant major also has faith and trust in his Soldiers, he said.

"Nobody wants to come to work and fail their leaders. Let your subordinates make decisions and allow them to learn from their mistakes, and help to keep them from failing," he said.

Riling has seen tremendous changes in the Army during his years of service, with much of that change coming in the past 10 years of war.

"We've become a much better war fighting Army. In 10 years, the Army has gotten good at combat operations," he said. "We also have better Soldiers. They are much more educated than ever before because of the Army emphasis on Soldier self-development. In World War II, Soldiers on the battlefield took orders and did what they were told. Today, Soldiers on the battlefield are making decisions in the absence of officers."

The Army has also made great strides in protective equipment for Soldiers. Quality of life and pay for Soldiers among other things are much better than in years past.

"The strength of our formation is our Soldiers – the men and women who serve our nation," he said. "It is imperative that we do our best to protect America's most valuable commodity, our Soldiers, our 18- and 19-year-old sons and daughters who are fighting for America. We need to give them the very best equipment and the very best leadership so they can be successful."

Riling has enjoyed every assignment he has had in the Army, all of which helped

him work his way up the Army leadership chain to where he is today. But serving and leading in combat, he said, has been the most rewarding.

"Being a division sergeant major in combat (with the 1st Infantry Division) was probably the most rewarding and the most humbling. That division included 13 combat brigades with 38,000 Soldiers assigned to Baghdad," Riling said.

"It was rewarding to see all the accomplishments that the division did while in combat. I got to see those Soldiers train for war, and then I took them to combat and got to see all their successes. Eight different patches supported our division. I was out all the time in combat, out on the streets patrolling with Soldiers. You can't know what's going on with the war fighter until you get your eyes on the ground with the Soldiers."

That philosophy – of being hands-on leaders – permeates the entire Army, Riling said. It's also something that will be seen throughout the Army Materiel Command as Riling works with Dunwoody to set an example of leadership.

"Setting a good standard for others to follow and living by that standard is important. You have to set a good example," he said. "Being a good role model, and listening to other's thoughts and concerns allows you to make good recommendations and good decisions for the command. Having a good relationship with your team and being approachable allows others to approach you with issues."

"I want people to see the commander and the command sergeant major of the Army Materiel Command and think 'I want to be like that command team.' Senior leadership that works well at the top filters down through the organization. Good leadership can be contagious."



Courtesy photo

Career advice

Patrick Newbold, executive officer to AMCOM's deputy commander, talks with a University of Alabama-Huntsville student about his job at Redstone Arsenal. He spoke at a career event held through the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.

Redstone Exchange managers listen, respond

Customer feedback plays an instrumental role in the Redstone Exchange's ability to provide great service while improving the overall shopping experience. Military patrons can play a part in this process by meeting Exchange managers to discuss daily operations and areas of improvement.

"Meet the Manager" is a program in which store and general managers are available to discuss Exchange operations with shoppers. The program seeks to gather information on products, services and any problems experienced.

One of the program's goals is to reduce the time and effort spent on processes while setting reasonable expectations. In order to meet the continuing demand for the best products and services, Exchange managers are eager to engage in one-on-one communication with those they serve.

"By placing a greater emphasis on customer feedback, we can work with shoppers to deliver a stronger benefit for all," Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "We want the best for Soldiers and retirees at Redstone Arsenal, and that starts with knowing their wants

and needs. The only way to do that is to proactively reach out and listen to community concerns."

All feedback and information gathered during "Meet the Manager" discussions is sent back to Exchange headquarters in Dallas and evaluated for possible future programs and execution.

A booth or area for discussion is designated at the front of all Exchange locations periodically in order for customers to easily recognize where to go to meet with various managers. Prior to the event, signs are posted in store to alert shoppers when their next session will occur. The next event is scheduled Dec. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Exchange.

For more information about the "Meet the Manager" program, call 883-6100.

Holiday return policy

Recent industry statistics show that 3 to 4 percent of all retail sales are returned for refund or exchange. To alleviate the worry about what can be returned and when, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is giving the gift of extended hassle-free returns for the holidays.

erans Memorial, which includes the building of its educational element. Ray plans to assist the commission in that project.

"We need to remember our history, to maintain a connection with the past and the people who came before us," he said. "We need to appreciate what it took to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. The memorial is something all people in this county can be proud of and something we can all learn from."

Ray said it is important to find ways to give back to society, and the heritage commission and his other volunteer work is his way of making a difference in his community.

"It's about giving back. Being a citizen is about giving back," he said.

For items purchased from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, Redstone shoppers can return or exchange those items through Jan. 31.

If a shopper requests a refund with a sales receipt, a cash refund will be made if the original purchase was made in cash. If the original purchase was made by credit card, the refund can be credited to the customer's same credit card. If a customer requests a refund without a sales receipt, the refund amount is loaded onto an Exchange Merchandise Card.

"The Redstone Arsenal Exchange's return policy is second to none," Arbo said. "With our amended plan during the holiday season, we have the processes to ensure it's the right color, look or fit."

In addition to returns on locally purchased items, shoppers can return Exchange catalog or Internet orders to the Exchange for a full refund on the product. If the return is due to an error on the Exchange's part, shoppers will be reimbursed the standard shipping charges in full.

"We take our commitment to serving those who serve very seriously," Arbo said. "Exchange shoppers give the best gifts because we ensure that Soldiers get

exactly what they want every time."

ToyBook

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

In addition to the incredible selection, the ToyBook offers more than \$18,000 in prizes. In fact, the Exchange will award one Cozy Coupe Cab, a riding car for children that includes a toy radio with sound effects. Shoppers can register at the Exchange through Dec. 4 and drawings will take place on or about Jan. 6.

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

"Kids dreaming of a fun-filled Christmas will find all they could ever want," Arbo said. "Featuring hundreds of items available at both the Exchange and online, the ToyBook is truly a one-stop shopping destination for Redstone Arsenal families."

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

Veteran

continued from page 20

Martin's environmental, safety and health programs.

"The military teaches you what it takes to focus on a goal, a mission, so that you can focus on what the requirements are for a particular task. You also know the motivations it takes to accomplish what needs to be done in a timely manner," he said. "The attributes you learn in the military about getting things done on time and within budget are important in business."

The heritage commission will be involved with the next phase of the Vet-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Holiday shopping

During Thanksgiving week culminating with Black Friday, shoppers converged at the Exchange for their annual rite of the giving season.

Win or Lose

Army falls short in Patriot League title match

Black Knights complete their volleyball season

WASHINGTON – Despite a valiant effort late in the match, the Army volleyball team fell short (3-1) of the 2011 Patriot League title Nov. 20 at American's Bender Arena. All four sets were decided by a 25-21 score with the Eagles taking three of them. No. 2 Army's lone victory came in the fourth, as No. 1 American defended its title and earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Junior Ariana Mankus and sophomore Margaux Jarka paced the Black Knights with 19 and 16 kills, respectively. Seven of Mankus' kills came in the fourth set, while Jarka's .343 hitting percentage led the team. Mankus completed the double-double with 11 digs, as did freshman setter Mary Vaccaro (44 assists, 12 digs).

Based on the semifinal and championship rounds, Jarka and senior co-captain Rachel Willis earned All-Tournament Team plaudits. Army ended the season with a 23-8 record and collected the runner-up trophy.

In rematch of the 2009 Patriot League title bout, the match featured 30 ties and 12 lead changes and took just under two hours to complete.

"We played with integrity today and



Margaux Jarka

"I'm so proud of the way we came to play and left it all on the line," Army coach Alma Kovaci said. "Give American credit. They came to play and de-

served it in the end. But I'm still so proud of the team, the staff and everyone involved. It was a great run, but we just came up short in the end."

American scored four of the first five points of set one, but the Black Knights bounced back to tie the score (6-6) after a pair of consecutive kills from Megan Wilton and Willis out of the middle. The Eagles later broke an 8-8 tie with a quick 5-0 run to jump ahead 13-8, as Kovaci called timeout. Her team responded with five straight points and tied the set again (13-13). The Eagles began to pull away at that point, using an 8-3 run to establish a 21-16 edge. The Black Knights did not go away, however, as a back row kill from Mankus and another from junior Francine Vasquez pulled Army within 23-21.

The teams traded points to open set two and were tied 9-9 before the Eagles used a 6-3 run to go on top 15-12 midway through. The Eagles continued to hold a three-point lead from there. The Black Knights showed fight in the end, foiling AU's set point three times before bowing 25-21.

The Eagles opened a 5-2 lead to start the third set. Army hung tough, pulling within 7-6 after a solo block courtesy of senior co-captain Fabiola Castro. The Black Knights' block edged them within one again (9-8) just a couple points later, as Army stayed right on Ameri-

can's heels through a handful of exceptionally long rallies. A Vaccaro/Wilton double-block leveled the score (11-11) for the first time since the early going, and Army took its first lead of the set (12-11). The lead continued to seesaw through the meat of the third frame, but the Black Knights continued to hold the edge. Jarka's untouched kill ended the frame and finished off Army's only win (25-21).

The teams battled point-for-point to start the fourth set. The teams played through six ties before the Black Knights took a 9-7 lead after Willis and Jarka teamed for a double-block on the outside. American retaliated with a 6-1 run and retook the lead (13-10). Mankus came alive on offense with the match on the line, producing five kills to help the Black Knights tie the match at 19-19 and again at 20-20. American's Sara Rishell, named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, came up with two kills to highlight a 5-1 match-ending run for the Eagles.

American's Juliana Crum led the Eagles with 15 kills, while Rebecca Heath and Rishell added 12 and 11 kills, respectively.

Willis and co-captain Castro played their final matches. The pair authored a 92-32 record, including three 20-win seasons, during four years at West Point. (*goARMYsports.com website*)

Louisiana State stays unbeaten against Georgia

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

Skip's Picks were 487-157 for 76 percent after 13 weeks of college football. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Louisiana State vs. Georgia – **LSU**
Texas at Baylor – **Baylor**
West Virginia at South Florida – **WV**

Syracuse at Pittsburgh – **Pitt**
Connecticut at Cincinnati – **Cincy**
Iowa St. at Kansas St. – **KSU**
Wyoming at Colorado St. – **Wyoming**

UNLV at TCU – **TCU**
Troy at Arkansas St. – **Ark. St.**
New Mexico at Boise St. – **Boise St.**
BYU at Hawaii – **BYU**
Oklahoma at Oklahoma St. – **Okla.**

Fresno St. at San Diego St. – **San Diego St.**

UCLA at Oregon – **Oregon**
Southern Miss at Houston – **Houston**

Central Arkansas at Montana – **Montana**

Wisconsin at Michigan St. – **Wisconsin**
Virginia Tech at Clemson – **VT**



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.

Air Force association

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association will hold its fourth quarter meeting Thursday 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.

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.

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.

University women

The American Association of University Women, Huntsville Branch, will hold a holiday potluck dinner Dec. 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. AAUW’s “Singing Sisterhood” and the Huntsville Feminist Chorus will perform. Call 880-8643 or email herb.guendel@knology.net to make a reservation and list your potluck dish. If interested in becoming a member, call 464-0469 or email mar172@yahoo.com.

See Announcements on page 25

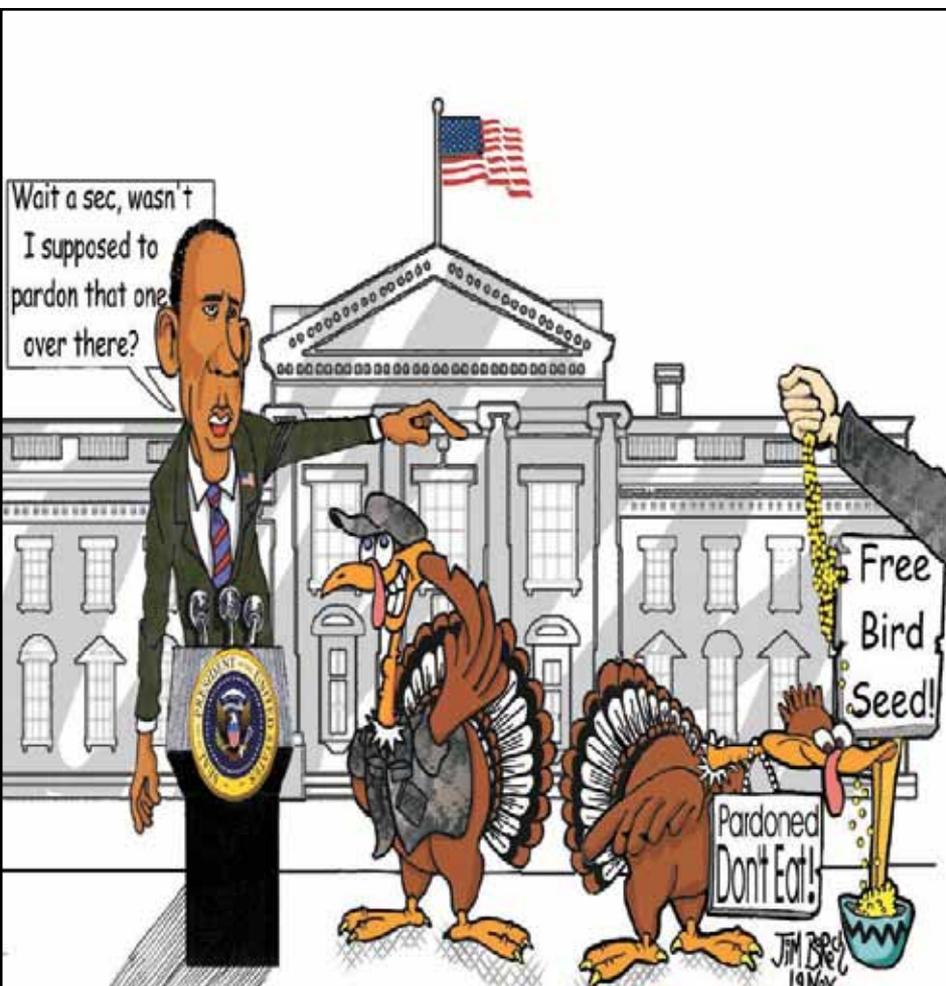


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Thanksgiving host

Napoleon Perry picks out a turkey at the Commissary to feed about 15 members of his family, coming to his home in Huntsville for Thanksgiving dinner from Greensboro.

Rocket Announcements

Deployed workforce ceremony

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Team Redstone operations for OIF/OEF. The Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is Thursday 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 top-

ic 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.

AMCOM industry briefings

Aviation and Missile Command along with Team Redstone will hold the annual Advance Planning Briefings for Industry 2011 Conference and Exhibition on Dec. 14-15 at Redstone Arsenal. This year's theme is "Soldiers First: Partnering to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness." This free conference is open to U.S. citizens in industry, academia and government. For conference information and to register online, visit <https://conference.redstone.army.mil/>. For more information, call the APBI Conference Team 842-9967 or email redstone-apbi@conus.army.mil.

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 regis-

ter 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 today 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.

Women's luncheon

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The women's club is open to all women who have independent gate access to Redstone. This month the club's outreach project will be the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program. Lunch is \$14 and the deadline for reservations is Dec. 9 at noon. For more information, visit www.rsacwc.org or call Tonya Daniels 489-3009.

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

See Announcements on page 26



Photo by Shannon Kirkpatrick

Phone refund

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, and program support specialist Linda Wallace, center, present a \$3,200 check to Army Emergency Relief program manager Kerrie Branson. Wallace raised the money by using "Blackberry Bulk Trade Up" through the Wireless Source Inc. Since the Program Executive Office for Aviation was undergoing blackberry upgrades, the timing was perfect. The blackberries were scrubbed, packaged and sent to the company. The phone verifications were completed in three months; and then the company mailed Wallace a check. "I was just glad to see it go to a very good cause," she said.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Lunch company

Employees of Jacobs Engineering Science Technical Services participate in the Jacobs Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 22 at the Officers and Civilians Club. From left are Orest Pena, Morgan Brown and Ben Craigmyle.

Rocket Announcements

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).

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 non-profit 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.

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.

Breast cancer campaign

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness and Education, Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity is teaming up with Yoplait for the 2011 “Save Lids to Save Lives” campaign. From now through Dec. 15, drop off your pink “SLSL” Yoplait lids in the Pink Collection Box located in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the courtyard). For each lid collected, Yoplait 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.

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.

See Announcements on page 27



Photo by Sharonda Pearson

Danish students

Staff Sgt. Randy Tice and Staff Sgt. Shaelyn Cox, both from the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, talk with visiting political science students from Rodding Folk High School in Denmark. They discussed the Army’s role in society and why they chose to serve. “I joined to make sure that my children have the same freedoms I had growing up,” Cox said. The Denmark group’s visit was part of a three-day trip to numerous agencies, including the Memphis Chapter of the NAACP, Atlanta’s Sheriff Department and the Danish-American Chamber of Commerce.



Courtesy photo

Global view

Jamie Candelaria, human resource specialist, teaches students at Liberty Middle School’s Career Day by using her experiences around the world and also by showing how the principles of the game Jenga apply to careers. She appeared through the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.

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 Saturday 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.

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, today, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14 in the church sanctuary, 980 Hughes Road in Madison. Instrumental and vocal ensembles will present "Ring" today; 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 Faris, 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 Guntersville on Thursday 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

Rocket Announcements

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 their military identification card. For more information,

email David Carney carney50@mchsi.com. For tickets call 539-0961, and present military ID upon arriving at the performance.

Irish Christmas

An Irish Christmas and Whiskey Tasting will be held Thursday 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 fund-raiser. 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 Friday 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:

See Announcements on page 28



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Traditional blacksmith

Steve Edge is the blacksmith and a tour guide at Constitution Village/Santa's Village. He is very interested in history, especially when it involves the American Indian. He is part Cherokee.



Courtesy photo

Dyslexia help

Whitney Brady, of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, works with students at Greengate School for Dyslexia on their reading skills. She assisted as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.

Rocket Announcements

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.

Army museum

The National Museum of the United States Army, scheduled to open at Fort Belvoir, Va., in 2015 will be the nation's only museum to present the complete Army's history since 1775. Its immersive exhibits, Soldier artifacts and venues will tell the stories of selfless service and personal sacrifices of the 30 million Americans who have worn the Army uniform. For more information, call 1-800-506-2672 or visit www.armyhistory.org. The 2011 Army Commemorative Coins, benefiting the museum's construction, will no longer be sold by the U.S. Mint after Dec. 16. The \$5 gold coin, silver dollar, and clad half-dollar made available to the public early this year celebrate the Army's storied history. All three coins can be ordered at www.usmint.gov/catalog or by calling 1-800 USA-MINT (872-6468).

The pricing of the coins includes a surcharge – \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each clad coin – which is authorized to be paid to The Army Historical Foundation to help finance the museum.

Instructors wanted

On behalf of the FMWR Directorate, the Army NAF Contracting Office, Atlantic Region South, will be soliciting for a concession contractor to provide the following instructions within Child Youth and School Services: drum line, guitar, piano, drivers education class and SAT/ACT Prep classes. Interested personnel should have at least three years of verifiable teaching/instructional experience. If you are interested in an opportunity to provide these services on a concession contract basis, call Karvelis Lee, SKIES Unlimited program manager, 690-6235.

Merit awards

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is accepting applications for merit awards. These financial awards are available to graduating high school seniors, college students and spouses who are U.S. military and DoD civilian family members whose primary residence is located within

the Redstone Arsenal community and who meet the eligibility requirements. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. Information and applications regarding the merit award program are available online. For more information and to download the application, visit the women's club website at www.rsacwc.org or contact Teresa Lee, the Merit Award chair, at www.rsacwcmeritawards@gmail.com or 830-0562. The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Book fair

The Mills Road Child Development Center will hold a Scholastic Book Fair on Dec. 5-9 from 3-5 p.m. Books can be purchased at building 5600 or online at <http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2982200>. Funds raised will help support events and activities at the center, which provides care and education to children in the Army community from 6 weeks to 6 years old. All books will be delivered in time for Christmas – give a child you love the gift of reading this holiday season. For more information on the book fair or the Mills Road Child Development Center, call Sandra Spillane 842-5864.

WASTE...
...RUINS MY TASTE



**Keep storm drains clean
for those downstream!**

Keep Redstone Arsenal water streams free of pollutants.

**For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office,
Storm Water Program manager at 955-8501**



Army photo

Rendering honors

Retired Army 1st Sgt. William Staude, of Elliott, Pa., salutes the colors being carried by Soldiers from the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, stationed in Coraopolis, Pa., as they march past him during the Veterans Day parade Nov. 11 in downtown Pittsburgh.