Annual holiday ball details announced. Page 10

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'The most honorable thing I've done'

Veterans Day thoughts from combat veteran

By SKIP VAUGHN
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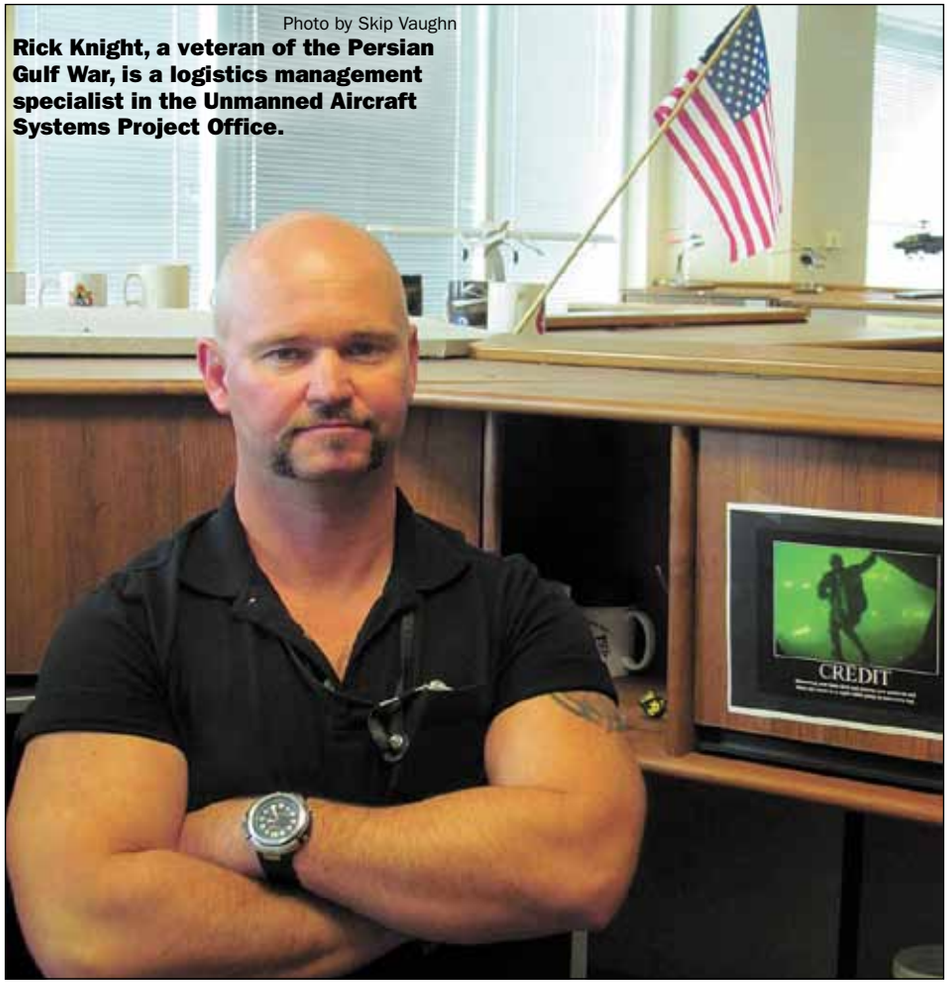

Photo by Skip Vaughn
Rick Knight, a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, is a logistics management specialist in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office.

Veterans Day is extra special for combat veterans like Rick Knight.

He'll spend Friday with his family at Huntsville's traditional Veterans Day parade downtown. He'll watch his 18-year-old son, Griffith, march as a member of Grissom High's JROTC. And he'll meet up with some of the guys he served with in the Army.

"It's probably the most honorable thing I've ever done. Hands down," Knight said of his service in the Persian Gulf War. "I'll never be able to recreate that kind of teamwork or esprit de corps."

It was 1990 when Cpl. Knight, a Vero Beach, Fla., native, deployed from Germany to Southwest Asia for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He was a scout in the 4th Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment.

"I was young, 23, when we got notified (of the deployment). I was actually kind of excited about it," he said.

His unit landed in Saudi Arabia; and his aircraft had to be evacuated upon landing because it caught fire. "Premonitions of things to come," he said, laughing.

He remembers going to the port because they had to meet their Bradley Fighting Vehicles which were arriving on ships. The Soldiers were housed in warehouses and spent their days training and preparing for possible gas attacks.

"That's when I had my first Scud missile attack when the Iraqis were launching Scud missiles in retaliation," Knight said.

When his unit asked for volunteers for an advance party – for teams to go out in the field and set up tents, dig bunkers and receive ammunition – he stepped forward. He didn't want to get caught in another Scud attack.

In December 1990, Knight and his fellow Soldiers were ready with their vehicles and started training for the assault on Iraq. He was on guard duty for his camp when the air war began in the early morning hours. He heard aircraft flying overhead and saw antiaircraft fire.

"I remember going 'Oh (no), this is for real,'" he said.

He felt a mix of apprehension about the reality of war and excitement at finally getting to use his training. "You realize at that time it's coming. It ain't going to be no way out of it," he said.

Knight and his fellow Soldiers trained some more until the ground offensive launched in February 1991. His unit was part of the flanking maneuver against the Iraqis. "We went around Kuwait. We didn't go through it, we flanked it," he explained.

He remembers the sand, fine like baby powder, which blew into everything – including your nostrils and your clothing. Sometimes there were sandstorms.

"Mostly you're doing your job," he said. "You don't think about being scared. You got to remember, I was a scout. I was a gunner on the Bradley."

When his unit crossed the border into Iraq, two hours into the attack they had their first contact with the enemy.

"We ran up across a couple of Iraqi tanks and a dismounted antiaircraft gun and some dismounts and some soldiers," Knight said. "I remember it was afternoon, I think, maybe morning – I hadn't slept in a couple of days, it all molded together, trust me.

"They (the Iraqis) were moving around, trying to turn towards us. The

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Army golf team finishes fall season.
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RocketViews

What are your thoughts for Veterans Day?

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Frances Taylor
IMMC Performance Based Logistics
"I think it's a time to remember and honor all those that have served and have really been able to keep this country the great nation that it is."

Daryl Williams
Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office
"You start thinking about all the people that gave their lives in order for us to have the freedoms that we have. And you always remember that freedom isn't free. And it's not something that you get. It's something that is earned."

Maj. Alicia Surrey
Command and General Staff School student, Army Nurse Corps officer
"It's a day to reflect on all the contributions and sacrifices made by Soldiers and their family members. It's a day for us to say thank you and not forget what they have done for our nation. I have a lot of family members that served in all the services in all the wars. And I thank them for what they've done in shaping the armed services into what it is today."

Blake Taylor
Phoenix
"It's a great day to honor all the men and women who are and have served for our country."

Letters to the editor

Veteran's son continues to serve as Soldier

There are many ways and reasons Americans serve their country; I have served and continue to serve my country for nearly 15 years as an active duty Army officer. I decided to join the Army, stay in the Army beyond my initial commitment and ultimately make the Army a career for several reasons. Some of the reasons driving my decisions along my journey remain constant, while others are unique to that time in my life.

I decided to join the Army in 1995 due to my father. My dad was a veteran of World War II and Korea, when he served in the Navy. Thoughout my childhood, my dad would tell me stories of his adventures passing through the Panama Canal on his 17th birthday, or hopping islands in the South Pacific and climbing coconut trees. His stories and the few pictures he maintained from his days in the Navy grabbed my interest and seemed better suited to my personality than the stories he would share with me about his career as an inspector for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. My dad did much more than just telling war stories to actually get me to take the leap of faith and physically join the Army. My father visited the campus of my college during my sophomore year and scheduled a meeting for me with the ROTC department. My dad informed me of the meeting and encouraged me to attend, which I did, and I initiated the paperwork to join the Army and seek a commission at that very meeting. Even after my father's death, I have decided to stay in the Army and make a career of it largely due to his wishes for me to initially volunteer and serve.

My initial commitment to the Army was up in 2001. In the early months of that year, I very strongly considered getting out. During my first four years of active duty service, I experienced a lot for a young Army officer. I graduated Ranger School, Airborne School and was involved with the initial push into Kosovo. As my initial commitment came to an end, I made many more trips to my hometown than I did during the three previous years. I intended to see if there were good opportunities for me back at home if I did indeed decide to get out. I spent a lot of time with my high school and college friends and we discussed all that we had done since we parted ways. Without exception, no one had any experiences or stories comparable to mine. It really seemed as if all my peers from my life before the Army were jealous of what I had seen and accomplished. I did not feel as if I would find anything different to do with my life which I would enjoy as much as serving in the Army, and I decided to stay in the Army and go to the Advanced Course.

After Sept. 11, 2001, life changed for the entire nation. But it changed more for those in uniformed service than anyone else. I have been deployed to Iraq five times, Afghanistan three times and once to Colombia. I have been challenged in life or death situations and entrusted with the lives of our nation's most valuable resource, our young men who served under my command in hostile environments. I have been exposed to great leadership and blessed with the best friends and comrades a man could dream of because of my position as a professional Soldier in service to a nation at war. Over the past 12 years, I have not even considered getting out and I have stayed in because I believe my country needs me to serve and fight.

I am honored to serve the United States of America as a Field Artillery major in the U.S. Army. I thank my father for instilling a love for my country in me and for teaching me that it is my duty to give back.

Maj. Robert L. Jenkins
Command and General Staff School student

Commentary: High school JROTC sets course for senior

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

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lee High School Army JROTC Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Tucker Hawkins completes an inspection for the battalion's quest to be redesignated an Honor Unit with Distinction.

It was a day that foreshadowed my son's future. On that bright, sunny Veterans Day in 2005, my strapping fifth-grader stood on the side of Greene Street watching bands, floats, Soldiers and JROTC cadets march by.

As I took pictures of the Veterans Day parade for the *Redstone Rocket*, my son, Tucker, was seeing images that would follow him throughout his middle and high school years. He may not remember that day. But I do. I also remember what he told me as we watched a JROTC unit march by: "Mom, I want to

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RedstoneRocket

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CFC spotlight

Name: Lt. Col. Jeff Caldwell

Job: Division chief, Cargo/Air Warrior contracting, Army Contracting Command-Redstone, supporting Program Executive Office for Aviation

How long have you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign?

For 17 years. I started contributing to CFC when I was a second lieutenant at Fort Carson, Colo., where I was serving in my first assignment as an armored platoon leader. We had a CFC representative who talked to us about donating to CFC and to good causes. We also had a battalion level CFC kickoff where you could go to different duty stations and hear about CFC and AER. That was my first introduction to CFC.

Why did you decide to become a CFC contributor?

I began giving to CFC because I wanted to help others. My sister suffered from seizures for years. Because of people who cared, she was able to get the medical assistance she needed and go to college. I've always been sensitive to giving to CFC because I've had someone in my family who benefited from charitable organizations. My sister eventually grew out of her seizures and now has no problems medically. She's married, living in North Carolina and has three kids of her own. Because of the generosity of others, she has gone on to have a good and healthy life.

What charities do you like to contribute to through CFC?

My number one charity is the Youth Friendship Foundation. It is a local charity sponsored through Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. The charity helps develop and empower youth through mentorship, scholarship and talent programs. I learned about the foundation after coming to Huntsville in May 2010 and becoming active in the local chapter. I pledged Omega Psi Phi in 1992 when I was at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C. I've always been involved in the fraternity's national charities and its local seasonal charities for helping kids during times like Thanksgiving and Christmas. Youth Friendship Foundation is a local program that makes a difference for the youth in our community all year long.

Why do you continue to be a CFC contributor?

I believe CFC is a way of helping people in need and not necessarily needy people. I've always had a passion for giving back and doing things to uplift the community. Maybe it was just the way I was raised. I believe life is about giving and helping others, and life is more rewarding when you do that. I mean this from the heart. My wife, Gloria, is a program analyst with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and she gives through CFC, too. Giving to CFC is a family tradition for us. We are expecting our first child in January and we hope to instill in her the family value of giving to others and helping those who are in need. As the financial chairman for ACC-Redstone, I've seen the generosity of an organization of 766 employees. The amount of donations that people are giving is just amazing. They are giving so much without even thinking twice about it. We are at 90 percent of our goal in week seven of the 13-week campaign. The enthusiasm and motivation is amazing. The employees really feel they are doing something that is important and they have a passion for giving. That's a great tradition to continue.

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

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Oct. 27 through Nov. 2:

Oct. 27: A government employee reported that his private vehicle was damaged while parked at the Fox Army Health Center parking lot.

Oct. 29: When a person was observed by security cameras throwing fireworks onto the Arsenal at Gate 3, police were dispatched. The non-affiliated civilian was detained by Huntsville Police and released to Redstone Police. The subject has been charged with criminal mischief.

Oct. 29: In the Exchange, a juvenile concealed a pair of sunglasses, two watches and a bottle of body spray valued at approximately $225. The subject then left the store without paying. The juvenile was processed by Redstone Police and released to a sponsor.

Oct. 30: Two non-affiliated civilians were observed by security cameras as they climbed over the fence at Gate 10 and exited post. Both subjects were quickly apprehended and an investigation revealed that one subject, a former Soldier, used his unauthorized military ID card to escort the other subject through Gate 8. They left Pagano Gym and elected to climb over the fence at Gate 10 instead of walking to Gate 8. One subject was charged with fraudulent use of an ID card. Both were charged with criminal trespass.

Oct. 31: When an alert worker observed what she believed to be a gun inside the Sparkman Cafeteria, Redstone Police were contacted. A thorough search by police and military working dogs proved negative. The area was then declared safe.

Nov. 1: When Redstone Police responded to the Rideout Road Welcome Center to investigate a suspicious vehicle, the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The non-affiliated subject was transported to the police station where she received a violation notice and was detained until her blood alcohol limit reached an acceptable level.

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

Violation notices issued: 18 speeding, 1 driving under the influence, 2 criminal trespass, 2 handicap parking, 3 no proof of insurance, 5 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no driver's license, 1 expired tag, 1 criminal mischief.

Getting to **know you**

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

Name: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dorothea Johnson

Job: Chief of operations, Corps/Theater Automated Data Processing Service Center, Logistics Support Activity

Where do you call home?

I am an Army brat so I was born in Landstuhl, Germany. And then I pretty much grew up in Colorado Springs, Colo. – at least that's where I went to high school and lived till I joined the Army.

What do you like about your job?

I like the interaction with people, and making the logistics system work.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Shop. I love to shop. Play with my dogs – I have three dachshunds and a Labrador. And spending as much time with my grandkids as possible – I have two granddaughters and two grandsons.

What are your goals?

Retirement right now. I have 22 years in the Army so the future for me is making sure I have a secure retirement financially so I can relax and enjoy my life and travel and go where I want to go instead of where the Army sends me.

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

It's the travel. I want to see Rome. I want to see the pyramids in Egypt. It's the traveling. I just want to see things, unusual things I've never been able to do. I'm pretty much a simple person. The quiet life is what I love.

Photo by Ashley Crick

Flight for hope

Redstone Test Center and NASA collaborated on a "Flight for Hope" at RTC test range TA-6. NASA and RTC breast cancer survivors and their caregivers witnessed the robotic lander's flight of 30 meters hover test. The event was planned by NASA ILN/Robotic Lander project manager Julie Bassler and RTC test engineer Collyn Loper.

Exchange gift card represents choice present

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

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

"Exchange gift cards are an excellent way to send troops exactly what they want as they can select their own gifts," Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "Whether the servicemember who receives the card wants a cappuccino from Starbucks, some beef jerky from the Exchange or a tank of gas for the family car, the recipient gets support that is tailored to their need."

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

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

JROTC

continued from page **2**

march in a parade wearing a uniform like that. Mom, I want to carry a shiny gun like that." As we left downtown Huntsville, I assured him that someday he could march as a Soldier in a parade just like the one we had enjoyed from the sidelines.

We'd been to Veterans Day parades together in years proceeding that day. But, for some reason the 2005 parade really resonated with my son. Fast forward through middle school, and all of a sudden Tucker was a rising ninth-grader, excited about the idea of wearing the Army JROTC uniform of the Lee High School cadet battalion. As he began that school year taking in the citizenship and military instruction of Lee's JROTC instructors – 1st Sgt. Dwight Speight and Col. Michael Coleman – and learning the requirements of the program's student leadership, I kept thinking "This is a test to see if he's really meant to be a Soldier." In my heart, I knew that he could pass that test if he wanted to.

All through ninth-grade, Tucker often would come home from school saying "Sergeant says this …" or "Sergeant says that …" I remember the first day he put on the Army JROTC dress uniform. He looked so young and serious. And the day he put on his JROTC combat uniform – well, that day brought me to tears of pride for a young man who was determined to follow a course that he set for himself. That year, Lee High School JROTC won the right to call themselves an Honor Unit with Distinction, a national honor that they had not obtained in 20 years, and my son had the honor of marching with the battalion during the inspection. Following ninth-grade, Tucker attended the Army JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge summer camp at Fort McClellan in Anniston. Before he left, I remember thinking again "This is a test to see if he's really meant to be a Soldier." When Tucker came back from camp, I asked him how he felt about JROTC and military service. He looked straight in my eyes and said "Mom, I'm more fired up than ever."

Course set. Move forward.

Throughout high school, Tucker has held various leadership roles in the Lee High JROTC Battalion. He benefited from the teaching of two committed instructors and from the association with other cadets just as dedicated and driven as himself. Tucker has marched in the Veterans Day parade with his battalion, participated in color guard competitions, served as his battalion's supply sergeant and public affairs officer, and volunteered with his battalion in fund-raising and community efforts. Each year, the battalion has committed to a theme that has defined their activities, starting with "Where Excellence is a Requirement, Not an Option" in Tucker's ninth-grade and carrying through the years with "Where Excellence is Accomplished the Old Fashioned Way, 'Hard Work and Determination" in 10th-grade, "More than a Legend. It's a Tradition" in 11th-grade and, this year, "No Shortcuts. No Excuses." Each theme is meant to shape the battalion's progress toward its goal to motivate young people to be better citizens.

This fall, the battalion's mission has gone even further with the goal of repeating as an Honor Unit with Distinction, a designation that must be competed for every three years. For this inspection, Tucker is the battalion's command sergeant major, putting him in the center of all the preparations for being inspected by Army ROTC officials from the 2nd Recruiting Brigade at Redstone Arsenal. On Thursday, I am proud to say the Lee High JROTC Battalion won for the second time the designation as an Honor Unit with Distinction.

But Tucker's Army JROTC journey is not complete. He still has a lot of activities to look forward to during his senior year. This Friday, Tucker will be among a select group of JROTC cadets from the area who will have the honor of participating in the Veterans Memorial dedication and ribbon cutting prior to the parade. And then next semester, there will be the JROTC ball; color guard, rifle team and drill team competitions; and awards day to look forward to as his high school career winds down.

Now Tucker is preparing to enter a new phase of his life. He is setting his course for the University of Alabama, where he hopes to be a part of the Army ROTC program. In fact, we travel to Alabama today for his ROTC scholarship interview. Several people have been encouraging to us, saying that winning an Army ROTC scholarship will save us the big bills of college. But Tucker is not pursuing an Army ROTC scholarship for the money. Yes, he does like the independence that having his own scholarship would give him, and his parents are indeed thankful for the opportunity. Yet, pursuing an Army ROTC scholarship is about something that goes much deeper for Tucker. It's about being associated with one of the nation's most highly respected traditions, about learning leadership skills and capabilities that will lead to future opportunities, and about being part of a group that will define Tucker's college experience, his career and his life. Army ROTC gives Tucker the opportunity to experience the military while in college. It also gives his parents the peace of mind that he is associated with a group of individuals committed to the Army values and dedicated to a cause much higher than themselves. As Tucker prepares himself for his interview, I say to myself "This is a test to see if he's really meant to be a Soldier." And, in my heart, I know that he can pass that test with flying colors.

Needless to say, Tucker's dad and I are so very proud of him. We have enjoyed the Army JROTC journey that we shared with him, and we are looking forward to watching him grow into the kind of Soldier he aspires to be. There has always been a lot of talk at our house about heroism, rangers, airborne, rappelling, veterans, leadership, and combat arms – things Tucker has gleaned from both his JROTC experiences and the military-themed books he likes to read. Those discussions are getting much more serious these days as Tucker sets his course for the future. And his parents plan on being right there with him, giving him the support he needs to continue the journey that started with the Lee High Army JROTC Cadet Battalion.

Deer hunters: Your season has arrived

As the leaves begin to fall, it signals the beginning of the deer hunting season in Madison County and Redstone Arsenal.

Fall also serves notice to all residents, and the Redstone Arsenal work force, to refrain from venturing into the wooded areas throughout Redstone without prior authorization.

With deer gun season rapidly approaching, Redstone recreational hunters are taking to the woods. The Youth Deer Hunt this Saturday and Sunday will officially usher in the deer gun season. Also be mindful that the approaching winter months will be an active time where traditionally there is a significant increase in vehicle deer strikes.

For information on deer hunting on Redstone Arsenal and questions regarding land areas where hunting is conducted throughout the season, contact Outdoor Recreation. Call 876-HUNT. *(Outdoor Recreation release)*

Courtesy photo

This is a welcome sight for those who roam the great outdoors in pursuit of wild game this time of year.

Storybook characters have Halloween parade

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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Old MacDonald, 101 Dalmatians and other beloved children's books came to life Halloween morning for the Goss Road Child Development Center's Storybook Parade.

Each room at the CDC picked a story children know and love, and brought the familiar tale to life by dressing up as different characters in the book. The parade offered a unique opportunity for the children to learn more about their favorite stories, according to Deborah Nickles, director for the center, but still gave them the chance to dress up in the spirit of Halloween.

From farm animals to shining stars, all were present and accounted for at the parade, where both staff and children dressed up.

"We started doing this to try and get away from dressing up in Halloween costumes, and focusing more on some of the stories that the children hear every day, and having them come to life," Nickles said. "The children enjoy dressing up as different characters in a book and also learning about that character."

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nathan Marta, 3, is all smiles as a 101 Dalmatian.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Saniya Davis leads the way as shining stars Carson Norrell, Adey Alexander and Connor Golden follow.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Students from Preschool 1 parade around as 101 Dalmatians at the Goss Road Child Development Center Storybook Parade.

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:

Youth deer hunt

A youth deer hunt will be held this Saturday and Sunday from dusk to dawn at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive. This is free to Redstone hunters, and open to youths age 10-15. Each child must be accompanied by a Redstone authorized hunter who is 25-plus and possesses a valid hunting license and a valid RSA hunting permit. For more information, call 876-4868.

Turkey shoot

Outdoor Recreation's turkey shoot is Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is $3 per shot, shells provided. Children can participate with adult supervision. For more information, call 876-4868.

Basketball tournament

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

Youth Center hours

The Youth Center, building 3148, is now open Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. A variety of activities are available, from sports and videogame tournaments to academic, technological and artistic pursuits. Sixth through 12th-graders are encouraged to join the activities Saturdays at the Youth Center. For more information, call 876-5437.

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.

Researchers dig prehistoric finds at Redstone

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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As Redstone Arsenal continues to expand and grow toward the future, so does the installation's knowledge of life within the gates before rockets, space exploration, the Army, and even the United States existed.

Archaeologists have uncovered a prehistoric Indian village, dating back to 300 A.D. next to Indian Creek, just south of Martin Road near Gate 7. While the installation has been aware of the potential existence of the village since 2000, the expansive work to uncover artifacts and learn more about the original inhabitants of Redstone Arsenal and their way of life has only just begun.

"The artifact density was off the charts up here," Ben Hoksbergen, cultural resource manager and installation archaeologist, said. "We knew at one time there was some heavy occupation here and beyond that it was anyone's guess as to how much would be intact. We figured we'd find a few pits that had escaped demolition but we really didn't think we'd find as many features as we did. We're very pleased with that."

Sparked by the Martin Road expansion project, from two lanes to four, the excavation is the most extensive done to date on the Arsenal, according to Hoksbergen, who said 70 excavations have been done since the late 1970s, typically on a much smaller scale. Whether or not a site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places determines the scale of the excavation.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ben Hoksbergen, cultural resource manager and installation archaeologist, stands near a 1,700-year-old pit that Native Americans used for storage near Indian Creek.

Holes of varying shapes and sizes scatter the site just south of Martin Road, prehistoric pits that provide glimpses into daily life in the late Middle Woodland period. An oblong shape indicates a pit was used for burial; round pits with narrow mouths that bell out and have flat bottoms were used for storage or trash. If the sides of a pit are bright orange, which indicates fire had come into contact with the clay soil, it was used as a hearth or earth oven. The thousands upon thousands of items Hoksbergen, and his crew of contracted archaeologists from Alexander Archaeological Consultants out of Chattanooga, have found in those pits tell the story of how the prehistoric tribe lived, hunted and ate 1,700 years ago.

"It's all fairly mundane refuse from daily life in the village, so it doesn't look glamorous, but it tells us a lot about prehistoric life ways," Hoksbergen said.

A mix of shell and wood ash in what is typically a very acidic soil has allowed for great preservation of the site, said Hoksbergen, who typically has only been able to find stone artifacts and pottery, not bone, nuts or seeds, which usually decay rapidly in the soil that surrounds the Arsenal. Not the case here, where everything from animal bones, spearheads, pottery, snail shells, and plenty of nuts, including hickory nuts and acorns, have been recovered. The abundance of nuts indicates the prehistoric site may have been a fall and winter camp, according to Hoksbergen. Indians would come up

Courtesy photo

Archeologists uncovered a 1,700-year-old bone needle, just south of Martin Road near Indian Creek, in what is believed to be a prehistoric Indian village.

See Dig on page 20

Patient Centered Medical Home puts patient first

Fox Army Health Center changes approach to care

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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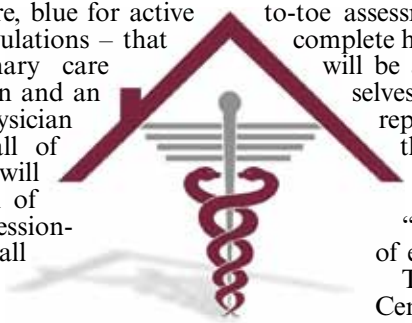
At Fox Army Health Center, it's all about the patient, and a new initiative, Patient Centered Medical Home, will ensure all the tools and assistance they need on their path to wellness are right at their fingertips.

"It's a new way of doing business, of putting the patient at the center of all the care," Lt. Col. Timothy Talbot, deputy commander for clinical services, said. "Essentially, a patient comes in, and is seen by the same team, the same doctors and the same nurses. It's a holistic approach to care, to take care of all their problems at one time, rather than one problem per visit."

Patient Centered Medical Home is a MEDCOM directive that is changing the way Fox Army Health Center, and other military treatment facilities across the country, perform primary care. Patients at Fox are assigned to a team – red or white for primary care, blue for active duty and special populations – that includes three primary care doctors, a pediatrician and an internal medicine physician which will handle all of their care. Each team will have a support team of nurses and other professionals to give the patient all they need to maintain their health and wellness.



"That will be your home team," Talbot said. "When you are assigned to a physician, you will be seeing the same nurses who check you in every time and you will be seeing the same physicians. It is a lifetime of care."

Patients that may have previously come in for a 20-minute appointment that would address only one of their two concerns, now will be able to review all their health reminders, discuss concerns since their last visit, give doctors updates to their health, speak with a pharmacist about medication questions and concerns, receive referrals and see a counselor if needed all in one visit. Initial assessments will be longer, head-to-toe assessments that will collect a complete health history that doctors will be able to familiarize themselves with, so that rather than repeating and re-explaining their history at each visit, patients can simply explain what has changed.

"The patient is the center of everything," Talbot said.

The change to the Patient Centered Medical Home model is part of a movement across the United States that ensures health care providers are striving to provide high-quality, efficient and accessible health care. MEDCOM patient surveys in the past have noted across the board a concern in regard to access to care and continuity of care, Talbot said. With the changes, patients should notice a change in the way their primary care is delivered, increasing satisfaction and wellness.

"We're hoping the biggest difference is in the continuity of care," Talbot said. "They will be seen by the same physicians and same nurses every time. They'll get to know them, get to know their medical histories, their particular problems, their family dynamics, and be able to address them quickly and easily. It's better care if your physician is familiar with your problems and knows your family. You're going to get better care that way."

The transition to Patient Centered Medical Home is in the initial phases of what will be a two-year process at Fox. Approximately 12 staff members have been added to support the initiative, including nurses, and those that specialize in behavioral health and social work. A Patient Advisory Board, a collection of individuals from across the community, is also in the works to help Fox gather kudos and concerns from those it serves.

"That will give us immediate feedback so we can make the changes the same day, next day, or a few weeks down the road and enhance our level of care," Talbot said.

In addition to the PCMH transition, technology is also helping patients take better care of their health, Talbot said. Tricare's new online website allows registered users to access lab results securely, make, change or cancel appointments, and also sign up for a secured text messaging system, available in the near future, that will allow providers to communicate with their patients via text message.

AMC workers receive pep talk from top

Commander encourages resourcefulness, ideas

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

While AMC has accomplished so much in the last 10 years, it needs to keep up the hard work through the next decade, according to commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody.

She addressed the Army Materiel Command work force in Thursday's town hall at Bob Jones Auditorium, which was broadcasted worldwide.

"Even though we've been at war for 10 years, it never became business as usual," she said. "Because of your ability we can see, we can fix and we can get it straight to Afghanistan. There is no finer compliment than the war fighter not being concerned about logistics."

Dunwoody described AMC's accomplishments in the last decade as touchdowns. Using a football theme she said they are in the end zone when it came to Lead Materiel Integrator, Logistics Modernization Program, the DOLs, Task Force Aberdeen and Base Realignment and Closure.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command, addresses Thursday's town hall in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"It's been hard government work but you knew we had to do it and you made it happen," Dunwoody said. "We did all this during BRAC, the biggest one in Army history."

The game isn't over though.

"We can't take our eye off the ball," Dunwoody said.

She continued her football theme to talk about AMC's tasks ahead, including the biggest of finding ways to stay effective and efficient in new fiscal realities.

"We have to think 'what is the threat' and focus on what we can do so we can counter that threat," she said. "We need to adapt to win with declining resources. We need to look at the way we've been doing business more efficiently and effectively. Our ends aren't changing but the means are declining."

Dunwoody described how every time a conflict has ended there has been a major reduction in funding and negative results.

"We can't afford unintended consequences," Dunwoody said. "We need to manage the drawdown and not have negative effects. Our job is to raise our hands when we see the risks of cuts."

She spoke about the secretary of the defense's four guiding principles for the cuts; maintaining the very best military in the world, avoid a hollow force, take a balanced approach and don't break faith with our troops.

This led into AMC's "must dos" for the future: instill a culture of resourcefulness, consolidate and optimize our capabilities, provide global expeditionary logistics, network of logistic enterprise and expand security assistance.

To achieve these AMC is rolling out a new campaign, Bold Ideas, which will give every AMC employees a chance to share their ideas for improving the way they do business.

"This is about fundamentally changing the way we do business," Dunwoody said. "I want to hear from you. You have some great ideas."

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.

Campaign seeks bold ideas from work force

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Crafts open house

Boyce Allen, wood shop lead, demonstrates how to turn a freedom pen at FMWR's June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center open house Nov. 3. Visitors to the open house were treated to tours, food, live demonstrations and a chance to win both prizes and artwork. Located in building 3615 at the corner of Vincent and Gray roads, the Arts & Crafts Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is closed Sundays and Mondays. DIY hours are 1:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and all day Friday and Saturday. Cost for DIY is $3 per hour. For more information, call 876-7951.

PAC-3 missile has successful test

The Lower Tier Project Office conducted a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 flight test Nov. 1 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Preliminary test data indicates mission objectives were achieved. The flight test demonstrated the capability to acquire and intercept a tactical ballistic missile using upgraded software.

The PAC-3 missile system completed operational testing and began fielding in 2002. It was first used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. The PAC-3 provides a highly agile, hit-to-kill missile to the Patriot legacy missile inventory.

The Patriot program is managed by the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space and executed by the Lower Tier Project Office. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, Texas, produces the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, Andover, Mass., is the system integrator for the PAC-3.

Von Braun experience touches heart of man

Scientist's personal life on display alongside technical achievements

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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In the nation's history of space exploration, Dr. Wernher von Braun is known as a German rocket scientist, aerospace engineer and space architect who led a group of German and U.S. scientists in the development of the U.S. space program.

But, for history's sake, von Braun was much more than a scientist with a dream for space exploration. He was also a prisoner of war, family man, musician, artist, outdoorsman, pilot, community citizen and patriot.

And that's exactly the picture of von Braun that the U.S. Space & Rocket Center conveys in their new exhibit, "100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

A bicycle on display at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center was used by Dr. Wernher von Braun's brother, who rode it to find the American troops that would accept the surrender of von Braun and his German rocket team.

In honor of what would have been von Braun's 100th birthday, the museum has opened an exhibit that covers von Braun's American experience, from his surrender to U.S. forces through his days with the nation's space program to his death in 1977. Through artifacts, models of various spacecraft, artwork and photographs, and multimedia displays featuring videos of von Braun talking about space exploration, the exhibit portrays his life as a public figure during the space race.

"This is a good opportunity for people to see the personality behind the name von Braun in addition to his professional life," curator Ed Stewart said. "He was all about the experience of space exploration, and we want visitors to be all about the exploration of him as a person. We want people to have the von Braun experience. This is von Braun as a person and as a personality."

The exhibit opened Oct. 21 to rave reviews. Relatives of several members of the German rocket team along with U.S. scientists and support personnel who worked with von Braun during the early

Photo by Kari Hawkins

U.S. Space & Rocket Center curator Ed Stewart poses with a life-size photo of Dr. Wernher von Braun and the German rocket team that is on display in a new exhibit titled "100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey."

See Museum on page 16

Corpus Christi takes lead in cutting cost of aviation

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – More than 700 attendees ventured into the American Bank Center Oct. 26-27, gathering insight on how Corpus Christi Army Depot reduced cost, increased production and maintained high quality while meeting war fighter needs successfully during the past year and what the depot is planning for the year ahead.

Industry and military leaders across the Army aviation enterprise participated in panel discussions that centered on aviation maintenance, critical partnerships and future combat aviation brigade readiness during the ninth annual Luther G. Jones Aviation Summit.

Keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, remarked how important Corpus Christi Army Depot was to the fight, "the artisans that are executing are leading the change to develop the way ahead for all of us to follow."

He said aviation's mission is critical to success in Afghanistan and Corpus Christi efforts support the enterprise today and well into the future.

"We're taking our lead from Corpus Christi," Rogers said. "Chris (Col. Christopher Carlile, depot commander) understands the business. Corpus Christi is leading the effort on lowering the cost of aviation."

This year's theme, "50 Years of Support to the Warfighter," captured Corpus Christi's historical importance and how it's leaning forward – implementing a strategic plan that drove down cost through a cost-conscious culture while providing world-class support to the war fighter.

"It's about being the preferred best solution for the war fighter," Carlile said. "In essence we're focused on cost-consciousness as a team effort to improve the entire aviation enterprise. We also focus on efficiency – to be effective at producing more at a lower cost, to give us more capability.

"Our strategic plan is to do everything possible to make CCAD a world class, high tech, modern facility with the best workers in the world."

The strategic plan's success is exemplified in the work force by individuals like John Lewis, the Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year Award winner. Lewis, as a team leader in the Black Hawk Assembly Branch of the Directorate of Aircraft Production, played a leadership role in the depot producing an unprecedented 48 UH-60 Black Hawks that returned to the fight this year.

Lt. Col. Don Luce's daughters, Robin and Gail, were present to give the award to Lewis. *(Corpus Christi Army Depot release)*

Photo by Kiana Allen

John Lewis, team leader in the Black Hawk Assembly Branch, is awarded the Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year Award by Luce's daughter Gail Davis during the Luther G. Jones Professional Aviation Forum. Looking on is retired Lt. Gen. Daniel Petrosky, president of the Army Aviation Association of America, and Corpus Christi commander Col. Christopher Carlile.

Intern finds her niche in Security and Intelligence

By MERV BROKKE
AMRDEC Public Affairs

She didn't always want to work in the Intelligence field or with the federal government. But now, almost a year into her first job, this Army intern has found a home and place where she makes a difference.

Patrice Phillips, intelligence specialist intern in the Security and Intelligence Office of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, began her assignment in the DA Internship Program in December 2010 and set the example for other interns to follow.

"Ms. Patrice Phillips has distinguished herself by accomplishing her assigned tasks in an exemplary manner as AMRDEC's first DA intelligence intern," Sharon Boclair, Security and Intelligence Office manager, said.

Graduating from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa with a bachelor's in business administration and a concentration in management, Phillips was not focused on an internship or a career in intelligence but soon changed her mind after a little research.

"When the opportunity to work in the intelligence field became available it looked like an interesting field in light of current world affairs," Phillips said. "I chose the intern route as it provided a formal training program and job assignments that will help to develop my competencies in the intelligence field."

Phillips' knowledge of world affairs is an asset to her co-workers at AMRDEC. Their mission is global and they are always traveling in support of America's war fighters stationed around the world. Her mission at Redstone is to provide intelligence that will prepare them for their work, travel and contingencies.

"I prepare the Open Source Research biweekly newsletter, OCONUS threat briefings, and coordinate with intelligence centers to provide required threat information to various AMRDEC directorates," she said.

In addition to the work Phillips does directly supporting her co-workers, she is furthering her career by taking online intelligence courses from the Joint Military Intelligence Center.

"It is a joy to train and mentor Patrice because she enjoys her job and is very active supporting the center through her many duties and responsibilities," intelligence specialist Sandy Woodard said.

Courtesy photo

Intelligence specialist intern Patrice Phillips, right, and her supervisor Sandy Woodard discuss with AMRDEC director Eric Edwards how they prepare personnel to travel overseas. Phillips is the first Army intern in AMRDEC's Security and Intelligence Office.

Museum

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days of the space race attended a special reception to view the exhibit prior to its opening.

"One of the ladies who worked for him, who is now in her 80s, put her hand over her heart when she saw and heard one of the videos of von Braun. She told us 'It is so good to hear his voice again,'" Stewart said.

"Since the exhibit opened, we have had hundreds come through. The numbers are higher than we expected. Everyone seems to be excited about seeing this piece of history. There is even a national and international response that is excited about this exhibit."

All but a few pieces in the exhibit are owned by the museum.

"Ninety-five percent of what we have was already in our collection in storage," Stewart said. "Some of it had come from von Braun and some from the families of members of his original team. We actually have a von Braun collection as far as archived collections go, and we wanted to let the community see it.

"A lot of what we had was well-documented. The German rocket team did a lot of the work for me. They were meticulous about documenting everything. That is why we had so much material for this exhibit."

The exhibit entrance is graced by a bust of von Braun and a wall-sized fact sheet of von Braun that has been named Rocketpedia, and includes basic information about von Braun's life. The first exhibit area includes a video of the German rocket team's surrender, a life-size photo of von Braun and the other German scientists who surrendered to Americans and the bicycle his brother rode to find those Americans for the surrender. Visitors can have their picture taken standing right next to von Braun.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

A cutout of Dr. Wernher von Braun, complete with a NASA badge, stands amid artifacts from his Marshall Space Flight Center office.

"The collection begins from the time von Braun surrendered to American forces," Stewart said. "The time before the surrender really doesn't fall in the realm of the collection."

Both Operation Paperclip, the surrendering of the German rocket team to the U.S.; and Operation Backfire, the effort of France, Britain and the U.S. to obtain remaining V-2 rockets and pieces of V-2 rockets for use in development and testing at White Sands, N.M., are included. There are also cameos of people, such as Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy, who were important in the process of bringing the German rocket team to America.

The exhibit includes drawings that von Braun made for a 1950s Disney television series about man in space called "The Dreams of von Braun."

"The drawings showcase what his dreams were about and are a reflection of what he was thinking about in regards to going to the moon and into space," Stewart said.

Much of the beginning of the exhibit shows von Braun's working and professional relationship with members of the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency.

"We really felt it was important to feature the Army's role in this," Stewart said. "NASA probably wouldn't have existed or be in the form it is now without its roots in the Army."

There is quite an extensive display on the V-2 and the Redstone rockets, along with other Army projects that defined the first years of von Braun's life in the U.S. The launch of Explorer I is also a major part of the exhibit.

"That launching represented a transition from the Redstone Rocket being used primarily as a weapon to being used primarily as a space exploration tool," Stewart said.

Explorer I also ushered in the formation of NASA, and von Braun's role as the first director of the Marshall Space Flight Center at Redstone. An exhibit of the Redstone test stands represents them both in the context of the Army and NASA. There is also an exhibit of the suit von Braun wore in the neutral buoyancy tank at Marshall, and an Explorer I launch console.

Much of the exhibit shows von Braun's life outside of the Army. There is a photo of von Braun and his wife, Maria, on their wedding day in Germany during a trip von Braun took back home to collect his bride and his parents to bring them to the U.S., and an enlarged copy of the newspaper essay his daughter Margrit wrote about her father. The three musical pieces von Braun composed are in a display case as are exhibits on Robert Goddard, Herman Oberth and Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, rocket scientists who influenced von Braun's life. A recreated living room shows a starburst clock, a Stratolounger vibrating recliner and a bassinet, all used by the von Braun family. Magazines, movie clips and other displays, including a Peanuts comic strip, show von Braun as a pop culture figure of the 1950s and '60s.

"This exhibit includes all of von Braun's key personality traits," Stewart said. "He could look at a system or an issue, and find ways to get things done. He had dedication and foresight."

Beyond the museum, Stewart said von Braun's influence can be seen throughout Huntsville, from the museum itself and Space Camp to include Cummings Research Park, the University of Alabama-Huntsville and the Huntsville symphony.

"Even the Arsenal really developed so strongly the way it did because of the influence of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and von Braun. Before they got here, it was up for sale. Visitors can come here and see the man who helped make Huntsville what it is today. They can see the man whose name is on so many of our buildings and is still so much a part of our community," Stewart said.

"Von Braun had a passion for his work. He dedicated his life to space research and exploration. After he came to the U.S. and did tests on the V-2s, he didn't have to continue his work and create the Saturn V or help develop things like the observatory on Monte Sano or the Huntsville symphony. He did those things because he loved his work and he loved his home in Huntsville. He was dedicated to building up Huntsville while also building up the nation's space program."

Dig

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from the river bottoms, where they typically lived during the spring and summer where they grew crops on fertile floodplains, fished and gathered mussels, to harvest oak and hickory and hunt the fat and healthy animals, such as deer, in the uplands.

The lack of archaeology at the site indicates that the land was occupied for only a short period of time, 50 years maximum, Hoksbergen said.

"Normally if the village lasted a long time and people lived here year after year after year, a lot of these features would intrude into each other," he said. "Someone would dig a pit one year, it would get filled in, 10 years later someone else would dig another pit and not know where the earlier pit was, and the stratigraphy would get all mucked up. But we don't have that here. There is only one instance of a later pit intruding into an earlier pit. That's really unusual. Normally our problem in the Tennessee Valley is too much archaeology – later occupations would obscure the earlier occupations by digging in the soil and tearing everything up. We're very excited – it's a really nice, small slice of time."

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Terry Barbour pours a load of dirt to be sifted through in the screening area.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Chelsea Smith takes measurements after exposing a feature.

Aside from a large burial pit that dates back to the Middle Archaic period 7,000 years ago, all the artifacts uncovered date to the late Middle Woodland period, somewhere around 300 A.D., as indicated by a radiocarbon date the archaeologist obtained, as well as narrow and spiky spear points and undecorated pottery uncovered, which are associated with that time period. One of the more exciting finds for the archaeologists has been the volume of snail and mussel shells, which they can use to compare to the species that live in Indian Creek now to compare how the ecosystem has changed in the last 1,700 years.

Several burials have been uncovered, none of which had any burial goods or grave offerings, which were not common for the time period. All skeletal material is respectfully excavated, including the surrounding soil to ensure the entire body is exhumed, then analyzed, inventoried and repatriated to tribes that were known to live in the area, who will later rebury it. This site dates back to before tribes were named; Hoksbergen consults with 17 different tribes to determine which is the appropriate fit for the remains.

"Archaeologists have tried to put together what prehistoric groups are associated with what tribes and it's practically impossible," he said. "We're looking at such antiquity that the material culture changed so much so it is complete guesswork to figure out which tribe these people were the ancestors of."

Excavation can be a slow process. Hoksbergen and his crew dedicated six months to processing the site just adjacent to Martin Road, and have spent two months thus far at the portion of the site farther south in the old wastewater treatment plant. Archaeologists use a backhoe to peel off the fill and disturbed soil to expose the subsoil. Once the subsoil is uncovered they look for portions of the soil that appear darker than the others, which indicates there may have once been a pit there for the archaeologists to now uncover. Excavating in layers, archaeologists photograph and map each pit, removing fill that is taken to a screening apparatus where artifacts such as nuts and pottery are separated.

All artifacts found at the site will go to a lab in Chattanooga where different specialists will analyze the bones, nuts, seeds, pottery and other items, inventory them, and send them to a federal curation facility in Moundville, near the University of Alabama, where they will be available for research. Some of the better finds will return to the Arsenal to be put on display.

Logistics representative earns two coveted titles

Honoree of the year for AMC, AMCOM

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Imagine you are a colonel in Afghanistan; your assets are your aircrafts. You need those assets up and running or else you can't complete your mission.

This is the scenario Art Gamboa described as he explained his role as a logistics assistance representative.

"LAR is a force multiplier," he said. "We provide technological help, logistical help and anything else they need to make their mission happen. We make sure the Soldiers get help when they need it and where they need it."

Gamboa was chosen as the AMCOM LAR of the Year and also received the AMC Robertson J. Short LAR of the Year award. He was the first person to win both the AMCOM and the AMC award since 2000. There are 258 LARs worldwide.

"He's an outstanding subject matter expert LAR," Darrel Kaiser, the logistics training branch chief, said. "His contributions have been far beyond what was required and have improved the field."

"He was handpicked to stand up LAR-Fort Hood (Texas). It was designed and centered around his vision and his expertise."

LAR-Fort Hood is an all volunteer training center where LARs are refreshed on four major Army helicopters: Apache, Chinook, Black Hawk and Kiowa, in a month and a half to become subject matter experts.

"It's a tough job but a lot of fun," Gamboa said. "There is a test every day and scenarios for them to go through."

The training scenarios are meant to place the representatives in real-world combat conditions while working on problems.

"We work to simulate what it is like to help the Soldiers," Gamboa said. "At the end of the course when I can sit back and they present scenarios and they can explain them end to end, that is my favorite part."

The school was proposed, designed, developed and implemented by Gamboa with the first class starting in August. There are four training sessions per fiscal year with the next session starting in January. All the representatives are trained by other LARs and everyone is a volunteer.

"We believe the best training we can give is delivered by LARs themselves," said Gamboa, a LAR since 2006. "We established a program to enhance our knowledge by training our own people."

Gamboa also designed, implemented and manages the AMCOM Aviation Technical Exchange Network. The network is used to share information on troubleshooting worldwide. It is used by LARs like a bulletin board to communicate with each other about maintenance and logistics issues.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Art Gamboa receives the AMC Robertson J. Short LAR of the Year award from Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command.

"It gives LARs an opportunity to network with each other, ask questions and get quick answers," Jeffery Winters, chief of the Logistics Assistance Division of the Readiness Directorate, said.

Gamboa has saved the Army more than $3,128,000.

"Working with the liaison engineers, the LARs can get authorizations to 'fix forward' battle damage or make other repairs that would normally require the aircraft or parts to be sent back to higher level of maintenance for repair," Winters said of the savings. "This saves or avoids the unit having to order new parts or ship an aircraft out for higher maintenance."

Along with these accomplishments, Gamboa has been deployed four times to both Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We act as kind of a big brother," he said about helping the Soldiers. "When you see a Soldier's surprise that we fixed an aircraft for his mission, that is when I know I have done my job."

Gamboa said he will go overseas whenever the mission requires.

"People over there, they are glad we are down there. We've made a lot of progress for them," he said. "We see IEDs and explosions on TV but what you don't see are the schools, hospitals, the electricity flowing and the clean water."

He and his wife, Maria, have two children: Lea Maria and Leandro.

Signal senior enlisted invite input from Space Soldiers

By DJ MONTOYA
1st Space Brigade

PETERSON AFB, Colo. – The Soldier 'signaliers' of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command got a special visit by the Army's Signal Corps senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Pflieger, regimental command sergeant major, Signal Center of Excellence, Fort Gordon, Ga., on Oct. 24-26.

Accompanying Pflieger was Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams, 9th Signal Command, Network Enterprise Technology Command, and Sgt. Major Nathanial Hatchett from the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon.

The visit, sponsored by the 1st Space Brigade, covered briefs and tours of SMDC/ARSTRAT's Directorate of Training and Doctrine and the 1st Space Brigade. Highlight of the visit came Oct. 25 with a luncheon and meeting with Soldiers at the Peterson Club.

Pflieger has been on the job only 90 days, and is already making changes. "We are taking the Signal Corps in a different direction," he stated.

"When you look across at what the Army asks the Signal Corps to do right now, based on our strength, the way our equipment is laid out, and the way we are designed we can only support 34 percent of that requirement – in anybody's eyes that is a non-starter."

The answer, according to Pflieger, is micro-cyber. "Basically this is a relook as to how we want to train, procure and use equipment.

"You have got to give us some feedback. We don't want to change the Signal Corps in a vacuum. We need ideas from you guys out there in the field."

Williams addressed the Soldiers by adding, "You as Soldiers (signaliers) represent every member of your regiment and you need to be the best damn Soldier that they have ever seen. I challenge each and every one of you not to 'drag your duffle bag' as go through the required series of training and certifications in your field. The things you do in space impacts the freedoms that we share each and every day as American citizens. Our Army is downsizing – you all know that. But I will tell you your mission here in Army Space and Missile Defense Command is increasing tremendously. So never take light of what you bring to the table as an individual.

"Nothing that they do here in SMDC/ARSTRAT can be successful if they cannot connect to the network. They can talk about us, but they cannot talk without us. And you guys are the backbone to allow the mission of SMDC/ARSTRAT to be successful."

After the group departed Oct. 26, Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Campbell from the 53rd Signal Battalion reflected on the visit. "The Soldiers of this command are charged with an awesome responsibility," he said. "It was good to see the senior enlisted leadership of the Space and Missile Defense Command and the Signal Corps work together to enhance our ability to train the Soldiers of the 1st Space Brigade."

Courtesy of Photo Lab

Logistician of year

Jason Presley receives the Young Logistician of the Year Award for 2011 during the SOLE International Society of Logistics Tennessee Valley Chapter luncheon. Chapter chair Deborah McLemore-Baugh presents the award "in recognition of superior contributions to the discipline of logistics as an active SOLE member who meets other nomination criteria."

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Fall colors

Autumn paints a colorful backdrop for the static displays in front building 5250, home of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

SMDC veterans prove it's a small world

Served together in combat, later reunite in work force

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

As Veterans Day approaches, two Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command team members reflect on four decades of camaraderie.

Sgt. Maj. John Mattie, SMDC G-3, and retired Master Sgt. Mike Nash, SMDC Office of Small Business Programs, first met during the second day of Operation Urgent Fury as the U.S. invaded Grenada in October 1983. From that moment on, Mattie and Nash would share a bond that continues to this day.

"When I met John Mattie, I was a corporal with an air defense unit basically taking refuge with a mortar section," Nash said. "We both had a similar mission being in an overwatch position. Our mortar section co-located with theirs and that is where we met each other. It is a small world and although we were in the same division, we had never met each other before that day.

"We were unlucky enough to be at the same place, the same time and doing the same mission and we were caught up in a crazy situation. One thing we both learned was that the Russians used green bullet tracers. I remember laying in a ditch near the airfield wondering for a second why there were 'power lines' running across the airfield and was thinking to myself, 'aren't the airplanes going to run into them?' I realized in a few minutes that they weren't power lines but green tracers.

Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Retired Master Sgt. Mike Nash, of the Space and Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command Office of Small Business Programs, and Sgt. Maj. John Mattie, SMDC G-3, first served together as Soldiers during Operation Urgent Fury as the U.S. invaded Grenada in October 1983 and have been serving together at SMDC since 2008.

"Sometimes you learn stuff the hard way," Nash added.

After their time in Grenada, Mattie and Nash were once again reunited as they deployed with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade during Operations Desert Shield/ Desert Storm.

"When I showed up at our site during Operation Desert Storm I met Mike again," Mattie said. "Once we got to sharing stories and experiences we remembered each other from Grenada.

"After Desert Storm we kept in touch throughout the years," he added.

After the Persian Gulf War, Nash and Mattie would stay in contact throughout the years even as their careers would take them on separate paths.

Nash retired from the Army in 2002 and began working at SMDC in 2008. On his first day, Nash walked through the front door where he was met by, now retired, Master Sgt. John Telgenhof with whom Nash and Mattie had also served.

After briefly catching up, Telgenhof proceeded to inform Nash that the command's G-3 sergeant major was none other than Sgt. Maj. John Mattie.

"Master Sgt. 'T' informed me that a guy named Mike Nash that I knew was going to be working here," Mattie said. "I always had a nickname for him as 'Uncle Mike' because he always took care of me. He made sure all of the noncommissioned officers and Soldiers were well taken care of.

"I had always had that kind of bond with him and it is a small world when you can work with someone like that who you can fall back on when you need something. It has been great serving with him again."

Ever since being reunited, Nash said that there have been many times when he and Mattie will talk about mutual friends as well as how the Army has changed since they chewed some of the same dirt in Grenada.

"When I started here in 2008, the first person I met was Master Sgt. Telgenhof and I said it was a small world," Nash said. "And then he said, 'you are never going to guess who the G-3 sergeant major is, it is Sgt. Maj. Mattie,' and sure enough it was him.

"I can't seem to get away from that guy," he added jokingly.

With Veterans Day coming up Friday, Mattie and Nash spoke about those who have served in the military and how they are proud to play a part in the tradition of defending America in both peacetime and combat.

"When I think of Veterans Day, I think about all the sacrifices people have made throughout the years," Nash said. "We were in a unit that had a lot of deployments and shared a lot of hard times and as paratroopers we saw the worst of the worst sometimes. And during those times we saw the best of people.

"The paratroopers had a tighter camaraderie than other units I saw. In most units, Soldiers only spend two or three years together. In airborne units, it is not uncommon to spend up to 15 or more years together. It is true that the paratroopers are truly a 'Band of Brothers.' There are people I served with that are closer to me than my real brothers."

Mattie took time to not only mention the many veterans throughout history but also a veteran he has served with for more than 28 years.

"On Veterans Day, I like to think of people like Mike Nash," Mattie said. "He is a veteran who has served in Grenada, Panama and in the Gulf War. The day is about veterans and they need to be appreciated, honored and respected for all they have done."

Newest attack helicopter rolls out for troops

Apache upgrades add power, speed

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

MESA, Ariz. – The world's most lethal attack helicopter just got even better.

Inside a hangar against a backdrop of lights, fog, and looking as intimidating as ever, the first AH-64D Longbow Apache Block III was revealed to the public for the first time during a roll out ceremony Nov. 2 at the Boeing Apache production plant in Mesa.

"Wow!" exclaimed Col. Shane Openshaw, project manager for Apache helicopters. "To say that I'm proud would be a tremendous understatement. Today marks the completion of the first step of the journey to the future of the Apache. This first step took a tremendous amount of teamwork and is a reflection of great accomplishment with the combined efforts of this team."

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Apache helicopters project manager Col. Shane Openshaw accepts the log book and keys from David Koopersmith, Boeing vice president for attack helicopter programs, during the Apache Block III roll out ceremony Nov. 2.

That teamwork was certainly reflected by the impressive attendance of approximately 500 that included several dignitaries such as former vice chief of staff of the Army, retired Gen. Dick Cody who flew the first AB3 prototype, retired Gen. Thomas Allen Schwartz, former Army Forces commander, various congressional representatives, other retired general officers, several international defense military representatives, current and former Apache project managers, and some members of the Boeing work force.

"They're here to say thank you to this entire team for your hard work and dedication to deliver this aircraft," Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said. Directing his attention to the work force, he added, "What we're talking about today is the achievement of that vision (Army modernization). Every one of you that have worked on this aircraft is part of that success. Don't take this lightly. You will save lives of our American Soldiers by what you have done. You have reduced the burden on that Soldier."

Before the ceremony, a sacred blessing of the aircraft was performed by the White Mountain Apache Tribe led by chairman Ronnie Lupe who is also a Korean War veteran, assisted by his executive officer Jerry Gloshay Jr. and spiritual leader Ramon Riley. The blessing was steeped in Apache tradition that included a prayer, a "smudging" of the aircraft, the singing of two songs and a final blessing. The semi-private ceremony was held on Boeing's flight line at dawn with approximately 30 attendees.

The Apache Block III is the next evolution of the Army's premier attack helicopter and is the only rotorcraft with the ability to operate at 6,000 feet and 95 degrees at an out-of-ground effect hover with a full mission payload. The new Apaches will be stronger, faster and less constrained in extreme combat conditions. Besides the increase in top speed, it will turn faster and tighter, making it almost impossible for the enemy to hide. It will have a combat speed of approximately 164 knots, about 20 knots faster than those currently in service. The Block III aircraft brings back the performance of the early model and adds significant capabilities for today's fight.

See Apache on page 39

Business travelers learn to adapt to foreign cultures

Course provides training on accepting differences

By MICHELLE HARLAN
USASAC Public Affairs

The simple act of giving the thumbs up in the United States means "good job," but in the Middle East it has the same connotation as the rude "middle finger" gesture. Crossing your legs might be a natural habit when seated, but showing the bottom of your feet or shoes in Saudi Arabia is offensive since it is the dirtiest part of a person. Giving a bouquet of flowers to an Asian host is an effortless gesture, but might mean something unintended if the flowers are a certain color or quantity.

These tips were just a handful of examples from the Cross-Culture and Anti-Terrorism Awareness training course presented Oct. 24-28. The class, sponsored by the Army Security Assistance Command, was attended by employees from USASAC, Missile Defense Agency, PEO Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate and members of the Madison County Commission. Many of the attendees regularly work with foreign visitors in the United States as well as travel to host nations around the world to conduct business.

The purpose of the course was to help students expand their understanding of different countries and how to communicate effectively with them. The major differences between American society and other cultures can be overwhelming and often result in culture shock when traveling abroad. By knowing ahead of time what to expect from other countries and what is and isn't acceptable in their customs will aid travelers in their international interactions.

Photo by Michelle Harlan

Bill Lisse, lead trainer from J&K Associates, shows Michael Ashanti, from the Army Security Assistance Command, the proper way to exchange a business card in Asia, as Jean Ann Carter, from AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate, observes. Ashanti and Carter attended a Cross-Culture and Antiterrorism Awareness course Oct. 24-28

"By understanding other cultures and respecting them, it helps to develop a personal relationship with someone," Bill Lisse, course instructor and lead trainer from J&K Associates, said. "That understanding can lead to a business relationship."

The first four days of the course reviewed significant historical and religious events on major regions around the world, the common verbal and non-verbal gestures, standard greetings and typical decision making processes. All information was shared in an effort to help the students anticipate how to act when visiting a host nation and avoiding embarrassing situations.

"In order to successfully navigate in an intercultural environment, students need to understand themselves and their own biases," Lisse said. "You need to find commonalities and build on them to help facilitate communication."

Lisse thinks the advantage of people who attended this course was developing an understanding of how other people view the world and Americans.

"Communication style is very important," Shawn Drake, a USASAC country program manager for Japan, said. Drake frequently travels to Japan and thinks the class was very beneficial for his job.

"Dealing with any culture, professionally or personally, it is good for us to know how other people think."

The last day of the course focused on anti-terrorism and ways to protect against attacks. Lisse explained how citizens could be considered a terrorist target when in other countries. Concerns could be the location where your business is being conducted, the political climate of the country you're dealing, being identified as an American citizen or a U.S. government official. Lisse suggested storing government documents, such as a government issued passport or identification cards, in a separate location from your other documents. If you were in a situation where government officials were being targeted, this would offer the chance to quickly provide civilian documents instead and possibly prevent being singled out.

Whether on official or personal business, travelers should pay attention to the location and surroundings. Lisse recommended varying your daily routine and understanding the U.S. strategic policies for any travel destination will increase awareness of potential threats or risks.

There are lots of things to consider when communicating in a foreign country, such as intonation, body language and gestures. Through deliberate and conscious thinking, personnel know what to anticipate when dealing with a foreign government representative. Knowing the appropriate response to situations will help and improve relationships with foreign partners.

For example, never dismiss a business card given to you in Asia by immediately placing it in your pocket. Accept the card and make a deliberate effort to read the information on both sides. This is a sign of respect for the person's credentials and position. Signaling someone to "come here" by moving your index finger or waving your hand upward is not acceptable in Central and South America and Asian countries. That gesture is used to call animals. Instead, face your palm down and wave your fingers up and down. It is considered unsanitary to eat or shake hands with your left hand in India, as this hand is used for cleaning oneself and is considered dirty. In African and Middle East countries, personal space is usually ignored and people stand very close to each other when speaking to the same sex.

"I think I am better equipped, if given the opportunity to interact with a foreign country, to understand the cultural differences and how best to engage them," Michael Ashanti said. Ashanti, an accountant with USASAC, hopes to have the opportunity to deal directly with foreign nations when doing financial reviews of the contracts for foreign military sales cases.

Lisse said when foreign people find out you are interested in their culture and traditions it makes a great impression on them and on their attitude toward Americans.

"You must be respectful and aware in order to succeed," Lisse said. "You have to take personal responsibility in an intercultural environment."

Huntsville Center sponsors small business forum

There is still time to register for the Small Business Forum being sponsored by the Army Engineering and Support Center on Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, University Center.

Preregistration for the 12th annual Small Business Forum is encouraged to help ensure appropriate representation of subject matter experts. Registration is free with information available on the web at http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil. If you have questions or comments, send an email to sbo-hnc@usace.army.mil.

This is an annual event that provides an opportunity for small businesses to talk with contracting professionals, program managers and subject matter experts from Huntsville Center about their programs and upcoming opportunities.

The Huntsville Center supports very specialized missions that require unique technical expertise in programs that are generally regional or global and are very broad in scope. The center supports tasks that require a centralized management structure, integrated facilities or systems that cross geographic division boundaries; and tasks that require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation or technology transfers. For more information about Huntsville Center programs, visit http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil and review the "Fact Sheets."

The biggest procurement opportunities for small business concerns during fiscal 2012 will be support for the following programs: Renewable and Alternate Energy Power Production; Architect and Engineering Services for Medical Repair and Renewal; and Design/Build Services for Access Control Points and Energy Conservation Investment Program. *(Army Engineering and Support Center release)*

AviationUpdate

New project office manages fixed wing fleet

Centralized oversight expected to cut costs

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Army aviation doesn't just mean helicopters.

About 350 fixed wing aircraft serve the Army worldwide. Their missions include providing a platform for executive travel for senior leadership of the Army, not just in the United States but also in Iraq and Afghanistan. They include special electronic mission aircraft which provide intelligence to commanders on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are also used to support the joint improvised explosive devices efforts in theater.

The Golden Knights parachute team uses fixed wing aircraft. And fixed wing aircraft provide support to the Army test community to collect data on test experiments.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

An Army C-12 flies over the horizon. About 350 fixed wing aircraft serve the Army worldwide.

Management of the Army's fixed wing fleet has been consolidated under the Fixed Wing Project Office, the newest project office under the Program Executive Office for Aviation. The office was established in a ceremony Oct. 28.

"Friday (Oct. 28) was definitely a tremendous milestone for Army aviation," fixed wing project manager Col. Brian Tachias said.

Until that day, the former product office managed 256 aircraft. With the Army acquisition executive's directive to consolidate, that mission grows to managing the entire fleet of about 350 aircraft worldwide. The Army vice chief of staff saw value in centralized management and oversight of all the aircraft; and the Army acquisition executive approved standing up the project office.

"I've inherited a great team," Tachias said. "I'm just extremely humbled to take on this new role and put a plan together to take on this new responsibility."

The office, in Huntsville's Research Park, includes more than 90 civilians. With its growing mission, plans are to expand to about 140 workers. There are also plans for three product managers, lieutenant colonels, for each of its three areas: utility, special electronic mission aircraft and nonstandard. Lt. Col. Jong Lee, who currently manages all three areas, is due to leave next summer and will be replaced by Lt. Col. Brian Forrest. Two additional lieutenant colonels should arrive within the next year. Tachias hopes to have them onboard by spring.

Col. Brian Tachias

Brian Sabourin

Tachias, 46, recently graduated from the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. At the lieutenant colonel level, he was a product manager at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. From 2003-07 he worked in the Program Executive Office for Aviation as a member of the Scout Attack Product Office and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. He grew up on a small cattle farm in New Mexico. He earned a bachelor's in business management in 1988 from the College of Santa Fe and went on to get a master's in information

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Another day of duty at Redstone Airfield

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jeff Solomon is among crew members working with Shadow drones for AAI Corporation. Test and development is done on Hunter and Shadow unmanned aircraft systems here. The Raven and Gray Eagle are other drones this company tests.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

A helicopter that just landed at Redstone Airfield finishes refueling before being pulled to its hangar.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Air traffic controller Cornelius Well works in the control tower.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Tandy Penn, left, and John Cerney, both with Raytheon, test a helicopter's radar system in its hangar.

Wing

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management systems from Central Michigan University and a master's in strategic studies from the Army War College. He and his wife, Judy, have two sons, Brian Jr., 16, and Nicholas, 14.

"The first goal is to consolidate, to bring in all of the Army fixed wing under one centrally managed office and looking to provide safe and reliable aircraft for our war fighters to use," Tachias said, "while gaining efficiencies and saving taxpayer dollars."

Of the Army's central management decision, he said, "We foresee savings of millions of dollars by this action taking place."

The deputy project manager is Brian Sabourin, a proud Mississippi State alumnus. He had served as the deputy product manager when the former fixed wing product office was under the Aviation Systems Project Office.

"I think it's exciting," Sabourin said. "To be a part of a new office standing up, being able to put my own thoughts and ideas on how it should be done, I think it's a great time. And it's fun. I'm looking forward to the challenges. That's for sure."

Heroes honored during veterans luncheon

War heroes will be honored during the Veterans Day Luncheon on Thursday.

The following veterans will be inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes:

Jon Evans

Jon Frederick Evans – Army, recipient of Silver Star Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. In April 1968, Evans was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Officer Candidate School. He is a retired civil servant, having worked with the Army Aviation Branch on Redstone Arsenal for many years. Evans has lived in Madison County since 1997 and resides in Madison.

As a first lieutenant, Evans distinguished himself on March 20, 1971, while serving as aircraft commander of a UH-1H lift "Huey" helicopter during the attempted extraction of beleaguered Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops in Laos. En route to the extraction site, Evans' aircraft came under heavy enemy fire, against which he directed accurate suppressive fire. He disregarded the intense enemy fire in the area of the landing zone and made repeated attempts to extract the beleaguered troops, withdrawing only when several direct hits severely damaged his aircraft. For his gallantry in action, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Charles Blume

On Nov. 24, 1970, Evans distinguished himself while serving as pilot of a UH-1H helicopter during an emergency extraction mission in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. When an embattled reconnaissance team requested an emergency extraction, Evans piloted the lead aircraft to the contact area to attempt the rescue. Discovering that the landing zone was blocked by a number of medium sized trees, Evans, despite enemy fire, hovered 20 feet above the area, allowing his crew chief to jump from the aircraft and clear the landing zone. After the landing zone had been cleared, Evans, continuously subjecting himself to the increasing hostile fire, hovered 7 feet above the ground, enabling wounded team members to be assisted aboard as he directed the fire of supporting armed helicopters. After departing the landing zone, he rendered emergency first aid to the wounded. For his heroism while participating in aerial flight, Evans was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Dennis Lacy

Kenneth Trickey

Charles George Blume – Marine Corps, recipient

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Veterans Day activities set in community

Local events this week for Veterans Day include the following:

- **Veterans Day Luncheon** – Thursday, 11 a.m., Von Braun Center North Hall, Recipients of the Veteran of the Year and Lifetime Achievement award will be announced, and inductees into the Madison County Hall of Heroes and the local Purple Heart chapter will be presented. Tickets are available for $50 each by contacting Linda Crutcher at linda.crutcher@lmco.com or 722-4260.
- **Veterans Day Breakfast** – Friday, 7:30 a.m., Von Braun Center North Hall. Blue Star families and Gold Star families will be recognized.
- **Veterans Memorial Dedication and Ribbon Cutting** – Friday, 9:30 a.m., Veterans Park, downtown Huntsville.
- **Veterans Day Parade** – Friday, 11 a.m., starting at Veterans Park downtown Huntsville, then south on Greene Street, west on Williams Avenue, north on Monroe Street and west on Clinton Avenue.
- **Veterans Memorial Museum** – Friday, Open House immediately following parade, John Hunt Park.
- **"Blood, Thread & Tears: World War II Quilts"** – Sunday, 1-4 p.m., Huntsville Museum of Art. Exhibit closing activities include an interpretive walk through 20 WWII-era quilts from the private collection of author and historian Sue Reich; book signing by WWII veteran Arthur Wolde Sr., author of "Ambulance #11: Memories of a WWII Veteran"; hand quilting demonstration by the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville; and 1940s music and swing dancing.
- **Veterans Day Concert** – Sunday, 5 p.m., First Baptist Church. Featuring First Baptist Church Orchestra and Army Materiel Command Band.

Federal offices closed Friday for Veterans Day

Redstone will join the nation in honoring America's veterans Friday for Veterans Day.

Federal offices will be closed. The Redstone Federal Credit Union and the Regions Bank are also closed.

The gates that are open, and their hours, include: Gate 1 on Martin Road, 5:30 a.m. until midnight; Gate 9 on Rideout Road, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week including holidays; and Gate 8 on Goss Road, 5:30 a.m. to midnight.

The Commissary will be open Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Here are the Exchange's holiday hours:

- Main Store, open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Alteration Shop, closed.
- Barber Shop, closed.
- Flower Shop, closed.
- GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Laundry, closed.
- Nail Shop, closed.
- Firestone, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Shoppette, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Optical Store, closed.
- Cinnabon, closed.
- Anthony's Pizza/Subs, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Charley's, closed.
- Church's, closed.
- American Eatery, closed.
- Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Human Resources, closed.

Veteran

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lead scout fired his missile (from his Bradley) and then another scout vehicle fired his missile. So basically you got two Bradleys shooting at two tanks and they destroyed them. I fired a 25mm gun, which is the main gun on the Bradley, at the dismounted antiaircraft gun and destroyed it."

The firefight lasted minutes. The Iraqi tanks and dismounted antiaircraft gun were destroyed. Knight remembers the smell of gunpowder from his Bradley and the constant chatter from the radio.

His unit stayed in contact with the enemy from that time until within 6-8 hours before the ceasefire which ended the ground assault. "We had one or two (skirmishes) a day, maybe one or two at night," he said.

But all the training in the world could hardly prepare him and his comrades for the Battle of Medina Ridge.

They pulled out and rolled up on a little hill, a ridge. When they got to the top, they saw 30-50 enemy vehicles anywhere from 1,200 to 1,800 meters in front of them.

"So without even thinking about it we all raised our launchers and fired at the same time," Knight said. They fired and reloaded, fired and reloaded, for the next several hours. Knight fired 21 TOW missiles, nearly two full loads, from his Bradley.

"I had never heard so many tank guns going off at the same time in my life, before or since," he said. "It was a pretty damn good fight."

About 4 p.m., they got the orders to move forward. They went down the ridge. And within 3-4 minutes, the vehicles found themselves in a minefield.

And then out of the trench came about 200 Iraqi soldiers, all seemingly armed with rocket propelled grenade launchers.

Knight's platoon leader's Bradley got hit first. Next another vehicle got hit. The third of the six Bradleys, Knight's vehicle, got hit next. This all happened within 5-10 minutes.

"I remember two brilliant flashes of light," he said. "I woke up and I remember the gun wasn't going off. The radios were silent."

Knight was injured. He had burns. A bullet had grazed the top of his head. He still has fragments in the right side of his body. He had glass in both eyes.

"I thought I was a dead man when that flash went off," he recalled. "I can't tell you how long I was out. I really can't. All I know is I woke up and my fingers were still squeezing the trigger. Nothing was happening."

He escaped his vehicle through a back door and fled on foot. He found his driver dead. He found the vehicle commander with his left leg blown off.

Knight got into one of the three surviving Bradleys. They pulled back into an aid station. He could hear the explosions from the ongoing firefight.

His war was over. He was evacuated to a hospital in Germany. After three days, the Army sent him back to his home station in Germany.

Knight, 44, served in the Army nearly 13 years, from November 1987 until September 2000, and left as a staff sergeant. He served at Fort Stewart, Ga., the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Polk. He is a logistics management specialist in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office. He and his wife, Angela, reside in Harvest. Their five children include daughters Jessica, 22, and Alexandra, 20, and sons Griffith, 18, Brandon, 11, and Griffin, 9.

"Two of them have already talked to me about joining (the military)," Knight said. "On the father side of me, I'm scared for them. On the other hand, I couldn't be more proud of them."

Heroes

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of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and three Purple Hearts. Blume has lived in the Huntsville area since 1994.

On Feb. 17, 1967, Cpl. Blume was assigned the mission of providing security for the withdrawal of an Underwater Demolition Team near Long Thank in Quang Ngai Province and he was wounded by an exploding booby trap while leading his squad on a search of the village. Disregarding his painful wound, Blume deployed his squad to provide cover for the withdrawing Demolition Team. After the team had successfully withdrawn, he was preparing to depart for his base camp when his squad came under automatic weapons and sniper fire from two different enemy positions. In the initial burst of enemy fire, the squad suffered one casualty and was temporarily pinned down. With complete disregard for his own safety, Blume moved among his men, moving them to more advantageous positions and directing their fire on the enemy while he marked targets with an M-79 Grenade Launcher. Calling for artillery support, he skillfully directed the artillery fire on the enemy while he withdrew his squad from the ambush area. His aggressive leadership and resolute courage while suffering from a painful wound, inspired his men, contributed to the unit's safe withdrawal and accounted for two confirmed and one probable enemy killed. For his heroic actions, Blume was award the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

Dennis Ross Lacy – Army, Army Commendation Medal with Valor. Lacy retired as a sergeant first class. He has been a resident of Madison County since 1990 and he resides in the Harvest community.

Spc. Lacy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on June 4, 1970 while serving as a member of a volunteer firefighting team. Following the penetration of the perimeter by a Viet Cong sapper force, the firefighting team assembled and quickly moved into an unsecured area where several buildings were burning uncontrollably. Lacy maneuvered himself into a most effective position and consistently obtained superior results while extinguishing the blaze. Without regard for his own well-being, and through diligence and determination he accomplished the mission. Due to Lacy's disregard for his own safety, heroic actions, exemplary performance under the most adverse conditions, and dedication to the preservation of lives and equipment he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

Kenneth Gene Trickey – Army, Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart. Tricky retired from the Army in 1996 as a sergeant first class. He lives in Madison and has been a resident of Madison County for 14 years. Trickey is employed with Dynamics Research Corporation as a contractor to the Army Aviation Branch on Redstone Arsenal.

Spc. Trickey distinguished himself by valorous actions Dec. 12, 1970 while engaged in a rescue mission. On that night a patrol had inadvertently entered an uncharted minefield in a dense fog, exploding one mine and suffering several casualties. Aware that one rescue helicopter had already returned unsuccessfully due to the extremely hazardous weather conditions, Trickey volunteered to participate in a second rescue effort, willing to risk his own life for the lives of the wounded men. Hovering in a dense fog above the minefield, the crew realized the continuous risk of detonating a mine or trip wire with their rescue efforts or the rotor wash of the helicopter. Although Trickey has never operated hoist equipment, he assisted in successfully lifting the remaining wounded man under the adverse conditions. Without any hesitation, he helped the wounded Soldier into the ship by leaning far out of the aircraft. For his heroic actions, Trickey was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

Win or**Lose**

Army Black Knights golf team finishes fall season

Photo from goARMYsports.com

Anthony Kim fires a two-under-par 69 at the Royals Oaks Intercollegiate.

DALLAS, Texas – Anthony Kim fired a two-under-par 69 and Matt Philie three-over 74 as the Army golf team completed its fall season Nov. 1 at the Royals Oaks Intercollegiate at Royals Oaks Country Club.

Army shots rounds of 301-306-311–918 at the par-71, 7,068-yard course and wrapped up the fall portion of its schedule with a 14-place finish in a field that featured nine ranked teams.

Texas A&M won the 14-team event, shooting an 830 to edge Duke by two strokes and Oklahoma by 15. Augusta State (848) and New Mexico (852) rounded out the top five as Texas A&M won the tournament for the third time in its four-year history.

M.J. Daffue of Lamar won the event with an 11-under-par 202, three strokes better than Texas A&M's Cameron Peck and Jordan Russell.

Kim opened his 54-hole tournament with his two-under-par round and then shot 73-74 to finish at 216 for the championship in a tie for 30th place.

Philie also had a strong first round, shooting a 74 before a pair of 77s gave him a 228 and tie for 72nd for the tournament.

William Park finished 75th after shooting scores of 76-78-80–234 while Robby Hill was 77nd after an 82-78-80 tournament.

Ethan Johnson shot an 84 in the first round and an 80 in the final round. His second round score was disqualified because he inadvertently signed for the wrong score.

"It was a great event," Army's second-year coach Brian Watts said. "It was an opportunity for us to compete with the best teams in the country. Unfortunately, we didn't manage our golf balls well. We have a lot of work to do in the offseason."

Results: Army team, 14th place, 301-306-311—918; Anthony Kim, tied for 30th, 69-73-74—216; Matt Philie, tied for 72nd, 74-77-77—228; William Park, 75th, 76-78-80—234; Robby Hill, 77th, 82-78-80—240; Ethan Johnson, 78th, 84-DQ-80—n/a. *(goARMYsports.com website)*

Auburn survives Georgia Bulldogs between hedges

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Skip's Picks were 350-107 for 77 percent after nine weeks of college football. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Auburn at Georgia – **Auburn**
Alabama at Mississippi St. – **Bama**
Houston at Tulane – **Houston**
Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech – **Va. Tech**
South Florida at Syracuse – **SF**
Michigan at Illinois – **Michigan**
West Virginia at Cincinnati – **WV**
Wake Forest at Clemson – **Clemson**
Miami (Fla.) at Florida St. – **FSU**
Florida at South Carolina – **USC**
Tennessee at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Michigan St. at Iowa – **Mich. St.**
Texas A&M at Kansas St. – **KSU**
Wisconsin at Minnesota – **Wisconsin**
Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech – **OSU**
Pittsburgh at Louisville – **Louisville**
Ohio St. at Purdue – **Ohio St.**
Texas at Missouri – **Texas**
Rice at Northwestern – **Rice**
W. Kentucky at LSU – **LSU**
Kentucky at Vanderbilt – **Vandy**
N. Carolina St. at Boston College – **BC**
Elon at Furman – **Furman**
Baylor at Kansas – **Baylor**
Wyoming at Air Force – **AF**
Jackson State at Alabama A&M – **A&M**
Arizona at Colorado – **Arizona**
Duke at Virginia – **Virginia**
Samford at The Citadel – **The Citadel**
Nebraska at Penn St. – **Nebraska**
Navy at SMU – **SMU**
TCU at Boise St. – **Boise St.**
Rutgers at Army – **Rutgers**
Washington at USC – **USC**
UCLA at Utah – **Utah**
Oregon St. at California – **Cal**
Louisiana Tech at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**
Maryland at Notre Dame – **ND**
Oregon at Stanford – **Stanford**
East Carolina at UTEP – **EC**
UCF at Southern Miss – **So. Miss**
Idaho at BYU – **BYU**
Arizona St. at Washington St. – **ASU**

Veterans honored for courage, sacrifice, duty

Memorial downtown dedicated in Veterans Day ceremony

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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Waterfalls – check. Statue – check. Black granite markers – check.

These days, retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet is making a list and checking it twice, ensuring that everything is in place and ready for Friday's dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the long anticipated Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville's Veterans Park.

"The waterfalls are flowing. The fountains are working. The black granite markers are in place. The flagpoles have been tested," Drolet said last week during a visit to the memorial.

"We're ready. All the VIPs have been invited. Sen. Jeff Sessions will be here. And we are expecting upwards of 500 people or more for an event that has been 10 years in the making."

From reviewing progress at the memorial site to inviting dignitaries to the ceremony to placing three different groups for three simultaneous ribbon cuttings, Drolet is coordinating what is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime event for veterans in Madison County and throughout North Alabama.

The dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. Friday. The program will include comments from U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, and Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. The 19th Alabama Volunteer Infantry Regiment and cadets from local JROTC programs will also participate. It will conclude with a ribbon cutting with members of veterans organizations cutting the Courage ribbon, wounded warriors and Gold Star families cutting the Sacrifice ribbon, and donors, local military and community leaders cutting the Duty ribbon.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, a board member of the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation, goes over the details of the veterans memorial dedication and ribbon cutting with Lt. Steve Watson of the Madison County Sheriff's Office and retired Brig. Gen. Larry Capps.

"Once it is open, we are hoping the memorial will be a centerpiece where people can reflect and a focal point to conduct veterans' ceremonies and national ceremonies, like the Fourth of July and Memorial Day. With the design and ambience I think we have achieved that," Drolet said.

The idea for the veterans memorial was born in 2001, when the traveling Vietnam Wall came to Huntsville.

"The reaction was so overwhelming to the Vietnam Wall," Drolet said. "Because of that, (veterans) Grayson Tate, Jim Rountree, Bill Stender and myself started talking about the need for a permanent memorial here where veterans could go to reflect on their service, and where others could learn about the sacrifice of our nation's military."

In its design, the memorial incorporates the theme of "Courage, Sacrifice, Duty." It consists of three walls and three waterfalls with granite markers signifying each of the nation's wars, two statues with one symbolizing Sacrifice and the other Courage, a water fountain in the center and the names of Madison County's recipients of the Medal of Honor engraved in the memorial.

Although the memorial will be dedicated Friday, it will not be 100 percent complete. A second ceremony is slated for Memorial Day 2012, when the statue Courage will be unveiled, and an eternal flame, time capsule of memorabilia from local veterans and an educational element will be added to the memorial.

"We've gotten the money from Boeing to develop the educational piece," Drolet said. "Our next step is to define the educational piece. We are thinking we will incorporate stations throughout the memorial where teachers can take their students and walk step-by-step through the memorial to learn about the history of our country and the sacrifices that have been made."

Drolet hopes that veterans, and their families and friends will be inspired and enriched by visiting the memorial, and that veterans and patriots from throughout the nation will make a special visit to Huntsville just to view the memorial. On Friday, veteran Everett Carter, who was one of the Soldiers who posed for the Sacrifice statue, will be at the ceremony along with seven for his comrades from the 101st Division who served with him in Vietnam. Also, family members of two local Medal of Honor recipients – the late Cecil Bolton of Huntsville, an Army officer in World War II; and the late Paul Luther Bolden of Madison, a Soldier in World War II – will be in attendance.

"We've created an atmosphere that is what we hoped for and what we had dreamed it would be," Drolet said. "This is an exciting time for our community."

Apache

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Some of the key upgrades to the Apache Block III include a more powerful engine and drive train, and composite rotor blades that provide more lift and will allow the aircraft to fly over any mountain in austere places like Afghanistan.

"The Block III brings back the power margins that crews had at roughly 3,000 or 4,000 pounds lighter gross weight than the Block II model," Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, Apache Block III product manager, said.

The aircraft had become heavier over the years when the Army added upgrades to the subsystems, making the pilot power margins more limited. "Now we'll be able to go to all those places where the enemy tends to hide from us," Bailey said.

Another key upgrade with the Apache Block III is its more advanced computer processing system called the Future Networked Force, which will ensure connectivity to the next generation of networked capabilities, making the aircraft viable and sustainable through 2030-40. Bailey explained that when the Block II aircraft was built in the 1990s, it was based off of older computer technology.

The Block III's open system architecture will allow the Army to put new subsystems onto the aircraft in a more efficient manner which means it will be faster, less expensive to maintain, and more flexible to integrate any additional new technologies. As the pilots learn and as the environment changes, the Army can adapt the aircraft to whatever enemy force they encounter.

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

White Mountain Apache tribe chairman Ronnie Lupe, center, gives the traditional Apache tribal blessing to the Army's first Apache Block III aircraft Nov. 2. With him are Ramon Riley, left, the spiritual leader, and Jerry Gloshay Jr., Lupe's executive assistant. Lupe, a Korean War veteran, conducted a prayer, followed by the "smudging" around the aircraft and concluding with two songs and a closing blessing.

"The Apache Block III is the leading edge today in terms of rotorcraft, and it's the most advanced attack helicopter in the world. We want to maintain that, and the only way we can is by resetting the aircraft from an architecture perspective," Bailey said.

The key enabler with the open system architecture is the ability of the Apache Block III to perform at Level 4 Interoperability with an unmanned aircraft system. This means that the pilot can now control the flight path, weapons systems and sensors on a UAS. "Only the Block III aircraft with its new computer processors and open architecture allows this to happen," Bailey said.

Lt. Col. Edward Vedder, commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Riley, Kan., said he is excited for his unit to be the first unit equipped with the Block III aircraft.

"This is a great capability that we're going to be able to deliver to the battlefield," Vedder said. "Right now somewhere far away, there's a group of Soldiers at a combat outpost that are scared, they're away from home, and we're going to be able to provide that comfort to them because they know when that Apache comes over the horizon, everything is going to be OK."

Training on the Apache Block III is scheduled to begin soon; and it will take some time to field the aircraft and train everyone in the unit.

"But we have a great program laid out ahead of us in coordination with PEO Aviation, Operational Test Command and Fort Riley," Vedder said. "They're going to come and train our Soldiers there at Fort Riley so they're going to be able to spend a little bit more time at home."

During his keynote remarks, Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, commander for the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, reflected on his own experiences as an Apache pilot who departed for Iraq during Desert Shield/Desert Storm the day his son was born and tasked to fly an aircraft that was not yet tested in battle.

"It was the A model Apache," Crutchfield said, describing its battlefield success. Following on that story and relating it to a more current war, he talked about a group of Marines who heard the unmistakable sound of the Apache helicopter and knew that they were going to be all right. "You are the Boeing Soldiers who help make that happen," he said.

Already ahead of schedule, to date the Army has inducted 29 aircraft under the Apache Block III program. Fielding of the Block III Apaches to the first unit is slated to begin in 2012, and the Initial Operational Test is planned for spring. The first unit will be fully equipped with the new Apache Block IIIs in fiscal 2013. Currently, the Army is approved for 51 AB3 aircraft under the low rate initial production.

The Apache Block III is fundamentally a re-manufacture program, taking existing Longbow Apaches, inducting them, taking them apart, upgrading and refurbishing components, and adding the new Block III specific capability insertions. The Army's acquisition objective stands at 690 Apache Block III aircraft with 634 remanufactures and 56 new builds.

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Sports&Recreation

Slot car racing

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

Basketball tournament

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

Bowling benefit

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

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Sergeants major

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

Men's ministry

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

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.

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.

Air Force association

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association will hold its fourth quarter meeting Dec. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the ground floor auditorium at 655 Discovery Drive in Huntsville. Lt. Col. William "Burke" Hare, chief of operations for the Flight Test Execution Directorate at the Missile Defense Agency, will provide a short presentation on the history of manned spaceflight. An AF Space and Missile Operations officer, Hare was recently honored as one of three inductees out of 60 nominees into the 2011 Hall of Fame Class at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The meeting is open to the public (AFA members and anyone interested in space travel). For more information, call Cathy Scott 503-8038, email cbscott76@yahoo.com or visit www.hsv-afa.org.

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.

Southern Miss alumni

Retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond will speak to the University of Southern Mississippi alumni associations and friends Nov. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The luncheon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in ballrooms 1 and 2. Cost will be $16 per adult and checks payable to USM North Alabama Alumni Association. Send by Saturday to Stacy A. Busby at 106 Rockingham Circle, Madison, AL 35756. For more information, email usmnov2011@busbyfamily.org. Hammond served as chief of staff for Forces Command. He also served as commander of the 4th Infantry Division and of the Multi-National Division in Baghdad, Iraq. He was a quarterback for the Golden Eagles from 1976-78. He joined in the Southern Miss athletic department in October 2010, and serves as the chief fund-raiser for the department.

Deployed workforce ceremony

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

Small business forum

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

Small business conference

NDIA 15th annual Small Business Conference is Nov. 16-17 at the Westin Huntsville. This features the Army Materiel Command small business enterprise. For more information, visit http://www.ndia-tvc.org/wpfallconf/.

Administrative professionals

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

Civil War round table

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

Industrial security pros

The Mid-South Chapter of the Society of Industrial Security Professionals will hold a Leadership Workshop on Nov. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at Dynetics, 1002 Explorer Boulevard in Research Park. This "Make a Difference Workshop" will be facilitated by scholar, author and entrepreneur Larry Little, Ph.D. NCMS member fee is $25; non-member $35. Register at http://ncmsmidsouthchapter.eventbrite.com/.

Intelligence association

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of National Military Intelligence Association will have its monthly noon luncheon Nov. 17 at SAIC, 6725 Odyssey Drive in Research Park. The scheduled speaker is Lobna "Luby" Ismail, founder and president of Connecting Cultures. The lunch cost is $15. To RSVP by noon Nov. 15, call Sandra O'Connor 865-481-2334 or email Sandra.M.OCONNOR@saic.com.

Food policy council

North Alabama Food Policy Council Steering Committee invites all to hear the

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latest research on sustainable irrigation techniques. Cameron Handyside of UAH's Earth System Science Center will give this free talk Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. at the City of Huntsville Engineering Building, 320 Fountain Circle. A brief meeting will follow the discussion. All are welcome. For more information, call Kathryn Strickland 655-8585 or email nafoodpol@gmail.com.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics Tennessee Valley Chapter will have a luncheon Nov. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The scheduled speaker is Col. Robert Sullivan, commander of the Logistics Support Activity. For more information, visit http://www.tvcsole.com.

Parkinson's support

Parkinson's Disease Support Group for patients, family members and caregivers will meet on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Willowbrook Baptist Church Youth Building (back entry), 7625 Bailey Cove Road. Sherry Kolodziejczak, director of therapy services at Crestwood Medical Center, will speak on "LSVT Big, a New Physical Therapy for Parkinson's." For more information, call Rono Prince 837-6577.

Reserve officers

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

Miscellaneous Items

Contracting workshop

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

Resumes for college students

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

Education test center

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

Ride needed

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

Fraternity's gala

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

Children's center

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

Understanding solicitations

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

Community assistance

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

Veterans' dinner

The Disciples Men of Madison Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will honor veterans with a free steak and baked potato dinner Friday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Madison Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1400 Hughes

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Road in Madison. All veterans and friends are welcome. Donations will be accepted.

Idol concert

American Idol singer Bo Bice will perform Nov. 18 at Club Xplosions, 3832 Highway 31 South in Decatur. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost $12 each or two tickets for $20. For more information, call 280-8163 or 274-2986. The club will have a free concert for all veterans this Saturday at 9 p.m., featuring recording artist Jeffery Smith.

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.

Benefit walk

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

Horse clinic

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

Von Braun exhibit

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

Motorcycle ride

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

Charity market

Delta Zeta Marketplace will be held Nov. 18-20 at the Von Braun Center South Hall. The marketplace, which raises funds for local charities, is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 18-19, and noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 20. The event has grown into a large specialty marketplace offering a wide variety of merchandise to include pottery, vintage jewelry, children's books, home décor items, purses, gourmet food and toys. New this year will be photos with Santa. Admission is $2, with children 12 and under free. For more information, call Anna Beach 842-6568 or visit the Delta Zeta website at www.deltazetamarketplace.com.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilley or Spc. John Hill 842-3032 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up is Nov. 15.

Gala benefit

The Parent Association of Pope John Paul II Catholic High invites guests to its 15th annual gala, "An Evening in Monte Carlo," Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Proceeds will be used to furnish the school with state-of-the-art technology and educational materials. Gala tickets are $75 per person and include a steak and chicken dinner, dessert and complimentary beer and wine. The evening's festivities include a live and silent auction. This year's grand prize is a 2011 Jeep Compass sponsored in part by Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep. Car raffle tickets are sold separately at $100 each; you need not be present to win. Event tickets and car raffle tickets can be purchased on the school's gala website at www.jp2gala.info or at the school, 7301 Old Madison Pike, Huntsville, 35806. Order forms may be printed from the website and mailed to the school address with payment. For more information, call 430-1760 or email jp2gala@gmail.com.

Commissary news

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

Art museum

Huntsville Museum of Art will have a closing

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ceremony for its World War II quilts display Sunday from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call Deborah Taylor 535-4350, ext. 217.

Social Security office

On Nov. 25 all Social Security field offices, including the Huntsville office, will be closed to the public. Employees who work the day after Thanksgiving will focus on backlog reduction. Members of the public can find many services and get up-to-date information online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Exchange's holiday hours

Here are the Exchange's holiday hours Friday for Veterans Day: Main Store, open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. … Alteration Shop, closed. … Barber Shop, closed. … Flower Shop, closed. … GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. … Laundry, closed. … Nail Shop, closed. … Firestone, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. … Shoppette, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. … Optical Store, closed. … Cinnabon, closed. … Anthony's Pizza/ Subs, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. … Charley's, closed. … Church's, closed. … American Eatery, closed. … Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. … Human Resources, closed.

Education week

American Education Week is Nov. 13-19. The Education Center will hold an open house Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 3222 on Snooper Road. This year the Army theme for the week is, "Army Continuing Education – Supporting Soldier and Family Readiness." For more information about the open house, call 876-9761, 876-3465, 842-9703 or visit the Education Center.

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" Yopliat 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.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop invites you to check out its "seasonal room" for Christmas gifts. The selection includes toys, decorations and evening wear for that holiday party. The shop is accepting seasonal consignments with a limit of three Christmas items per day. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or https://apdw.redstone.army.mil. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Homes tour

The Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association presents "The Spirit of Christmas Past" homes tour Dec. 10 from 5-9 p.m. on Franklin Street in the historic Twickenham District. "Come for an evening of nostalgia, featuring luminaries, caroling, chimes, music, live entertainment and our tour of homes," a prepared release said. Advance homes tour tickets are $15 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Marie's Hallmark, 716 Pratt Ave.; Railroad Station Antiques, 315 Jefferson St. north; Hartlex Antiques & Interiors, 181 Hughes Road, Madison; First United Methodist Bookstore and The Weeden House Museum, 300 Gates Ave. The evening of the tour, tickets will be available at each home. For more information, call Julia Wynn King 534-0429 or The Weeden House Museum 536-7718.

Luminary celebration

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

Tax assistance center

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

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Out of this world

Redstone Arsenal workers who had fun dressing up for Halloween include, from left, Joyce Adams, Kathy Cobb and Kimberly Rutkowski, members of the Marshall Space Flight Center Security Office.