

Redstone Rocket

WWW.THEREDSTONEROCKET.COM

October 5, 2011

Vol. 60 No. 28

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Sounding alarm for fire safety



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Fire fighters Doug Jones, left, and Terry Hamm reload a hose after a fire call on Redstone Arsenal.

Annual prevention week sparks threat awareness

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

It's been said that Redstone Arsenal is much like a small city with amenities and services that support a work force, residential families and visitors.

And with a small city comes all the challenges of keeping its communities and its people safe.

So, when Fire Prevention Week rolls around each year, Redstone Fire and



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Firefighters Doug Jones, left, and Lay Doss check the hose settings for a fire truck at the Vincent Drive Fire Station. The firefighters will take fire trucks out to the Child Development Centers and other sites next week as part of fire safety educational efforts during Fire Prevention Week.

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

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Capt. Tray Watts, left, and firefighter Doug Jones inspect fire truck inventory at the Vincent Drive Fire Station. Arsenal firefighters respond to fires involving all types of facilities, from the installation's business complexes and airfield to recreational areas and one-unit family homes.

Emergency Services focuses its educational push on the entire gamut of fire safety issues related to the workplace as well as to

See Safety on page 23



Army scraps vehicle decal requirement for access

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
For the Rocket

Installation motor vehicle registration and the display of vehicle decal are no longer required for Redstone Arsenal access.

The rules for proper identification have not changed. All current forms of identification are still required to access the post, according to Team Redstone officials.

The Arsenal's action aligns with a recent All Army Activities message from the Department of the Army's G-3, Operations section in the Pentagon. That message canceled the requirement for motor vehicle

registration and the display of decals in order to access Army installations.

"Consistent with that policy change, we will no longer register vehicles or issue decals at Redstone Arsenal," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said. "All privately owned vehicles must be licensed and insured in accordance with state and local laws. Rental vehicles are considered private vehicles for purposes of installation access, with the rental contract serving as license and insurance compliance."

Officials also noted that existing vehicle decals may continue to be displayed

until the expiration date specified on the decal. Expired decals not removed by the vehicle owner will be removed by security personnel when entering the installation.

Based on unique security considerations, some Army and other service installations will continue to require vehicle registration. Registration for access to those installations must be conducted at those sites and will not be supported by Redstone Arsenal.

Questions pertaining to this change may be directed to the Redstone Arsenal Physical Security Division at 876-0766.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grassroots conference addresses quality of life.

PAGE 4



HAIL AND FAREWELL

Army Security Assistance Command's new leader is from military family.

PAGE 10

HELPING HANDS

Perennial giver remembers days before Combined Federal Campaign.

PAGE 26

WIN OR LOSE

Links golf course reopens nine holes with new greens.

PAGE 32



RocketViews

What do you do to prevent fires?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Michael Williams
Sparkman Management Security
“At home I don’t leave lit candles. They will burn your house down. I don’t store gasoline, chemicals and all that together. I keep a fire extinguisher close by.”



John Lively
Retiring from Cargo Helicopters Project Office
“When we leave the house, I make sure the ceiling fans are off, that we don’t have any electrical appliances running. Make sure we don’t have any newspapers piled

up in the house. I make sure I don’t have vents covered. I make sure I check my cords on my lamps and appliances – make sure they’re not frayed. I do that every three or four months.”



Emily Shoupe
Army Corps of Engineers Real Estate Field Office
“Monitor what I’m cooking. Keep baking soda in the house so if something does come up I can keep it from getting out of hand. I was cooking tortillas in my toaster, and some of the

tortilla fell through the grate onto the heating element. And I had stepped outside and when I came back in I had a fire. I unplugged the toaster and got a small glass of water and put it out. So now I keep baking soda nearby. It was pretty dramatic.”



Johnetta Graves
SMDC/ARSTRAT Equal Employment Opportunity Office
“I make sure that clutter and debris is taken care of. And I also do annual inspections in my house. And at work I’m the safety monitor for my office. And I ensure that the office is safe from all fire hazards.”

Letters to the editor

Don’t watch domestic abuse from sidelines

In outlining his 10 “Top Priorities” (April 11), Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh said “The most important thing we do is take care of Soldiers, civilians and families.” Domestic abuse prevention is a key piece of this objective. Army leaders are committed to effective prevention by creating a climate of safety and respect and emphasizing the negative effects domestic abuse has on family readiness.

Don’t think that the negative effects of domestic abuse only have an impact on the individuals involved. The impact reaches the entire family, the unit, the command and the entire Army community on and off the installation. Domestic abuse undermines the Army’s core values.

Those values clearly delineate that domestic abuse is unacceptable.

The resources to prevent domestic abuse are at your disposal:

- Strengthen your own relationships.
- Reach out to struggling servicemembers and family members.
- Encourage others to get involved in available prevention classes and programs to improve and sustain resiliency.

The resources to intervene in domestic abuse are also at your disposal:

- If you or someone in your family is involved in an abusive situation, get help.
- If you are a Soldier or a DA civilian or a contractor who wants to make a difference, know your reporting point of contact and referral sources.

• If you are a neighbor or friend of a family who is experiencing the problem, encourage them to call the Family Advocacy Program, 876-5397, law enforcement or Crisis Services of North Alabama, 716-1000.

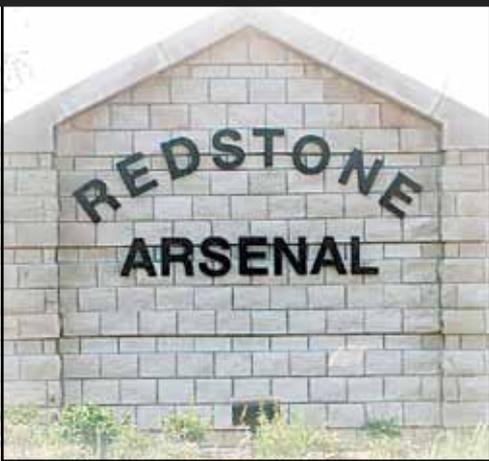
It is up to all of us to take part. There are no bystanders when it comes to domestic abuse. Every year, October is designated as Domestic Abuse Prevention Month in the Army, and Domestic Violence Prevention Month throughout the United States. Here at Redstone Arsenal we are in full support of the secretary of the Army’s call to duty.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers
Redstone Arsenal senior commander

File photo

Traffic advisory

Beginning Monday, Oct. 10, there will be a traffic pattern change at Gate 7, Martin Road west. This is a holiday, so traffic will be affected Oct. 11. Outbound traffic will shift to the south as construction begins on the new ID checkpoint, canopy and gatehouse for the guards. Construction crews will begin this work over the Columbus Day holiday weekend and will complete the new traffic pattern by Monday. The inbound and outbound lane capacity will remain the same, according to the Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works. Drivers are advised to stay alert to the traffic pattern change, and abide by the posted 25 mph speed limit.



Quote of the Week

‘Don’t let your dreams go up in smoke – practice fire safety.’
— Author unknown

Here’s an idea for Army entertainment competition

As I watched Fox and Friends the other day, I saw where an Air Force rock band from an Air Guard or Air Reserve organization had made a big splash on YouTube and was brought to New York to appear on the show. An idea occurred to me: Why doesn’t Redstone Arsenal, home of the AMC Band, host an Army scaled down version of American Idol?

You would invite commands to send representatives who would compete in a one show competition, supported by the AMC Band and judged by the audience and/or celebrities from Nashville or elsewhere.

Sometime ago I sat in the Bob Jones Auditorium and listened to AMC Band member Staff Sgt. Renatta America sing and thought that she could be a contender for the real AI show. Perhaps the winner of the Army AI could (with a deal worked through Channel 54) get an audition with the network show.

If this program got deserved media recognition, it could be a boon to Army recruiting, FMWR and Redstone/Huntsville in general.

Tom Chaffee
TMDE Activity

RedstoneRocket

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

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

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

Email: skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

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

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

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

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression of the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

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

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office.

Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, under exclusive written contract with the Department of Army. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

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

Getting to know you

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

Name: Cyrus Jones

Job: Deputy fire chief, Garrison Directorate of Emergency Services

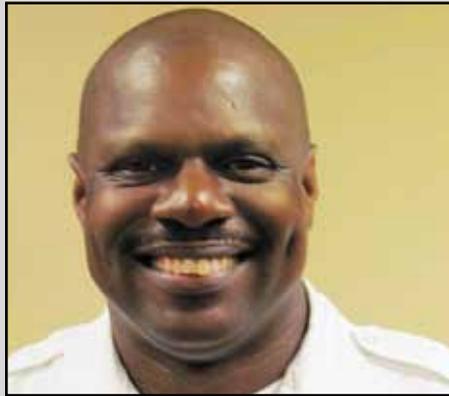
Where do you call home?
Huntsville born and raised.

What do you like about your job?

I like having the opportunity to serve – to serve the Soldiers, the Redstone Arsenal community. And to also have the opportunity to mentor the up and coming firefighters, the junior officers and senior officers. I like also being able to do training with the other organizations on the installation. And all aspects of just being a firefighter. I like just being able to come to work to always look forward to something different. There's always something going on. Things change from one day to the next. And I like having the opportunity to solve problems.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to travel. I like to see new places. I like to travel and go places I haven't



gone before. And I like to spend time with family members. I enjoy getting out to different local sporting events.

What are your goals?

I recently retired from the Air Force Reserves with 23 years service. Now my goal is to retire from civil service and see my daughter (Leyanda, 13) graduate from high school and college. And now get out and see some of the places that I haven't gone before.

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

I'd like to go to South Africa. I'd like to go to Spain. And get back to Guam.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 22-28:

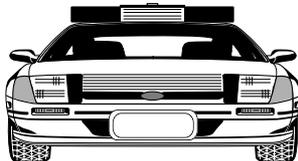
Sept. 22: A civilian received a violation notice for driving with a suspended license at Gate 10.

Sept. 23: A Madison civilian drove his vehicle off the roadway and damaged the Zierdt Road perimeter fence.

Sept. 23: A contractor received a violation notice for a suspended driver's license at the Ride-out Road Visitor Center.

Sept. 23: When Redstone Police stopped a contractor for speeding on Redstone Road, he refused to remain in his vehicle. He continued to walk toward the officer in a threatening manner after several warnings to stop. Additional police arrived and he received violation notices for speeding, no insurance and menacing.

Sept. 23: A contractor lost control of his vehicle and drove through a guard rail coming to rest in a ditch.



During the investigation, police found non-prescribed drugs in his vehicle. He was charged with DUI and possession of a controlled substance.

Sept. 27: When a civilian driver approached Gate 9, he was driving with no insurance and an expired license plate. During the investigation, Redstone Police found a box containing suspected marijuana in the vehicle. He received three violation notices.

Sept. 28: During an inventory of a Soldier's room, a sergeant found suspected drug paraphernalia.

Traffic accidents reported: Three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 47 speeding, 2 suspended driver's license, 10 failure to obey traffic control device, 5 no proof of insurance, 1 failure to maintain control, 4 parking, 1 no driver's license, 2 expired tag, 2 controlled substance violations, 1 driving under the influence.

Former AMC leaders return, share wisdom

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

Centuries of military experience gathered at the Army Materiel Command headquarters for the AMC Former Commanders Conference, Sept. 28-29.

Nine retired four- and three-star generals traveled to Huntsville to share wisdom and solutions with AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody and the principal staff.

The conference included a tour of the AMC facility, round table discussions and oral history interviews to document AMC's nearly 50-year legacy of supporting the war fighter.

During historical interviews, the retired general officers reflected on major organizational changes implemented during their tenure, challenges, accomplishments, and offered words of wisdom to the current work force.

Attendees included: retired Gen. Benjamin Griffin (November 2004 to November 2008), retired Gen. Paul Kern (October 2001 to November 2004), retired Gen. John Coburn (May 1999 to October 2001), retired Gen. Johnnie Wilson (March 1996 to May 1999), retired Gen. Leon Salomon



Photo by Doug Brewster

Nine retired four- and three-star generals traveled to Huntsville to share wisdom and solutions with AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody and the principal staff. Standing, from left, are retired Gen. Johnnie Wilson, retired Gen. Paul Kern, Dunwoody, retired Gen. (ret.) Benjamin Griffin and retired Gen. John Coburn. Seated are retired Gen. John R. Deane, retired Gen. Louis Wagner, retired Gen. Leon Salomon, retired Gen. William Tuttle Jr. and retired Lt. Gen. George Sammet Jr.

(February 1994 to March 1996), retired Gen. William Tuttle Jr. (September 1989 to January 1992), retired Gen. Louis Wagner (April 1987 to September 1989), retired Lt. Gen. George Sammet Jr. (February 1977 to May 1977) and retired Gen. John R. Deane (February 1975 to January 1977).



Photo by Carrie E. David

Top visitor

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commanding general of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, greets Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody at the SMDC/ARSTRAT's headquarters Sept. 27. With AMC's recent move to Redstone Arsenal as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, Dunwoody visited the command to learn about its mission and receive a tour.

Redstone takes action on quality of life

Annual conference addresses issues from throughout post

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

Diversity. That's what Carie Green wants to see around the table when members of the Redstone Arsenal community come together to discuss issues during this year's Army Family Action Plan conference.

But that diversity is not limited to race, gender or religious affiliation.

It also has to do with employment status – civilian, contractor, retiree and military – and tenant representation.

"Every time we put the word Army or Army family in front of anything, people in their minds begin to picture a Soldier and their family," Green said.

"At Redstone, we are so much more diverse. We're not just Army Soldiers and their families. We have to think broader to include civilian families, contractor families and retiree families. The Army family is anyone who works for the military or who is supported by the Army. If you are a tenant, then you are part of the Army family. And because Redstone is so diverse with so many tenants, we want to make sure the conference represents the diversity of the employers here."

The Army Family Action Plan is the Army's grassroots process to identify and elevate to senior leaders the most significant quality of life issues impacting Soldiers, retirees, Army civilians and military-related families. Information provided through the AFAP process gives commanders and leaders insight into quality of life issues that need to be addressed and improved.

As the quality of life program manager for Army Community Service, Green is coordinating Redstone's annual Army Family Action Plan conference set for Oct. 26-27 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The key to a good conference is having a group of 50 delegates whose diversity represents all tenants and walks of life of the Arsenal community, and who are willing to study and discuss quality of life issues.

"We want the diversity of the community at this conference," Green said. "We want representatives from active duty, retirees, civilians, spouses, single servicemembers and other aspects of life because things affect or impact each of these groups differently based on the category they fall in."

Anyone can volunteer to be a delegate for the Army Family Action Plan conference. But if they are employed by a Red-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Army Community Service's Carie Green, who will coordinate this year's Army Family Action Plan conference, talks about the results of last year's AFAP. She hopes this year's conference will reflect the growing diversity in tenants at Redstone Arsenal. The conference is Oct. 26-27.

stone tenant, they must have approval of their senior leadership to be involved in the conference, Green said. While many of the conference delegates will volunteer on their own, others will also be chosen to volunteer by Arsenal tenants.

AFAP conferences are held every year at all Army installations. Issues identified at these conferences are first addressed locally by installation leadership. Issues that need attention throughout the Army are recommended for review, discussion and action at the annual Armywide AFAP conference.

"The Army is the only branch that has a process like AFAP," Green said. "Since it started in 1983, 683 issues have been addressed by the AFAP process. This is Redstone's 23rd year to participate in AFAP."

"AFAP at Redstone is all about improving the quality of life here. Ninety percent of the issue that come up at our conference can be resolved locally. We want to make sure we are providing the types of services that this community needs. Even though most people work here and then live off post, they are still spending the majority of their time here, and we want to make sure we provide them with what they need while on post."

Besides volunteers, Green also needs Redstone community members to submit quality of life issues for consideration. These issues can be submitted through the survey in today's *Redstone Rocket* on page 18, and also online at <https://www.survey->

[monkey.com/s/AFAPConferenceSurvey](https://www.survey-monkey.com/s/AFAPConferenceSurvey).

"If you use the programs and services and facilities on Redstone Arsenal, then you can be a part of AFAP by telling us about them. If you use them, then why not be a part of shaping them and making them work for you and your family? If you don't ever voice a concern, how will we know what the problem is? Speak up and have a voice," Green said.

"What is it you don't like? What would you like? What would make things better? If you don't voice your most pressing concerns, then do you have a right to complain?"

Redstone community members can use the survey to make suggestions on how to resolve quality of life issues. They can also submit comments on aspects of Redstone's quality of life that they enjoy and appreciate.

"The Garrison doesn't have the money to provide every single service," Green said. "So, we want to know about the programs and services that you really use and benefit from. Programs and services will go away if they aren't used or if people don't realize they exist."

"On Redstone, the Garrison spends a lot of money to improved quality of life. The only way the Garrison can determine if they are spending money in the right areas is if people who utilize those programs or services or facilities tell us what they like. They want to put money into things people will use."

During the first day of the AFAP conference, delegates will review recent and ongoing changes at Redstone. They will then be split into three groups – benefits and entitlements, consumer services and medical/dental – to discuss issues touching on such topics as education, housing, retirement benefits, military and civilian pay, safety, security and fitness. The groups will spend the rest of the conference reviewing issues and determining the top two issues that they will present to Redstone senior leadership at the conclusion of the conference. During their group discussions, delegates will hear from subject matter experts on the issues being discussed.

"The groups will choose their two issues. They will define them, explain their scope and then make recommendations that must be reasonable and attainable," Green said. "Senior leaders and the AFAP Steering Committee will look at those issues and recommendations and decide what the installation can do towards resolution. If it is a 'big Army' issue or something that can't be resolved at the installation level, then the senior leadership will send it through the national AFAP process."

Although AFAP is an Army process, several of the issues addressed by AFAP over the years have also been given attention at the Department of Defense level, making the Army's AFAP a pacesetter for other military branches.

"When an issue goes through the Army, it is likely that same issue affects military families in other branches of service," Green said. "The Department of Defense will see how the Army has handled and resolved that issue, and if it makes sense to them they will instigate what we have done across the board to all branches. So, what we do in the Army with AFAP can have a positive effect on members of other military branches as well."

Locally, Green said she wants to encourage this year's delegates to take back to the workplace and to the community as a whole the things they learned by being part of the AFAP process.

"They need to take the message back with them," she said. "We want to educate the work force about AFAP."

"They should take away with them the process and the issues, and share those with others so that we all know how quality of life issues are brought to the attention of senior leadership, and are resolved here at Redstone and throughout the Army. The community needs to know that senior leadership is addressing the issues that are important to them. The goal is to make things better. It is always to improve."

See Survey on page 18

Military retirees hear about national debt

Congressman warns of future cuts during Retiree Appreciation Day

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

The message was there, even if it wasn't quite easy to understand and accept.

Federal retiree benefits including health insurance and retirement pay are all tied to the federal budget and, with rising national debt, those benefits are just at much threatened with cuts as any other federal program, said one of North Alabama's congressmen.

"Everything is inter-related. Our budget is under distress. ... The greatest threat to our national security is our national debt," U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks said. "If we don't have the money, everything is at a threat, Tricare and retirement among them. The national defense and the obligations we have to those who have served our nation ought to be the last areas we cut."

Speaking to military retirees at the 40th annual Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday at Bob Jones Auditorium, Brooks was a major invitee on the agenda. Other speakers included representatives of the Military Officers Association of America, Fox Army Health Center, Tricare-South Region, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Department of Veterans Affairs and Redstone Arsenal Legal Assistance Office.

The freshman congressman told his audience that the U.S. and its citizens must move closer to the principles of the nation's founding fathers to find the answers to the nation's financial issues.

"Americans have been blessed. For six decades, we have truly been the greatest nation," he said. "Our foundation is

See Retirees on page 8



Photo by Kari Hawkins

U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks makes a point about the national budget crisis during his presentation to military retirees at the Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Tanisha Hickman of Tricare shares information with Army retiree David Petree at a vendor table set up outside Bob Jones Auditorium. Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday included several vendors who provided information and giveaways for retirees, a lunch and dinner, and several speakers sharing information on retiree benefits and services.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cpl. Sarah McCue of Fox Army Health Center takes a bone density screening from the bottom of Tina Klein's foot during the Retiree Appreciation Day health fair Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club.

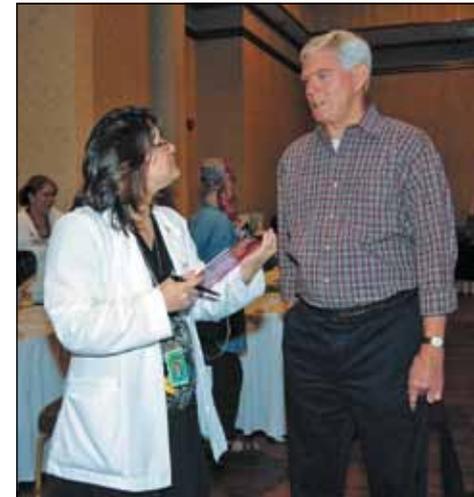


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mary Bouldin, a nurse with the Wellness Clinic at Fox Army Health Center, discusses screenings with retiree Donald Woodard during the Retiree Appreciation Day health fair Friday.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Lt. Col. Arno Hoerle provides Maj. Carla Peters of Legal Services with information about membership in the Military Officers Association of America.

Retirees

continued from page 6

economic freedom, ideas, principles and economic wealth. For years, we have enjoyed tremendous wealth, tremendous prosperity and tremendous influence on world affairs.

“We have been the world’s greatest superpower because of what’s in our Constitution and because of the brilliance of our forefathers.”

But the national debt could have a neg-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Jennifer Golden of Redstone Communities welcomes visitors to her vendor table outside Bob Jones Auditorium to put their names in a drawing and to obtain information on Redstone Arsenal’s housing services. Drawings for giveaways were a major attraction at several vendor tables.

ative effect on the U.S. for years to come.

“If we don’t correct the path we’re on, then our retirement pay, Tricare, roads and streets, FBI, CIA, national debt, everything is at risk. ... It really is dire. It’s the worst financial situation our country has experienced in my lifetime,” he said.

Retirees began Saturday with a breakfast buffet at the Sparkman Center followed by a vendor fair in the hall outside Bob Jones Auditorium. The fair featured exhibits from Tricare, the Military Offi-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

One feature of the Retiree Appreciation Day health fair Friday was the drive-through flu shot program at the Overlook. Enjoying this added benefit to the day is retiree Frederick Bisch, center, who was driven from the Officers and Civilians Club by volunteer Ed Banville so that Michelle-Renee Woods, a nurse with the Alabama Department of Public Health, could administer his flu shot.

cers Association of America and several retiree groups.

“This is a big deal to us,” Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers told the retirees in his welcoming remarks

Saturday. “There’s a lot of time and effort that the Garrison puts out for this. I want to tell you how important you all are to the foundation of our country and that’s not a small statement.”

Young students learn acceptance of new classmates

Peer program to ease transition for military family members

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Imagine you are Alex Jones, a seventh-grader who loves P.E., playing the cello, soccer and lacrosse. Your parents are in the military so you're moving to a new school in January where you don't know anyone. You have so many things to worry about from new classes, teachers, finding your way around, to having someone to eat lunch with.

This was the scenario given to middle school students participating in Junior Student 2 Student training at the Center for Technology on Sept 26-27. Eight local middle schools sent six students along with two faculty members each, to be trained in how to integrate military children into their new school.

The students learned how to understand the needs of a new student so they can help them better, said Bar-

Photo by Megan Cotton

Alexis Endres, a seventh-grader from Sparkman Middle School, pretends to be a new student, while Sparkman eighth-grader Misha Ashley demonstrates the skills she learned for accepting new students. Every school preformed a different skit with examples of how they would reach out to new students.

bara Williams, the schools liaison for the Garrison.

"They've learned to identify what a new student would need to know such as the layout of the school, different courses, friends to eat lunch with, extracurricular," Williams said. "They've also learned how to make them feel comfortable and help them to relax so they can quickly transition.

"Each month they will have activities together for the newcomers so they can all get to know each other."

The program is sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition to establish and sustain peer-based groups in each school to help military children transition from school to school.

See Peers on page 17



Hail and Farewell

New commander happy to join the USASAC family

Turner arrives here from Saudi Arabia

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

This product of a military family says he's happy with his newest affiliation.

Maj. Gen. Del Turner has become the commander of the Army Security Assistance Command. On Friday he succeeded Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker, who retired after 32 years of service.

All four of the Turner brothers graduated from West Point; and their father was also in the Army. Two of the brothers are retired and two, including Turner, are still active.

"I'm very honored to be here," Turner said. "It's a great opportunity. I look forward to joining the USASAC team and the USASAC family."

He served as the program manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program, a USASAC subordinate command, from August



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Maj. Gen. Del Turner is the new commander of the Army Security Assistance Command, which manages foreign military sales.

2009 until this assignment.

"It's a great honor," he said of assuming command here. "It's a very important command in what is a growth business, a growth area, in the Army and actually across DoD. It's very important at this



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Maj. Gen. Del Turner accepts the USASAC colors from Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody during Friday's change of command ceremony.

time in that foreign military sales is growing through the roof."

USASAC, which has a motto "the Army's face to the world," manages foreign military sales, a program that has grown by billions of dollars in the past four or

five years.

"My message to the (USASAC) work force is that they really represent the United States and our values. It's more than just the Army's face to the world," Turner said. "Obviously they're doing a very good job at it."

He commanded the Army's Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., from 2006-08. In that capacity, he sometimes visited the Redstone Test Center and said he was impressed with its dedicated work force.

In managing foreign military sales, USASAC represents the Army and the Army Materiel Command to 155 nations around the world.

USASAC worldwide has 855 people, including 584 civilians, 199 military and 72 contractor employees. Stateside this includes the Redstone headquarters, New Cumberland, Pa., Fort Belvoir, Va., and the Security Assistance

See Commander on page 17

Lowman takes reins of contracting command

The Army Contracting Command welcomed a new leader Sept. 27 during a change of responsibility ceremony.

Carol Lowman succeeded Jeffrey Parsons as the ACC executive director.

Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody officiated the ceremony. She welcomed Lowman in front of nearly 300 attendees at the ACC campus at 3334A on Wells Road.

The event included pre-ceremonial

music by the Army Materiel Command brass quartet, an invocation by ACC chaplain Lt. Col. Charles Fields, and the traditional passing of the command flag.

Parsons served as ACC's leader since the command was activated in March 2008.

After speaking very highly of Parsons, Dunwoody continued to say that the command "couldn't have asked for a better successor. She's been there through-

out the journey with Mr. Parsons and knows what it takes to run a global enterprise. She is the right kind of leader who puts people first."

Lowman has served as ACC's deputy director since November 2009.

"It is such an honor to be trusted to lead our amazing folks," Lowman said. "They are an important part of generating the force and impacting their way of life."

See Contracting on page 29



Photos by Lt. Col. Martha Brooks/ECC PAO

Contracting sendoff

Jeff Parsons, outgoing executive director of the Army Contracting Command, receives an honorary Expeditionary Contracting Command Contingency Contracting Officer Award from ECC commander Brig. Gen. Joe Bass on Sept. 21. The presentation was made after Parsons' final walk-through of the command.



Courtesy photo

Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody transfers the Army Contracting Command's colors to incoming executive director Dr. Carol Lowman

Army executive sees Redstone as critical asset to nation

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

A top Pentagon official visited last week but it wasn't her first time at Redstone Arsenal.

Amanda Simpson was appointed in July as special assistant to the Army acquisition executive. In her previous assignment, she was the senior technical adviser to the under secretary of commerce for industry and security. Prior to her government appointments, she was the deputy director for force protection in the advanced missiles and unmanned systems product line at Raytheon Company Missile Systems in Tucson, Ariz.

"Actually as a contractor I've made many trips out here over the last several decades," Simpson, who arrived Sept. 26, said.

During a stopover Sept. 28 at the Software Engineering Directorate, she was asked her impressions of Redstone Arsenal.

"The capabilities that we have at Redstone, whether they be in the facilities



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Amanda Simpson, special assistant to the Army acquisition executive, talks with Charles Lind, chief of staff in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, while visiting the Software Engineering Directorate.

or personnel, are critical and we need to grow them for our national defense," Simpson said. "Redstone is a critical asset."



Courtesy photo

Officer honoree

Lt. Col. Joey Smith is deployed with the Defense Contract Management Agency in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and U.S. Forces, Afghanistan. During his R&R, DCMA hosted a ceremony Friday honoring his promotion from major. The ceremony was presided by Col. Jeffery Gabbert, chief of staff of the Army Contracting Command. The invocation was given by Lorraine Edwards-Parham, chief of the Contracts Group. The narrator was Maj. Renie' Bright, administrative contracting officer, Army Reserve. Smith is joined at the ceremony by his wife, Christy, and their sons, Thomas and James.

PEO Aviation wins defense performance award

By MARK GAJDA

Office of Secretary of Defense

Performance-Based Logistics is the Department of Defense strategy to improve weapon system readiness by obtaining life cycle product support of weapon systems, subsystems, and components as an integrated package based on output measures, such as materiel availability, materiel reliability, and reduced ownership cost.

The Secretary of Defense PBS Awards recognize the government/industry teams that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in providing war fighters with exceptional operational capability through PBL agreements and are examples of “Better Buying Power” in action.

Officials received 2011 PBL award nomination packages from the services and the Missile Defense Agency, and evaluations were conducted by a team of representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Acquisition University, and the Aerospace Industries Association.

Award winners are as follows:

- System Level Award: Joint STARS Total System Support Responsibility Team/Northrop Grumman – Air



File photo

Apache AH-64D Sensors is among the recipients of the 2011 Performance-Based Logistics awards from the Department of Defense.

Force, C2ISR Aerospace Sustainment Directorate/Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

- Subsystem Level Award: AH-64D Apache Sensors/Lockheed Martin – Army, Program Executive Office for Avi-

ation/Apache Project Office.

- Component Level Award: Tire Performance-Based Logistics Team/Michelin Aircraft Tire Company – Navy, Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support (formerly known as

Naval Inventory Control Point).

- Sub-System Level Award – AH-64D Apache Sensors. The AH-64 Sensor Performance Based Logistics Program is recognized for supporting the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor used on the AH-64 Apache Helicopter. This Apache Sensor PBL, which is on contract with Lockheed Martin, has demonstrated a comprehensive solution that is credited with maintaining fleet mission capability (100 percent), improved reliability/maintainability (100 percent MTBF increase July 2010 to present) and reducing sustainment costs with innovative supply concepts (\$7 million in cost avoidance since July 2010).

“Apache Sensors Performance Based Logistics is truly a model for how we can do business. It provides balanced, cost-effective and timely support to our Soldiers here in the states and OCONUS,” Lt. Col. Steven Van Riper, product manager for Apache Sensors, said. “The Apache Logistics Team (both government and industry partners) works hard every day to make the PBL effort a success. I am absolutely thrilled that their accomplishments have been recognized at the DA level.”

Right equipment in right place at right time

Army Materiel Command simplifies distribution

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

Receiving equipment on time is now easier with the Army Materiel Command refining the Lead Materiel Integration process.

On Feb. 15, 2012, the Army Sustainment Command, a major subordinate command of AMC, will begin integration into training schedules and filling equipment shortages.

Units previously had to coordinate with multiple Army organizations to determine how to fill equipment shortages for training and deployment.

“Commanders will have better visibility of where the equipment is and we should be able to fill their gaps a lot sooner,” Terrence Wilson, deputy deployment director and Lean Six Sigma team lead, said. “The overall goal of the LMI is sending the right equipment to the right place at the right time. By having overall visibility of the process and having the process mapped out, you have the ability to make intelligent decisions to accurately equip the Soldier. This reduces excesses in one place and shortages in the other. That’s the goal of the LMI.

“For the Soldier, it is tough to train on equipment you don’t have. It is my goal to make sure that your commander not only understands the equipment that he



An ammunition specialist marks ammunition as complete at the Lake City Army Ammunition plant.

Courtesy photo

has, understands when the new equipment is coming so this way he can better prepare you and better build out his training plan.”

The process begins when Forces Command identifies equipment needs. Those needs are then sent to AMC to fill shortages.

“My branch provides sourcing solutions to units in the field who have equipment shortages for whatever reason,” Maj. Christopher Aker, chief of the materiel integration branch, said. “Whether the equipment is needed due to battle loss or they pull it into the Reset program, if the unit needs equipment they come to us for a sourcing solutions.”

Aker explained sourcing solutions will integrate into the requesting unit’s training system to ensure the equipment is available when the unit has the personnel to handle and train with it. The integration branch works directly with AMC’s life cycle management commands to provide equipment

to the unit.

AMC’s life cycle management commands include the Aviation and Missile Command, Communications-Electronics Command, Joint Munitions and Lethality Command and TACOM.

“It’s efficiency, it’s reducing redundancy throughout the Army,” Aker said. “The Army is attempting to insert efficiency into the program to speed up the process of getting equipment into the hand of the Soldier.”

Special Forces veterans form special bond

Association provides community support

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

For Carl Riester and Robert Parker, it is a bond that cannot be broken.

It's not simply the fact that both of them are veterans, or even that they served in the Army, but even more specific than that – they both served in the Special Forces.

“We share a unique camaraderie, based on what we've been through and our shared experiences,” Riester said. “We are both mentally and viscerally tough. It's like we've all been there, so we have that background of commonality. It's a tough entrance exam, but once you get through you have something in common that you can share.”

It's an entrance exam that not only gives Soldiers specialized training for the fight, but also grants access to the Special Forces Association Chapter 92, the Col. Ola Lee Mize Medal of Honor Chapter, in North

Alabama. Membership is open to those who are serving, or have served in the Army Special Forces. Meetings are held quarterly, half in Huntsville, the other half in Rainbow City, to accommodate members that live across North Alabama.

Around 50 members meet to socialize, share stories and work together to help better their community, whether it be raising money for Army Emergency Relief, attending the funeral of a Special Forces Soldier, or simply helping out a retiree or grieving widow in need.

“The community should know that we're among them, we support them,” said Riester, chapter president. “They can reach out for help if they need something. We're here and we can help.”

One of 85 chapters, nearly 10,000 members are located across the United States and eight countries across the world. As a non-profit veteran service organization, the call for members to reach out to those in their community and to serve as a voice for the Special Forces community is as natural as the call to serve

their country.

“It's something that's internal,” said Parker, chapter secretary. “It's something that you feel inside. No matter what we do in our other jobs or other parts of our life, if anything came up with Carl, I would do the best I could to assist or help him. It's a band of Special Forces brothers, no matter what war you were in or what group you were in.”

Riester joined the Special Forces for the fun and excitement, not knowing the impact it would have on his entire life, or the people he would meet along the way.

“I wanted to push the envelope,” Riester said. “It was fun, it was exciting, it was challenging. The best thing about Special Forces is it allowed me to serve with some of the best Soldiers, officers and enlisted in the United States Army, and has allowed me to continue to associate with them. It's not a bond that can be broken.”

For more information about the Special Forces Association or to become a member, visit www.chapter92sfa.com.



Courtesy photo

Col. Ola Lee Mize, a Medal of Honor winner from North Alabama, is the namesake for the Huntsville chapter of the Special Forces Association.

Peers

continued from page 9

“It’s a wonderful partnership that the Army is investing in,” Williams said.

The program is not new to Madison County; about three years ago seven other middle schools in the area were trained. There is also a high school program that local students are being trained in. Grissom High and Huntsville High are each sending two students to San Antonio to train them in Student 2 Student, and a few years ago representatives from Columbia High and Bob Jones High went.

“We have seen that when a school truly implements JS2S there is an exceptional change in accepting new students, helping them find a niche and just the overall school atmosphere,” said JS2S program manager Sherry Laffere who has been implementing the program for nearly four years. “We know parents are thrilled when a school has the program because it means that their child will be accepted.”

Acceptance is the number one goal of the program. They work to teach the students the importance of ac-

cepting any new student regardless of their differences.

“The key is 100 percent acceptance of all students,” Laffere said. “Yesterday a boy raised his hand and said he wouldn’t be embarrassed to walk around his school with any new kid. That’s what we are really working towards.”

The students were selected by their teachers, counselors and principals based on their leadership skills or potential for leadership. Of the six kids from each school, half were from military families. A big part of their JS2S training was to teach them how to talk to new people, build relationships and trust with each other.

“We’re making better citizens out of these students and that in turn helps make these schools even better environments,” Laffere said.

The purpose of the program is to train the core group so they can then take what they’ve learned back to their schools and start up their own JS2S clubs. This will keep the program going long after the students have moved on to high school. Celeste Coffman, a guidance counselor at Monrovia Middle School, said she believed the program could work at her school.

“We have an enormous school and are getting tons of new kids every

year,” Coffman said. “The kids are super enthusiastic about what they’ve learned and they can’t wait to take it back. That enthusiasm will be really important for keeping it alive.”

J’Mya Burks, a sixth-grader from Whitesburg Middle, said she had a fun time meeting new people, going around and introducing herself and playing games.

“Just because someone is different doesn’t mean you shouldn’t accept them,” Burks said about what she’d learned.

For seventh-grader Erin Huttula, participating in the training was spe-

cial because she had been a military child and knew what it was like to be the new kid.

“My dad used to be in the military and I thought this would be a good way for me to help other military kids when they move to my school,” Huttula said.

The schools participating in the training included Sparkman Middle School, Monrovia Middle School, Hampton Cove Middle School, Huntsville Middle School, Challenger Middle School, Whitesburg Middle School, Buckhorn Middle School and Mountain Gap Middle School.

Commander

continued from page 10

Training Management Organization for a total of 586. The Office of the Program Manager-Saudi Arabia National Guard has 269.

“I have a lot of learning to do,” Turner said. “I know it’s going very well. General Tucker has done an extremely good job of commanding USASAC.”

At 55 from Alexandria, Va., Turner has 34 years of service. He and his wife, Michal, have four grown children. Their daughter Tara Stratton is married to an Air Force F-15 pilot, Johnny Stratton, and residing in Williamsburg, Va. Their daughter Tonia Horton is married to Capt. Matthew Horton and residing at Fort Hood, Texas. Their son Capt. Frank Turner, of the Corps of Engineers, is in Afghanistan. Their daughter Elizabeth Norton is married to Staff Sgt. George Norton, a member of the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga.

Turner enjoys “just about any sports.” He runs and works out. “Haven’t had a lot of time for hobbies these days,” he said.

Army Family Action Plan quality of life survey

Take the time to complete this brief survey in preparation for the Army Family Action Plan Conference, set for Oct. 26-27. The work done at the conference is based on the feedback and information produced from this survey, so you are asked to complete all these questions to help the conference best determine the needs of the Redstone community.

1. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

2. Which category below includes your age?

- 21-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older

3. For which organization or command do you work at Redstone

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Army Contracting Command-Head-quarters | Logistics Support Activity |
| Army Materiel Command | Missile Defense Agency |
| Aviation and Missile Command | NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center |
| Aviation and Missile Research | PEO Aviation |
| Development and Engineering Center | PEO Missiles and Space |
| Expeditionary Contracting Command | Redstone Test Center |
| Fox Army Health Center | Space and Missile Defense Command |
| Garrison-Redstone | Security Assistance Command |
| | You are a retiree |
| | Other (please specify)_____ |

4. Below are 14 quality of life services that are available to you at Redstone. Please select the five you take advantage of the most.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Military & Civilian Medical & Dental | Education & Training |
| Dining & Food Service Locations | Newcomer Services & Employment |
| Military & Civilian Retiree Benefits | Assistance |
| Commissary/Exchange & Concessions | Safety, Security & Installation Access |

Child, Youth & School Services

Advocacy & Support Resources

Housing & Lodging

Legal Services & Equal Employment

Sports, Fitness, Recreation, Leisure &

Special Events

Military & Civilian Pay, Benefits &

Allowances

Transportation & Travel

Other (please specify)

5. Of the services you selected above, what are issues you feel need to be addressed and improved upon?

6. Of the issues you feel need to be improved upon, what are ideas you have for solutions to these issues?

7. Where do you receive your news and information?

Thank you for submitting your thoughts and feedback in preparation for Redstone's 23rd Annual AFAP Conference. The gathering is built on the foundation of your input, and your comments will be forwarded to the conference staff to be addressed during the conference.

Send your completed survey to Army Community Service, building 3338 on Re-deye Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000 or fax 955-9171. To contact Carie Green, call 876-5397 or email: carie.green1@us.army.mil.

Surveys for the AFAP Conference will be accepted until Oct. 12.

Black Hawk helicopters delivered to Mexico



Courtesy photo

Mexican Navy Admiral Jorge Carlos Morales, director of Naval Aviation, Mexico, speaks during a ceremony marking the turnover of three UH-60 helicopters to the Mexican Navy. The ceremony was held Aug. 24 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The Army Security Assistance Command delivered three UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to Mexico City, Mexico, in September through its Foreign Military Sales program. The helicopters will be used by the Navy Secretariat, which is responsible for the safety and security of Mexico's waters and coastlines.

The helicopter deliveries are part of the United States Merida Initiative Multi-Year Program. This program demonstrates the U.S. government's commitment to work in partnership with governments in Mexico, the nations of Central America, Dominican Republic and Haiti to confront criminal organizations whose illicit actions undermine public safety, erode the rule of law, and threaten the national security of the United States.

During the last two years, USASAC delivered eight Bell 412 helicopters to the government of Mexico in support of the Mexican National Defense Secretariat. The delivery of the three UH-60Ms completes all current helicopter requirements in support of Mexico's FMS program under the Merida Initiative.

The Mexican government requested the Black Hawk helicopters through FMS channels in July 2009. The \$110 million FMS case included aircraft production, aircraft re-configuration to meet customer's requirements, and aircraft support package. In response to the Mexican Navy's urgent need for the helicop-

ters, U.S. government agencies and organizations expedited the FMS process, acquisition and aircraft configuration to ensure aircraft delivery by September.

On Aug. 23, Rear Adm. Jorge Carlos Morales Gonzalez, director of the Naval Aviation Department of the Mexican Navy, accepted the three UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters from U.S. government representatives during a transfer ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Lakehurst, N.J., which was followed by the delivery to Mexico in September.

The successful and early delivery of the Black Hawks was made possible by a teamwork effort which included agencies and military organizations such as Aviation and Missile Command, Utility Helicopters Project Office, U.S. Northern Command, Mexico Office of Defense Coordination, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation, Army Communications-Electronics Research Development and Engineering Center, Department of State and industry partner Sikorsky Aircraft corporation.

According to U.S. and Mexican officials, the UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter was chosen for this program because of its reliability and reputation as the best utility helicopter in the world and will help ensure the mission success of SEMAR's counter-narcotics and counter-drug trafficking initiatives. (USASAC release)

Curious scarecrow draws attention at botanical trail

Garden club members construct fall display

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Rather than scare the crows away, a certain beloved monkey and his friend in the yellow hat are beckoning children to come play at the Huntsville Botanical Garden this fall.

“Curious George Visits the Garden” by the Redstone Garden Club is one of 50 scarecrows in this year’s Huntsville Botanical Garden Scarecrow Trail, on display now through Halloween.

“I just hope the kids enjoy it,” Jennifer Hames of the Garden Club said. “For me it brought back memories of reading Curious George to my kids when they were little.”

And for the children and families that visit the garden, the display brings their beloved storybook character to life. The Man in the Yellow Hat appears in his trademark yellow suit, with Curious George perched on his shoulder. Beside them are colorfully arranged flowers and an interactive board that allows kids to get their picture taken as Curious George, as well as peek under flowers to

see pictures of hummingbirds, turtles and butterflies, all things they may encounter on their visit to the garden.

“The day we put it up the moms and kids were coming up and saying, ‘Ooh! Curious George!’” said Phyllis Montgomery, a member of the Garden Club that helped coordinate the scarecrow display with Hames.

This year’s display continues the Garden Club’s participation in the annual Scarecrow Trail at the Botanical Garden. Scarecrows of the past include “Head Over Heels for Gardening” and “Yankee Doodle Sweetheart” which included a map of where the 45 Garden Club members, all of whom are officers’ wives, had been stationed. Club members put their heads together in July when the storybook theme for this year’s trail were announced, eventually deciding on literature’s favorite curious little monkey.

Once the idea was decided on, members collected items for the display, painted the interactive board and constructed it.

“We have so many creative members,” Montgomery said.

The Redstone Garden Club meets monthly, taking the time to learn more about gardening, in addition to maintaining the landscaping at Army Com-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Jennifer Hames and Phyllis Montgomery take a moment to admire the Redstone Garden Club’s display, “Curious George Visits the Garden,” at the Huntsville Botanical Garden’s Scarecrow Trail.

munity Service, Gate 8, the Post Library, and participating in Wreaths for Veterans. The scarecrow at the Botanical Gar-

den can help draw attention to the club.

“It gets our name out there for people to see what we do,” Hames said.

New fire chief at home in Redstone community

Stints at Kwajalein Atoll, Fort McPherson expand top firefighter's experience

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

Working as the regional fire protection officer for the Installation Management Command-Southeast can give a firefighter a bird's-eye view of garrison fire departments throughout the region.

For Ragnar Opiniano, such a wide-reaching look at programs, challenges

and opportunities throughout the regional command has equipped him with plenty of ideas that he will consider for Redstone Fire and Emergency Services as he gets into the rhythm of his responsibilities as the department's new fire chief.

"I had always planned to come back to the installation level and this was an opportunity to do so," Opiniano said. "But working for a year at the staff level I really got to see what other fire departments and fire chiefs are doing well. It really helped me to understand and see how other departments run their operations, what their challenges are and how they gain from those challenges."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Redstone's new fire chief Ragnar Opiniano, center, is now part of the team that makes up Redstone Fire and Emergency Services. He joins a group of professionals that includes deputy fire chief Cyrus Jones, left, and fire inspector Ken Riley.

Opiniano, known as "OP" among his friends, came to Redstone in early

See Chief on page 24



Follow these tips for fire prevention

Here are fire prevention suggestions from the National Fire Protection Association:

Plan for fire escape

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.

- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.

- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.

- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.

- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.

- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside your home.

Cook with caution

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from



your stovetop.

- If you have a cooking fire, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 after you leave.

- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.

- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

- For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Stay warm and safe this winter

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.

- Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.

- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.

Smoke alarm safety

- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

- Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms to provide enough protection.

- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds they all sound.

- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally

more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) are recommended.

- Install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling.

- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.

- Fire warning equipment is available to awaken people who are deaf or hard of hearing. This equipment uses strobe lights and vibration equipment (pillow or bed shakers) for people who are deaf and mixed-low-frequency signals for people who are hard of hearing. Some of this equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm.

Candle with care

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.

- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.

- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.

- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.

- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Safety

continued from page 1

homes, schools, businesses, industrial sites, recreational facilities, airfields and public buildings. Much of that education deals with "people habits" or "people accidents" that lead to unsafe fire situations.

"We have to be versatile in our education because we have people who are on the Arsenal for all types of reasons and who work, live or play in all kinds of different situations on post," fire prevention inspector Robert Johnson said. "We want people to be aware of all types of fire safety issues, both at work and at home.

"Fire has heated our homes. It's powered our industry. It's made our mode of life possible. But fire is still one of our greatest dangers."

In 2009, U.S. fire departments responded to 362,500 home structure fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. These fires caused 12,650 civilian injuries, 2,565 civilian deaths and \$7.6 billion in direct damage. On average, one home structure fire is reported every 87 seconds in the U.S., and seven people die in home fires every day. Adults 65 and over face the highest risk of fire death.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15. This year's national theme is "Protect Your Family From Fire."

"There are many tools that can help people protect their families from fires — like smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. But with many of these tools, people don't know how to use them, where to put them or when to replace them. We want to make sure they have this information so they can make the right decisions," Johnson said.

During Fire Prevention Week, Redstone Fire and Emergency Services will provide information to Arsenal employees, retirees and families, and will host special appearances of Freddie the Fire Hydrant and Sparky the Fire Dog. The following events have been planned:

- Oct. 11 — Fire prevention literature will be made available to visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Exchange. A fire department display will include a fire truck from Fire Station 2, Vincent Road.

- Oct. 12 — A fire engine as well as Freddie and Sparky will entertain and inform young children at the NASA Child Development Center from 9 to 11 a.m. Fire Station 1, Rideout Road, will host this event.

- Oct. 12 — A fire engine display and a fire safety presentation set for 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148, will teach teenagers about fire safety. Fire Station 2 will host this event.

- Oct. 13 — A fire engine as well as Freddie and Sparky will entertain and inform young children at the Mills Road Child Development Center, buildings 5600 and 5601, from 9 to 11 a.m. Fire Station 3, Patton Road, will host this event.

- Oct. 13 — A fire engine display and a fire safety presentation as well as appearances of Freddie and Sparky are set for 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at School Age Services, building 3155, will teach elementary-age children about fire safety. Fire Station 2 will host this event.

- Oct. 14 — A fire engine as well as Freddie and Sparky will entertain and inform young children at the Goss Road Child Development Center, building 3145, from 9 to 11 a.m. Fire Station 2 will host this event.

In addition, fire inspectors are available to make presentations in the workplace upon request to the Fire Prevention Branch, 876-7005.

"We get a lot of participation in the events we hold during Fire Prevention Week," Johnson said.

"At the Exchange, we will get all kinds of questions and we ask a lot of questions, like 'How old is your fire extinguisher?' and 'How old is your smoke detector?' When talking about operating fire extinguishers, we use the acronym PASS, for Pull the Pin, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep. To that we add 'Keep your back to the door. Do not cut yourself off from the door.'"

For the younger crowd, the message is simpler.

"We talk a lot with the kids about Stop, Drop and Roll if their clothes catch on fire," he said. "We also introduce them to fire fighters and Sparky the Dog and Freddie the Fire Hydrant to help overcome any fears they might have. We tell them that if they have a house fire, to get out and stay out. We tell them they need to get out as fast as they can, and not hide under their bed or try to find their pet or favorite toy before leaving the house.

"With older children and teenagers, we show them how to use a fire extinguisher. We like to talk about cooking because many of them are learning how to cook for themselves. Talking to them about car fires is also good at this age."

Both at home and in the workplace, the number one source for a fire is cooking.

"I can't stress enough that you should never leave food cooking on a stovetop unattended," Johnson said. "But even in the workplace, this has to be emphasized because our number one problem with people on the job on the Arsenal is cooking in break rooms. People will start to heat or warm something up, and walk away from the microwave, toaster oven or stove, and will not realize a problem until the fire alarm is activated or somebody smells the smoke."

Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and was tied for the third leading cause of home fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires. U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 155,400 cooking-related home fires each year from 2005-09, causing an average of 390 deaths,

4,800 injuries and \$771 million in direct property damage.

The second source for fires on-post, Johnson said, is equipment failure due to electrical malfunctions. Computers, coffee makers and holiday decorations are among the types of electrical equipment in the workplace that are potential sources for fires.

"If you have equipment that is idle, please unplug it," he said. "If you have computer equipment sitting in a vacant work area, unplug it. Stuff you don't use every day, unplug it. Every piece of equipment has a failure rate, and electrical fires do happen in the workplace. But you can't have electrical fires without electricity. So, unplug it."

When talking to groups about fire safety, Johnson refers to the fire triangle, which shows that the right proportions of the three elements of fire — heat, fuel and oxygen — will lead to a fire.

"Equipment can have all three of these elements, but they are not at the right proportion that leads to a fire," he said. "For example, an air freshener plug-in has heat, fuel and oxygen, but the heat temperature used in the plug-in is below the fire point, so it is not at a sufficient level to cause a fire. Even though they are UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved, plug-ins can malfunction, heat can cause plastic to smolder and you can have a fire. The three things you need to have a fire in your house may already be present."

Another source of workplace fires is improper storage of equipment. Often that means that employees have stored items in unsafe areas, such as in mechanical rooms or near flammable materials.

Discussions about fire prevention often include information on what to do to prepare employees and family members if there is a fire. Sadly, Johnson said, having a fire escape plan at work often doesn't translate into having a fire escape plan at home.

"We have exit drills at school and in the workplace, but it's just as important to have a fire exit plan for home," he said. "In a panic situation, you revert to what you know. If you don't practice an exit plan, then you don't know a plan that could save your life."

According to a National Fire Protection Association survey, less than one-fourth of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half actually practiced it. One-third of American households surveyed estimated they thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. In actuality, the time available is often less.

While cooking is the number one cause of fires, heating equipment was the second leading cause of all reported home fires and home fire deaths. U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 64,100 heating-related home fires each year from 2005-09, causing an average of 560 deaths,

1,620 injuries and \$904 million in direct property damage.

Fires involving heating equipment peak in December, January and February, as do deaths from these fires. Overall, home fires and home fire deaths are more common in the cooler months of the year.

The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires involves dirty chimneys that are coated inside by creosote, which is highly flammable. This can be prevented with regular cleaning maintenance, Johnson said.

Half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

"All home heating equipment — including fireplaces, space heaters, wood stoves and furnaces — should be given a 3-foot combustible free zone," Johnson said. "This means that people, especially children, as well as clothing, blankets and other combustible items should be kept well away from heating equipment."

During 2005-09, electrical distribution and lighting equipment was involved in the ignition of 23,400 home structure fires, on average, per year. These fires caused an average of 390 deaths, 970 injuries and \$822 million in direct property damage. A reported 41 percent of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment while 53 percent involved other known types of equipment, including ranges, washers/dryers, fans and space heaters.

But not all home fires are caused by modern-day equipment. Candles are also a home fire threat. During 2005-09, candles caused an average of 12,900 home fires, 140 home fire deaths, 1,040 home fire injuries and \$471 million in direct property damage. On average, there are 35 home candle fires reported per day.

Roughly two-fifths of these fires started in the bedroom, and more than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are placed too close to the candle.

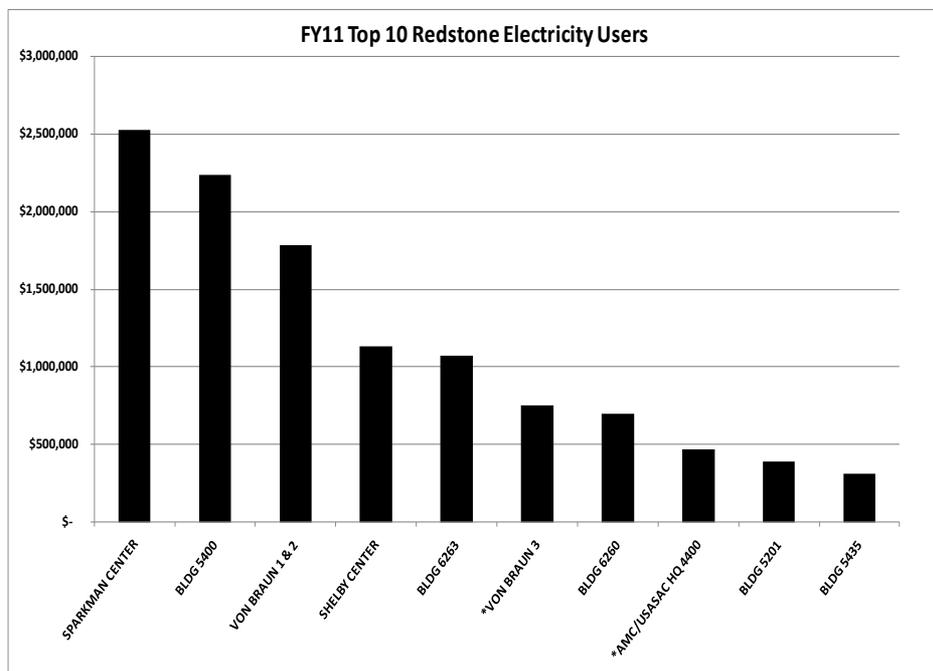
The number one cause of fire deaths is smoking materials. U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 18,900 smoking-related home fires each year from 2005-09, causing an average of 660 deaths, 1,270 injuries and \$492 million in direct property damage.

"Cigarette smoking and the materials that go with it — matches and lighters — are big concerns," Johnson said. "These materials cause fires because someone is playing with them, they are being used carelessly or they are left forgotten."

Even when all fire safety precautions are taken, sometimes an act of nature can lead to a fire emergency. Lightning fires happen quickly and often take people by surprise.

"Anything exterior to a house or building that is going into that structure should

Top electric users at Redstone listed for fiscal year 2011



Approximate total yearly electricity cost for 10 locations on Redstone Arsenal.

By **PATRICK HOLMES**
Energy Office, Garrison

Once again it's that time of year. You guessed it: October is Energy Awareness Month.

To jumpstart the month, the top 10 electricity consuming buildings are listed. Keep in mind that these are large buildings and by their nature consume a lot of energy.

Even with the amount of electricity used at these locations, there are still common sense things that each individual can do to reduce consumption postwide. For example: turning off lights when leaving an empty room and shutting down computers when leaving for the day are two behavioral changes that cost zero to do. If these measures are done consistently by everyone, it will save

a considerable amount of energy. Look for additional energy articles to follow during October.

Here are the top 10 electric energy users at Redstone based on the approximate total yearly cost of the electricity consumed at each location:

1. Sparkman Center – \$2,524,484
2. 5400 — \$2,234,160
3. Von Braun 1 and 2 – \$1,783,200
4. Shelby Center – \$1,131,680
5. 6263 – \$1,072,470
6. Von Braun 3 – \$750,275*
7. 6260 – \$700,339
8. AMC/USASAC headquarters – \$468,790*
9. 5201 – \$391,020
10. 5435 – \$310,512

* Less than one full year of meter data collected.

Prevention

continued from page 23

have a lightning suppressant on it. Most don't," Johnson said. "Most of the time, lightning starts a home fire in the attic where they can smolder and blaze for awhile before the homeowner or a neighbor notices a problem. These kinds of fires are often first reported by a neighbor that sees a roof on fire or fire in an attic window."

While businesses, industrial facilities and public buildings protect people from fire with the use of fire detection and sprinkler systems, it's important for families to protect themselves against the surprise of a fire with home smoke detectors.

"On average, a home should have three or four smoke detectors. No one in the home should be more than 75 feet from a smoke detector at any given time," Johnson said. "Modern-day smoke detectors are interconnected so that if one is triggered at one end of a house, all the detectors in the house will alarm."

Chief

continued from page 22

August. It was a good move for both himself and his family – which includes a son who is a senior in high school, an elementary-age daughter and a 10-month-old son – as they already had friends in the Huntsville/Madison area thanks to Opiniano's work as the fire chief for the fire department on Kwajalein Island.

"I was an Army base contractor there and I had an opportunity to work with Department of the Army programs and firefighters," he said. "The industry in Huntsville and Kwajalein is unique because it deals with missiles and defense, and involves many of the same people. There are a lot of employees with the Space and Missile Defense Command here who are friends of mine from Kwajalein."

Having friends here wasn't the only reason why Redstone Arsenal was a quick sell to Opiniano.

"I really like this community. I had visited here before and I got a really good look at Redstone in January when I was here for an operational readiness inspection," he said.

"I like how integrated the Garrison is with the community on post and off post. I like the people and the unique mission. It's got its challenges but it's also rewarding. There's potential for this fire department to have a greater impact on people's lives here and on the community."

Opiniano, who is of Filipino/Spanish descent, is originally from the Seattle area. During a four-year stint in the Air Force from 1983-87, he decided to pursue a firefighter's career.

"I wanted a career where I could travel," he said. "There are only so many jobs that are required at every military base. Those are administrative positions, special services, law enforcement and firefighter."

"I chose firefighter because I liked the profession and the level of trust that the public has in firefighters. There's a lot of trust and respect that goes along with this job."

His career has taken him overseas, and to Arkansas and Kwajalein, and he has worked for the North Carolina Coast Guard. In 2007, he became an Army civilian firefighter, working at the Sierra Army

Depot in California, with IMCOM at Fort McPherson, Ga., and now at Redstone.

"My primary responsibility here is to manage the organization so that we comply with and meet existing requirements," he said.

"I want to work to posture this organization to meet anticipated changes. One thing that has been constant has been change. I want to manage and lead the change. Customers expect a different level of service than years ago. We are professionalizing this career field, and I want to mentor and develop firefighters to become fire officers and eventually leaders."

He is looking forward to getting to know the 48 firefighters and three fire inspectors who work for Redstone's fire department, and that are housed at the Garrison building 4488 and at four fire stations – No. 1 at Rideout Road, No. 2 at Vincent Drive, No. 3 at Patton Road and No. 4 at the Redstone Airfield. From his staff, Opiniano expects professionalism, respect and customer service.

Successful firefighters, Opiniano said, are "well-rounded, and understand that their mind, and their physical abilities and attributes as well as education are a part of the tools that make a good firefighter," he said. "Their mind and body has to be sharp."

During the past 15 years, firefighting careers have expanded to include emergency medical services, and to develop interoperability with police and emergency personnel.

"We have a lot more partnerships today," he said. "I want to see those partnerships working here."

During these first few months on the job, Opiniano is taking the time to get to know the Redstone fire department and its firefighters.

"I am getting a baseline. I am assessing our capabilities and limitations, and looking at where we can make improvements," he said.

"In the more successful fire departments, change may be managed by the senior management, but it is owned from the ground up. We do have a lot of bright young firefighters here. They are better trained and better prepared for the job than ever before. I want to figure out how to integrate some of the newer concepts and philosophies into our traditions."

Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. About one in five smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half. In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 91 percent of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 75 percent of the time.

Deaths from fires have lessened significantly since 1922, when a national fire prevention week was designated. Before 1922,

an average of 15,000 people died each year in the U.S. from fire. Today, that number is down between 2,500 and 3,000 people who die in fires while, at the same time, the U.S. population has more than doubled since the early 1900s.

"Awareness does save lives," Johnson said. "But even with 2,500 fire deaths a year that is still a statistic that we would like to reduce to zero. Colder weather brings more deaths by fire. And we lose on average of at least one family a year to a holiday fire. Any loss by fire is too many."

Luncheon lends support to wounded warriors



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Joe Bongiovanni with the Semper Fi Community Task Force will welcome 60 wounded warriors across the country in November for the fifth annual Heroes' Week. A fund-raiser featuring retired Marine Corps Gen. Jim Jones will be held Oct. 19 for the event.

Oct. 19 event benefits annual Heroes Week

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

They will come to hear the words of retired Marine Corps Gen. Jim Jones, but more importantly they will come in support of wounded warriors.

"It's a great cause," said Joe Bongiovanni, chairman of the executive committee and liaison with veteran coalition groups for the Semper Fi Community Task Force.

"There's a lot of people in need, but I don't think anybody is more important than our troops who defend our ability to experience freedom and give it to others as well."

Jones, former national security adviser and commandant of the Marine Corps, will speak on "Contemporary National Security Issues of the United States," Oct. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. Cost is \$50 for individual tickets, corporate sponsorships are available. All proceeds will go toward the fifth annual Heroes' Week. To purchase tickets and

register, visit www.supportwounded-warriorsweek.org.

"We want to do so much for these troops and that's the only way we can do it – with community support," Bongiovanni said.

For a week, wounded warriors from across the country will be given the rock star treatment as they are flown from across the country with their spouses and caregivers to Huntsville for a week of appreciation, relaxation and patriotism.

The wounded warriors will arrive at the Huntsville International Airport from across the country Nov. 8 and will depart Nov. 14. This year's agenda includes a Parade of Boats at Lake Gunterville with dinner at the Yacht Club, the Marine Corps Ball, participation in the Veterans Day parade and ribbon cutting for the Madison County Veterans Memorial, a fishing tournament, spa day for the spouses, and plenty of personal time for the wounded warriors to relax and enjoy Huntsville, their accommodations at the Westin and the surrounding community. A full day will also be devoted to counseling and career advice, provided by Still Serving Veterans and Not Alone.

"It's not just about the Soldiers and

the Marines that suffer, the spouses and family members go through the emotional scarring as well," Bongiovanni said. "We've found that especially the spouses are very eager to participate in the counseling because it gives them an opportunity to speak out and let their feelings be known. It's a healing."

The Oct. 19 luncheon is the primary fund-raiser for the annual Heroes' Week, an outreach that is considered the gold standard nationally. What started as a gathering of 17 wounded warriors has grown to 60, with 200 volunteers from the community devoting their time and appreciation to the heroes and their families throughout the week. Once the wounded warriors arrive in Huntsville, everything they could possibly need is taken care of.

"Our prime mission is to take care of these troops," Bongiovanni said. "We do such a comprehensive program here in Huntsville. We have a turnkey operation. All they have to do is get themselves to the airport and everything else is taken care of for them. We're pretty proud of that."

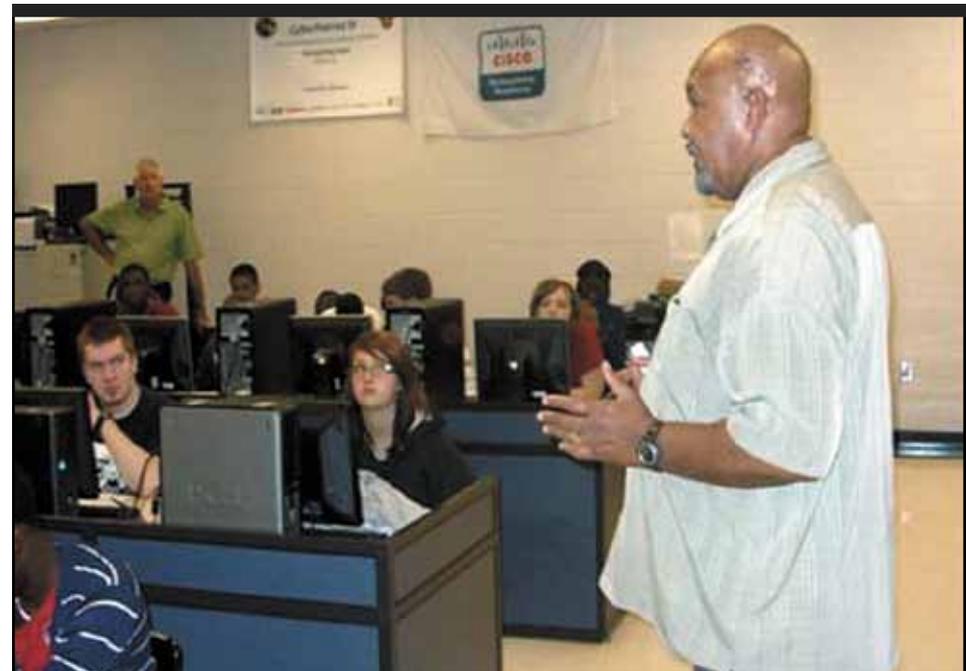
For more information about the Semper Fi Community Task Force, visit www.semperfictf.org.



Courtesy photo

Robotics in schools

Students and teachers from 52 area schools pose with education grant checks presented by the Huntsville-based Pathfinder Chapter of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International to fund robotics programs. Besides the school grants totaling \$82,100, the Pathfinder Chapter also awarded a \$5,000 grant to SciQuest for supporting underserved populations and at-risk youth robotics programs; a \$5,000 grant to the Alabama Council for Technology in Education to help fund the annual Technology Fair featuring robotics and computer programming projects from area schools; and a \$5,000 grant to assist in funding the Alabama First Lego League Championship in Huntsville later this year. The grants were presented by the Pathfinder Education Committee in a Sept. 26 ceremony at the Huntsville Public Library auditorium. This marks the 21st consecutive year that the Pathfinder Chapter has provided educational grants to the local community. Area schools use the funds to purchase robot kits, computers and other items to support robotics education and to participate in robotics competitions.



Courtesy photo

Education outreach

Vern Spearman, senior physicist at TMDE Activity, speaks to students at New Century Technology High School in Huntsville as part of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program. His presentation on the science of metrology and calibration was a pep talk on how much more interesting science becomes when you actually do the work.

Combined campaign makes giving easier

Longtime contributor appreciates opportunity to make a difference

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Bill Fowler remembers what it was like before the Combined Federal Campaign.

In 1972, at installations overseas where the Combined Federal Campaign had not yet migrated, enlisted Soldiers stood in line every payday to receive cash for their pay. Then, with cash in hand, they had to pass by various organizations and charities asking for a contribution from the Soldier's pocket.

"Every local charity that could would nickel and dime the Soldiers to death at payday," Fowler said. "Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Officers Wives Club, the 1st Sergeant Haircut Club and any group approved by the Garrison commander to come on post were all looking for a handout."

As a commissioned officer, Fowler would have to periodically serve as the on-duty pay officer and see the lines of organizations seeking donations from Soldiers.

"It really eased frustration quite a bit when it became a requirement for Soldiers to have a bank account so they could be paid by check," Fowler said. "And the annual solution that CFC offered was a good thing."

Although President John F. Kennedy established the Combined Federal Campaign in 1961, there was not yet a system for payroll deduction or the consolidation of all solicitation efforts into a single campaign. In 1964, the first "combined" campaigns – consolidating all drives into one – were conducted as experiments in six cities. The result: substantial increases in contributions ranging from 20 percent to 125 percent and a highly favorable response from federal employees and the organizers of the campaigns.

By 1971, all campaigns had been combined and President Richard Nixon announced that the Combined Federal Campaign would be the uniform fund-raising method for the federal service. Also, at the time, payroll deductions were introduced as a form of charitable contributions. As the Army pay system became more automated, Soldiers overseas were provided the opportunity to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign.

This year, the Combined Federal Campaign is celebrating "50 Years of Caring." It is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1 to Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

Fowler, who is now retired from the Army and the director of Internal Review and Audit Compliance for the Aviation and Missile Command, appreciates how the Combined Federal Campaign is managed and the difference it is making in its communities.

"I like the way it's structured with a campaign once a year," he said. "We aren't solicited every payday for collections. And it extends beyond the military installation to the community. It helps make better the relationship between the military and civilian communities, and that hasn't always been the case."

Fowler is referring to the 1970s and the post-Vietnam era, when the military as a whole seemed detached from the nation. Today, the Combined Federal Campaign is one element that has helped to build a close connection between the military and the federal government employee, and the people they serve.

Fowler doesn't like to disclose the charitable agencies he contributes to because he doesn't want to influence the decisions of other employees. He believes whether to give, how much to give and what agencies to give to should be a personal choice.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Bill Fowler, a longtime contributor to the Combined Federal Campaign, stands near a wall lined with campaign plaques that indicate his organization's continuous participation in the drive. Fowler is the director of Internal Review and Audit Compliance for the Aviation and Missile Command.

Yet, he does have some guidelines that could help others in making those decisions. "What I look for in a charity is what percentage of my contribution is going directly to the people the charity serves versus what percentage goes to administrative costs. If 40 percent, 60 percent, 80 percent goes to administrative costs, then that's too high and I am suspicious of that charity," he said.

"I gravitate toward charities with less overhead so more of my contribution goes to the people it serves."

The charities listed in the Combined Federal Campaign brochure are all vetted, meaning they have submitted financial and organization reports to a the Combined Federal Campaign committee that thoroughly reviews the charities and their work. CFC allows federal employees to designate what charities they want to contribute to through the Combined Federal Campaign.

"When it becomes a CFC charity, the vetting of the charity has already been done," Fowler said. "It is a recognized asset to the civilian community as well as to the military side."

Beyond a charity's financial situation, Fowler looks for a personal connection before deciding what charity he wants to contribute to through the Combined Federal Campaign.

"I have a brain-damaged brother-in-law who was injured in a car wreck," he said. "So, I am interested in charitable organizations that cater to incapacitated or severely injured adults. I would gravitate toward those."

"It's easier to choose a charity if you base that choice on personal life experiences. CFC provides us with an opportunity to give to charities we care about. But it is not the only charitable campaign. People give to their churches and other volunteer groups. So, it's a very personal thing whether to give or not to give to CFC, and what charity to give to."

Federal employees with children may want to give to a children's home, federal employees with older parents may want to give to an adult dementia group, federal employees who have a relative struggling with addiction may want to give to a half-way house, and the list of personal choices goes on.

"The number of charities that participate in CFC have grown immensely," Fowler said. "And the diversity of the charities has grown immensely. So there is an opportunity for everyone to give to a charity that fits their personal needs and interests. In that way, CFC helps you give back to the people in your life."

Special Olympics hopes to field more help



Volunteers sought for competition

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Let the games begin, but volunteers are still needed first.

The Madison County Special Olympics seeks volunteers for its annual games particularly with the departure of the Soldiers from the Ordnance school, a primary source in past years.

The track and field events are scheduled Oct. 25, with a rain date Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Milton Frank Stadium. At least 900 volunteers are needed to ensure a successful competition.

While they have gotten volunteers from various organizations on Redstone and local ROTCs they still need more people, according to volunteer event chair Gloria Bink.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact their organization's point of contact and sign

up through them. They will then notify Bink with the number of volunteers and ensure everyone signs a participation form. Having one point of contact for each organization helps make coordination easier and ensures everyone gets the needed information, Bink said.

"The POC (point of contact) can keep things organized. It's impossible to keep track of 1,000 people myself," she said.

Most of the volunteers will act as escorts for the 470 athletes that day. They will be paired together in the morning when the athletes get off the buses. Volunteers will take them to their events, cheer them on and participate in the fun activities such as face painting between events.

With each organizational representative keeping track of their own number of volunteers, Bink will not know how many people have signed up until later. Because of this she does not know how many more people they need, but ensures that anyone who wants to volunteer is needed.

Organizational representatives should email Bink at gbink@knology.net.

File photo
In October 2009, Special Olympian Sara Simmons does the long jump while Lt. Col. Diane Richie, of Logistics Support Activity, cheers her on.

West Point cadet helps community in concrete way

By RANDY SINIARD

AMRDEC Public Affairs

The April 27 deadly tornadoes didn't just impact Alabama.

People throughout the United States were affected because of their ties to this state. Cadet John Wetzel, for example, kept track of the developments from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. His family resides in the Madison area.

AMRDEC tornado relief efforts Part 4 of series

"I was working on a project watching the news and weather, when it happened," Wetzel said. "I lost contact with my family and friends at home and then I saw videos of the massive tornadoes. I

got very worried.

"I could not believe the size of them. It was like something out of the movie '2012.'"

The resulting power outage in northern Alabama hindered efforts to keep in contact with families in the area.

"I was finally able to get in touch with them later in the evening which totally set me at ease," Wetzel said.

During the summer, the cadets are assigned to participate in mandatory and optional physical, military and academic individual advanced developments.

"It just happened that I was assigned to work with the Corps of Engineers Area Office at Redstone since my major is civil engineering," Wetzel said.

The Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department at West Point arranged for Wetzel to work with the Corps of Engineers for his individual advanced development.

"When I found out about the Habitat for Humanity build going on in Hackleburg I immediately wanted to participate," he said.

Wetzel was able to join with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's team of



Courtesy photo

West Point cadet John Wetzel and another AMRDEC team member prepare a door opening in a Habitat for Humanity house in Hackleburg.

nearly 75 employees that went to Hackleburg and participated in a HFH Blitz Build.

The AMRDEC team constructed four houses.

"It was great to be able to help in the recovery in a concrete – pun intended – way," Wetzel said.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Financial planning

Army Community Service's Kathleen Riester talks with Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn about her ACS financial readiness presentation scheduled Oct. 20 to the AMC Band members.

Valor Flight takes to the air in November

Korean War veterans to see D.C. memorial

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

While the rest of the world may call it the “Forgotten War,” Raymond Benfatti will never forget the Korean War.

“That’s something that bothers me,” Benfatti, a retired Marine captain, said. “We lost thousands of men who lost their lives, thousands who were wounded. You tell those mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and wives that lost loved ones that. They will never forget that war. I haven’t forgotten it.”

Valor Flight, a non-profit organization based in Madison, has dedicated its mission and call sign, “Valor One – The Flight of the Not Forgotten,” to ensure that Korean War veterans are not missing from history, and that they receive the respect and honor they deserve. The organization recently secured funding to make its first flight to Washington, D.C.

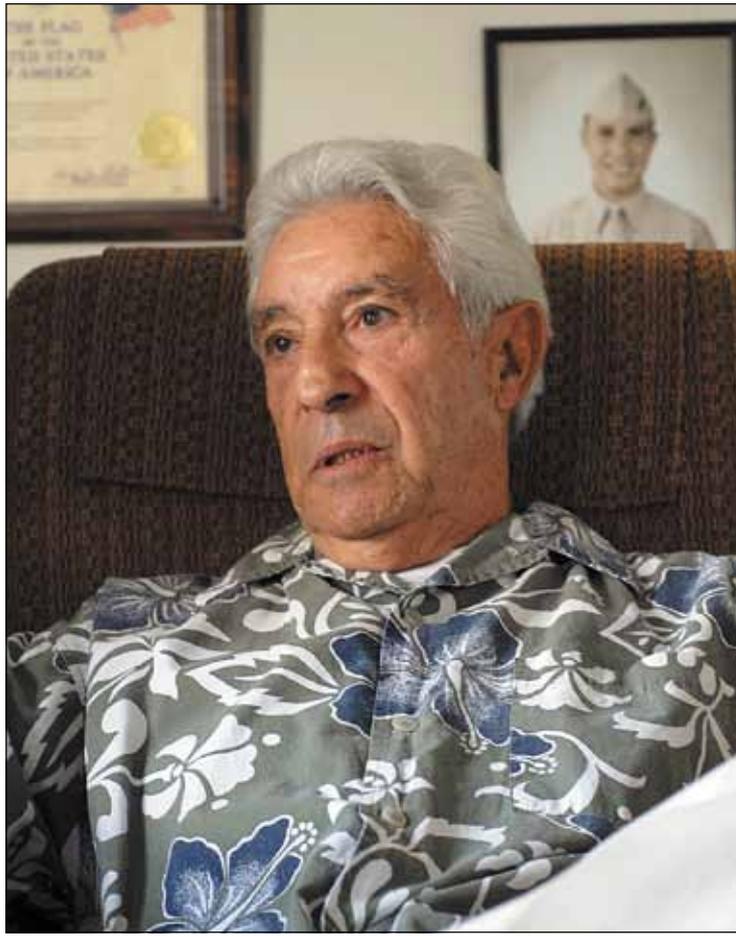
Nov. 12, when approximately 125 Korean War veterans from the Tennessee Valley will be given the opportunity to see their memorial. For many, including Benfatti, it will be for the first time.

“To make the flight to Washington, D.C., I think it’s very good to be recognized and honored,” he said. “I’ve always wanted to see the memorial. For me, to see the Korean War Memorial, it’s closure for me. Sixty years ago we were out there fighting in the Korean War and 60 years later we’re being recognized.”

Growing up in New Jersey, one of five brothers, Benfatti’s older brother Victor was his “idol” and best friend. Burned in his memory is the day Victor woke him up to hug him and tell him goodbye as he left to serve in the Marine Corps. It was the last time Benfatti would see his older brother, who died for his country at the hands of the Japanese.

“I joined the Marine Corps to avenge his death. He was my best brother,” Benfatti said.

In 1947, at age 17, he joined the Marines and in 1950 was called to Korea, training at Pickel Meadow for cold weather training, maneuvers and



weapons. Despite the excellent training, nothing could prepare him for the subzero temperatures he would experience in his deployment from 1951-52.

“It was the coldest winter I have ever spent in my whole life,” said Benfatti, who kept a piece of home, the state flag of New Jersey he requested from the governor, in his bunker.

To this day Benfatti can remember the moonlight glistening off the snow, the frozen C-rations, how difficult it was to reach his unit as he slipped and slid on the snow and ice, and the rats he shared an underground bunker with for a year. Many mornings he awoke to find billboard size photos constructed and left for the Americans by the Chinese and North Koreans that said things like, “Go home,” “This is not your war,” and “Your wife is out with your best man.”

For Steve Celuch, president of Valor Flight, the stories of Benfatti and the other men that fought beside him are incomprehensible, and all the more reason to honor their service.

“As an infantry guy myself, it’s just hard to fathom the conditions these guys operated in,” Celuch said.

When they make the flight Nov. 12,

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Raymond Benfatti speaks of his 24-year career in the Marine Corps, including his service in the Korean War, at his Harvest home. Behind him, military honors that speak of his dedication throughout his Marine Corps career adorn the wall.

Benfatti will have the opportunity to not only receive recognition from the community that is long overdue, but also unite with fellow veterans that understand exactly what he experienced in Korea because they were there themselves. That opportunity is largely thanks to an anonymous donor that stepped in at the last moment to donate the \$70,000 needed to get the flight off the ground Veterans Day weekend.

“We’re doing this in a very tough economy,” Celuch said. “It’s very symbolic. These veterans operated in very tough situations.”

Funding is still needed to raise an additional \$100,000 to fly a second and final Valor Flight in spring 2012. Contributions will be used to

provide air transportation, bus transportation, meals, T-shirts, memorabilia, disposable cameras, fuel and other necessities to make the trip comfortable and memorable for each veteran.

“The Forgotten War” – we have an opportunity right here in our hometown to flip that,” Celuch said. “This is about citizens helping citizens. This is people actually doing something about it.”

Benfatti continued his service after the Korean War, serving two tours in Vietnam from 1965-66 and 1968-69, where he received the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action. In his second tour, while providing security for Fire Support Base CUNNINGNAM in the Quang Tri Province, Benfatti was hit in the face with an RPG rocket, shrapnel striking his right jaw. Despite his injuries, he refused to leave his fellow Marines.

“I didn’t want to leave my company to be treated,” he said.

Retiring in 1972 after 24 years of service, Benfatti held every rank from private to sergeant major and second lieutenant to captain in the Marine Corps. Upon his retirement, he took a job with the federal police at the San Diego Federal Building and Courthouse. While he will celebrate his 82nd birthday this month, his love for his country never grows old.

“If I was young enough, I’d go back in the service,” Benfatti said.

For more information on Valor Flight, visit www.valorflight.com.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The Valor Flight on Nov. 12 will take veterans to the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Tanzanian, U.S. Soldiers share more than military skills

By Spc. MICHELLE LAWRENCE

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania – How comfortable would one feel with taking concepts shared by foreign people with a language barrier and applying them to their profession?

The Tanzania People's Defense Force did just that. They put aside linguistic and cultural barriers to share military police best practices with U.S. servicemembers and civilians from Aug. 15 to Sept. 2.

"They were extremely perceptive," said Maj. John Sherrill, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard mission commander. "I don't think there was a big language barrier between us. Soldiers understand Soldiers."

The TPDF and U.S. team learned about each other's processes in areas such as riot control, crime scene management, personnel and vehicle searches and entry control point operations.

"Both teams were exposed to demanding skills like military operations

in urban terrain and VIP protection," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Laiter, military police with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. "Both of those skills can't be learned overnight. They require a lot of practice."

According to Laiter, the TPDF focused mainly on team tasks that enhance teamwork.

"It was a good baseline," Laiter said. "The TPDF built the team unity and fundamentals needed in deployed units."

According to Sherrill and Laiter, the TPDF and the U.S. team shared many military skills between them, but also built a bond amongst Soldiers. This bond was shared not only between TPDF Soldiers but also with U.S. Soldiers and civilians.



Photo by Maj. John Sherrill

Sgt. 1st Class Tom Laiter, military police with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, acts as safety observer on the firing range Aug. 29 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"All Soldiers, especially infantry guys, are kindred spirits," Sherrill said. "From conversations, they had deployments that were similar to ours. We bonded over the chaotic nature of our work."

Contracting

continued from page 11

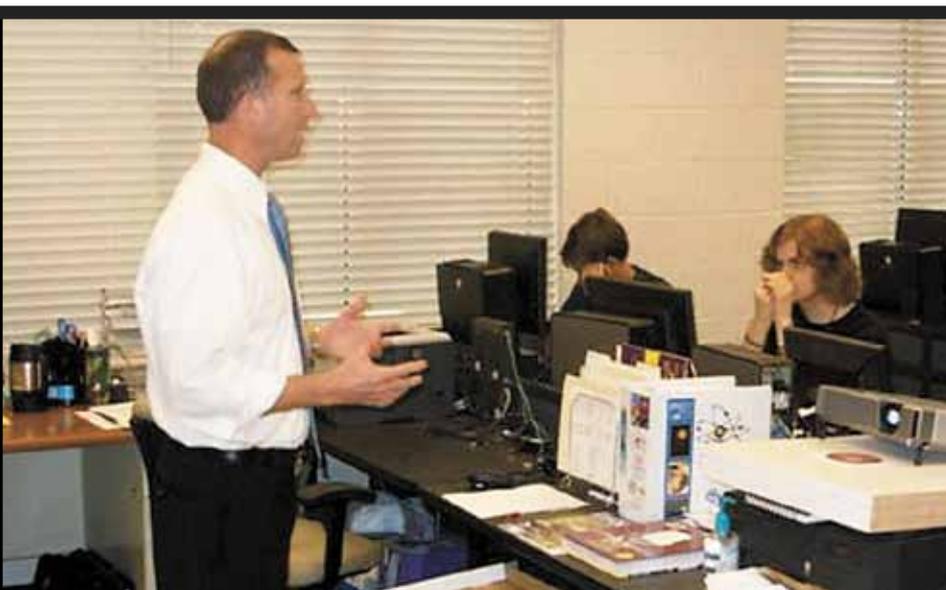
On Sept. 20, Lowman was appointed by President Obama as a member of the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled. She has long been an advocate for the blind and others with significant disabilities.

ACC provides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of more than 5,700 military and civilian personnel who award and manage more than 261,000 contract actions annually valued at more than \$92.9 billion. (*Army Contracting Command release*)



Courtesy photo

A crowd of nearly 300 listens to Gen. Ann Dunwoody during the Army Contracting Command's change of responsibility ceremony. Seated, from left, are incoming ACC executive director Dr. Carol Lowman and her predecessor Jeffrey Parsons.



Courtesy photo

Engineer lesson

William Walton, team lead and senior engineer at TMDE Activity, speaks to students at New Century Technology High School in Huntsville. He emphasized the pluses and minuses of technology and the opportunities the students can have through technology. The presentation was part of AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Aiming for success

Engineer James Curtin of the Prototype Integration Facility shows high school students how simple solutions can be significant game changers for Soldiers on the battlefield. Case in point is the new hand mitt added to machine guns. Engineers at the PIF designed and prototyped the hand mitt to address difficulties Soldiers have had operating machine guns in the cold weather conditions encountered in Afghanistan. The students were part of the Adventures in Engineering program brought to Redstone Arsenal on Sept. 21.

Light utility helicopter packs security punch

National Guard pilots train on new Lakota

By **SOPIA BLEDSOE**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Light Utility Helicopter Product Office showed its new Security and Support variant of the Lakota helicopter during a New Equipment Training event to Army National Guard pilots at the Madison County Executive Airport Sept. 28.

The UH-72A S&S Mission Equipment Package is the newest helicopter to enter service with the Army.

Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina and Florida are participating in this two-week training, which consists of academic and day and night flight training. The aircraft provides long range electro-optical sensors and the ability to record and down link data, which will aid the National Guard in its Homeland Security, Counter Drug, and Border Patrol missions.

"This is a success story of the joint efforts between the National Guard and the LUH Product Office in reviewing the lessons learned from the field, building the National Guard's requirements, and designing a state-of-the-art mission equipment package that meets all those requirements," Lt. Col. Dave Bristol, product manager for Light Utility Helicopters, said.

"It is a success story of teamwork."

The S&S MEP includes a turreted L-3 Wescam MX-15i electro-optical/infrared sensor and laser pointer; EuroAvionics EuroNav V RN6 moving map system and two SkyQuest 10-inch and a 15-inch touch-screen displays; a video management system, SkyQuest VRDV-4010 digital video recorder; and additional avionics and a Sierra Nevada Tactilink Eagle data downlink system. The helicopter is also equipped with a 30-million-candlepower Luminator LS16 searchlight that is mounted on the aft starboard step and slaved to the MX-15, and the same Goodrich 44301 series rescue hoist that is included in the Lakota's medevac MEP.

"I'm excited about the enhanced capabilities that it offers," said Lt. Col. Dallas Jones, a pilot with the Louisiana National Guard who is participating in the two-week course. Using the improved camera versus what he was flying with before puts him and his crew a good five miles away from a target instead of a mile away. "They can't hear me or see me," Jones added.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

A UH-72A Lakota Security and Support variant sits in a hangar at the Madison County Executive Airport. The aircraft provides long range electro-optical sensors and the ability to record and down link data. The S&S variants were designed specifically to meet the Army National Guard missions to conduct Homeland Security, Counter Drug, and Border Patrol. Four aircraft are being used for the New Equipment Training to Army National Guard pilots in Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Florida.

"It allows them to really conduct drug missions in a different manner," Maj. Jay Maher, assistant product manager for the LUH, said. "They can go operate at higher altitudes. Utilize maximum stand-off ranges while slewing the search light and sight system together, effectively maximizing the system when acquiring objects of interest. It's a very powerful sighting system, with both thermal and day time capability."

There are many firsts with the UH-72A S&S MEP including touch screens and soft keyboards. Jack Johnston, director of flight operations for the NET with the LUH Product Office, said the S&S MEP is "the only Army aircraft with these capabilities. It's completely unique."

"Everything in this aircraft feeds through the video management system and in any one of the video displays," Johnston said. "So the guy in the back could be looking at one of the sensors while these guys up front could be looking at the map while the other guy could be looking at the other sensor on the ball. It gives you complete independence throughout."

Another great capability of the aircraft is being able to conduct database searches with the moving map. "We have all the city street maps, aeronautical charts for the entire US, nautical charts for all the coastal areas and

IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) charts for all of the US," Johnston said. "We can also host topographical maps for the U.S."

Conducting the training in Huntsville allowed the team to consolidate and maximize their resources with instructors and aircraft operating from one place. "It allows us to put more crew members back at home station qualified on the aircraft faster," Maher said.

Madison County Executive Airport was chosen because it had the facilities and the right amount of airspace available to conduct training in the area. Maher added that the team adheres to the Fly Friendly policy and will stay away from populated areas, so residents will not notice or hear the aircraft flying at night.

Four aircraft will be used during the two-week training. Forty-nine National Guard pilots from seven states are scheduled to train by December. Alabama, Texas and Arkansas will be the next three states trained in November-December. All LUH S&S training will occur at the Madison County Executive Airport.

One hundred UH-72A S&S MEP are currently on contract for production. The first 16 were retrofitted with the MEP, and the next 84 will roll off the production line at the EADS facility in Columbus, Miss.

The rapid acquisition, production and fielding of the UH-72A Lakota aircraft over the last three and a half years has allowed the Army to transfer 23 UH-60 Black Hawks to other missions that support overseas contingency operations. It also allowed the Army to retire the aging UH-1 and divest the OH-58A/C by replacing them with modern, capable aircraft.

The Army plans to acquire 345 Lakotas through 2015, and the service has ordered 232 of the helicopters so far, along with five UH-72A versions for the Navy. Since 2007, 178 UH-72 helicopters have flown more than 76,000 hours across the United States, Puerto Rico, Kwajalein Atoll and Germany at an operational readiness rate of more than 90 percent.



Courtesy photo

Major promotion

Lt. Col. Greg Fortier, right, is congratulated by Redstone Test Center commander Col. Steve Kihara after he was promoted from major Sept. 9 at the Rotary Wing Center.

Laser test facility joins Test and Evaluation Command

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Although they may transfer ownership of a facility, it is guaranteed that the command will not be a stranger for long.

The High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., operated by the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command as a Department of Defense Major Range Test Facility Base activity, transferred to the Army Test and Evaluation Command on Oct. 1.

The intent of the transfer is an effort to reduce overall overhead for Army laser test facilities while continuing to support laser test customers. This transfer is expected to be transparent to test customers.

“The responsibility for managing the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility is being transferred,” Thomas Webber, SMDC Technical Center interim deputy director, said. “That includes facilities, test equipment, vehicles, equipment and support equipment. We will fund HELSTF to provide the same type of support they are providing now but we will no longer ‘own’ the facility.

“The advantages to SMDC is to allow us to maintain a presence for laser technology and allows us to gain efficiencies from the test organization that manages the other high-power laser operations. It allows us to consolidate our efforts under ATEC and White Sands Missile Range because they have other directed energy customers.”

HELSTF became an asset of SMDC when the facility was transferred from Army Materiel Command on Oct. 1, 1990. The transfer was initiated in accordance with then-secretary of the Army Michael P.W. Stone’s memorandum which sought to consolidate high energy laser research within one organization.

There have been many key directed energy testing successes at HELSTF while the facility belonged to SMDC/ARSTRAT.

From 1997 to 2004 HELSTF was the site of several successful high energy laser programs including the Nautilus program, the Tactical High Energy Laser program, and the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser program. From November 2002 through August 2004 THEL and MTHEL tracked and intercepted rocket, artillery and mortar projectiles in flight.

In October 2004, HELSTF was the site where the Data Collection Exercise was successfully conducted using a low powered chemical laser to acquire and track a satellite.

“We are in a period now where we are transferring from chemical lasers to

solid state lasers and it is that technology that is going to ruggedize and shrink it and make it viable as a weapon system,” Webber said. “We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go, but we still have a great facility to allow us to continue to grow the technology.”

The Solid State Laser Testbed Experiment facility at HELSTF is not currently part of the Major Range and Test Facility Base and will remain an SMDC asset. SMDC will continue to conduct high energy laser testing at HELSTF along with other high energy laser programs including the High Energy Laser Technology Demonstrator.

After the ATEC transfer, the command will continue to use the HELSTF as a customer for directed energy testing.

Currently, SMDC is involved in the Solid State Laser Testbed Experiment and SMDC will maintain responsibility for operation and sustainment of the SSLTE while conducting science and technology development activities.

“The SSLTE facility is close to being completed,” Webber said. “When it is ready, in either the spring or summer of 2012, we will hopefully begin laser testing.

“As everything comes together and we continue moving forward, SMDC will benefit from being familiar with the facility and they will be familiar with us as well.”

There are 10 employees who will make the transfer from SMDC to ATEC. The government work force at HELSTF has been integrated into the White Sands Missile Range personnel system. They have known where they will work for more than 30 days and will transfer to WSMR payrolls Oct. 9.

Before the official transfer, members of the command went out to personally thank the SMDC team members who have given so much to the command and to the nation.

“I visited White Sands for two reasons,” Debra Wymer, SMDC Technical Center director, said. “First, Dr. (Steven L.) Messervy and I wanted to thank the USASMDC/ARSTRAT employees at HELSTF who will transition to the Army Test and Evaluation Command or other organizations at White Sands Missile Range. Second, I wanted to see firsthand the test assets that will remain part of the Technical Center after HELSTF transitions to ATEC.”

Wymer took time to thank those SMDC employees who will be leaving the command and continuing their mission at White Sands Missile Range.

“I want to thank them for their service to the command and the Army while serving at the High Energy Laser Sys-



Courtesy photo

This beam director was used for the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser and has been reformatted to support the Solid State Laser Testbed Experiment at High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

tems Test Facility,” she said. “Their dedication and sacrifice is greatly appreciated by all of us in the command and especially by me. They have contributed to a legacy of excellence in high energy laser

technology and weapon system testing.

“I wish them the greatest success as they transition to the Army Test and Evaluation Command or other organizations at White Sands.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Birthday party

The AMCOM Command Group celebrated the 75th birthday for special maids Ruby Smith and Mary Williams. Smith’s birthday was Sept. 27 and Williams’ Sept. 26.

Win or Lose

Improved greens open at post golf course

Back nine renovation project completed

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

Thursday brought welcome news for Redstone Arsenal golfers.

The back nine of the Warrior course at the Links reopened after a greens renovation project, which started in June.

"We renovated these nine greens and this putting green," Mark Germonprez, business operations officer for the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "This putting green got expanded and re-grassed."

The \$100,000 project, funded by FMWR, now gives the entire Warrior course Mini-Verde greens, a turf grass varietal.

These nine holes will be open on an as-needed basis for weekends and high traffic days until next spring. The greens have grown in nicely, but still have some imperfections in places and are a little

bumpy, according to golf course superintendent Larry Underwood. With the Links' topdressing and rolling program, and with time, the bumpiness will improve.

"This now gives us 36 holes, 18 on each side of the (Goss) road," Underwood said.

Course manager Jon Samuelson listed the following upcoming events at the Links:

Senior club championship will be held Saturday and Sunday at 8 a.m. And the Callaway Tour Van will be there Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "So a guy can be treated to the same experience that a tour pro does," Samuelson said. "They can fit you with golf clubs, build them and have them for you that day – just like a tour pro."

The Garrison Scramble is 8 a.m. Oct. 15.

Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. brings the seventh annual Chili Cookoff and Scramble. Cost is \$25 per golfer and each team must provide a pot of chili for the cookoff.

For more information, call the Pro Shop at 883-7977.



Photo by Skip Vaughn
Mark Germonprez, of FMWR, putts on the new practice green which is part of the greens renovation project.

Oklahoma should do OK against rival Texas

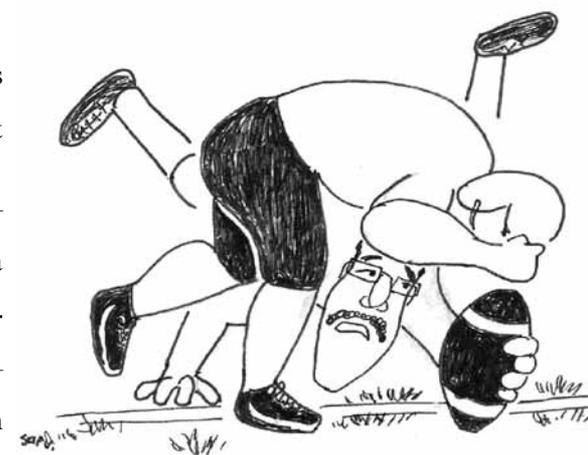
By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks were 183-46 for 79 percent after four weeks of college football. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Oklahoma at Texas – **Oklahoma**
California at Oregon – **Oregon**
Boise St. at Fresno St. – **Boise St.**
Kansas at Oklahoma St. – **Okla. St.**

Arizona at Oregon St. – **Arizona**
Connecticut at West Virginia – **WV**
Maryland at Georgia Tech – **Ga. Tech**
Louisville at North Carolina – **UNC**
Minnesota at Purdue – **Purdue**
Mississippi St. at UAB – **Miss. St.**
Kentucky at South Carolina – **SC**
Florida St. at Wake Forest – **FSU**
Memphis at Rice – **Rice**
Army at Miami (Ohio) – **Army**
Wofford at The Citadel – **Wofford**

Samford at Furman – **Furman**
Temple at Ball St. – **Temple**
Alabama State at Texas Southern – **Ala. St.**
Mississippi Valley State at Alabama A&M – **A&M**
Illinois at Indiana – **Illinois**
Boston College at Clemson – **Clemson**
Chattanooga at Georgia Southern – **Ga. Southern**
Arizona St. at Utah – **Arizona St.**
Missouri at Kansas St. – **Kansas St.**
Miami (Fla.) at Virginia Tech – **Va. Tech**
Iowa at Penn St. – **Penn St.**
Pittsburgh at Rutgers – **Pitt**
Southern Miss at Navy – **So. Miss**
Air Force at Notre Dame – **ND**
Florida at LSU – **LSU**
Texas A&M at Texas Tech – **Texas A&M**
Iowa St. at Baylor – **Baylor**
Auburn at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Vanderbilt at Alabama – **Bama**
Georgia at Tennessee – **Georgia**



East Carolina at Houston – **Houston**
Troy at La.-Lafayette – **Troy**
Michigan at Northwestern – **Michigan**
Colorado at Stanford – **Stanford**
Ohio St. at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Wyoming at Utah St. – **Utah St.**
Syracuse at Tulane – **Syracuse**
San Jose St. at BYU – **BYU**
Washington St. at UCLA – **UCLA**
TCU at San Diego St. – **TCU**

Big Red One Soldiers, Afghan forces take on enemy

By Staff Sgt. JOHN ZUMER

Joint Task Force 1-Afghanistan

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – “It’s probably the most dangerous mission all year,” said Capt. Michael Hefti, speaking to his Soldiers before they headed off to the remote Suri Kheyl area of Waze Zadran district, Paktya province, Sept. 15.

The impending joint effort between coalition and Afghan National Security Forces to locate and destroy enemy strength, designated as Operation Tofan II would prove to be an illuminating one in many ways.

Hefti, commander of Blackfoot Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, knew the mission would be a challenging one, largely because of what the area promised to reveal.

“It’s a popular transit line for the insurgents,” Hefti said.

The operation’s goal was to establish contact with the insurgents, disrupt their logistics, and reduce any material or moral support from the local population. Movement to the extremely remote area, which featured narrow or non-existent roads set among mountains, included mounted and dismounted Soldiers who also had to be aware of the need to control the key terrain features around Suri Kheyl.

“We know this area is where the enemy enjoys freedom of movement, largely because of the terrain,” said Lt. Col. Mark Borowski, commander of 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. “We wanted to disrupt enemy safe havens and elicit a reaction that we could base future operations on.”

Tofan II is the latest of several major operations since January in which TF Duke has partnered with Afghan National Security Forces, or ANSF, in their joint area of responsibility in Khowst and Paktya provinces.

These operations have all attempted to influence the battlefield by targeting insurgent weapons caches, securing key routes, eliminating insurgents from populated areas and removing their local hideouts.

According to Hefti, the operation was a landmark one not just for what it hoped to accomplish, but where. The Suri Kheyl area has long been thought to be fertile ground for the Haqqani Network, a criminal organization with links to the Taliban and al-Qaida, and believed to be based across the nearby Afghan border with Pakistan.

“It (Tofan II) shows that ANSF forces can go wherever they want,” said Hefti, adding that few Afghan or coalition forces have visited the area over the years.

The operation included several additional objectives, with the most important possibly being to convince villagers to work alongside coalition and ANSF forces in ridding the area of insurgent activity. Blackfoot Troop and their Afghan National Army partners methodically swept the Suri Kheyl area for improvised explosive devices, weapons caches, human and other intelligence targets.

Enemy resistance and activity was less than expected during the majority of the operation.

“It was quieter, and the enemy made it very clear they wouldn’t confront our air assets,” Hefti said.

Regardless, important progress was made on several fronts. Small caches of weapons, ammunition and components for improvised explosive devices were confiscated from several locations, removing all from future use on the battlefield. The most beneficial result of all may have been the levels of support and cooperation shown between coalition and Afghan forces.

“The ANA (Afghan National Army) were amazing,” said Hefti, specifically citing the battlefield leadership of Maj. Shapoor of the Afghan National Army’s 6th Coy, 1st Kandak. Shapoor took the lead among his men, Hefti said, in professionally conducting searches, interviewing villagers and maintaining accountability of Afghan personnel and materiel.

Exiting the Suri Kheyl area when the mission concluded might have been the most dangerous part of the mission. Isolated skirmishes with the enemy were settled quickly through strong air cover supplemented by artillery support provided by TF Duke’s 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. Having such powerful assets available left Hefti quite pleased.

“Those guys are the greatest. It [artillery support] gives you a sense of peace, and has a very powerful psychological effect on both enemy forces and our own,” Hefti said.

For Borowski, the many successful aspects of the operation helped to confirm a lot of suspicions that coalition and ANA leadership had about the area.

“We think it will be very helpful for the future,” he said.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Watson

Soldiers from Blackfoot Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, pull security near a house while it is being searched during Operation Tofan II, near the village of Suri Kheyl, Waze Zadran District, Afghanistan, Sept. 15. The operation’s main objective was to clear insurgents from the vicinity of Suri Kheyl and to prevent them from returning.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Youth soccer

Child Youth and School Services' Sports and Fitness is presenting two soccer skills courses for children ages 8 to 17. The first class, every Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. through Nov. 30, will teach the Flavela Foot Skills Program. The class will be taught by two former Olympians and World Cup soccer players. The cost is \$100. The second is a Fall Soccer Camp conducted the week of fall break, Oct. 6-10, from 9-11 a.m. The camp will be taught by U.S. Olympic and National soccer team members Desmond Arstorno and Brent Goulet, and a professional Brazilian soccer player. For more information or to sign up, call 313-3699 or 876-3704.

UAH hockey night

The Association of the U.S. Army is sponsoring Military Appreciation Night for the University of Alabama-Huntsville hockey game against the Air Force Academy. The game is Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center.

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.

Golf tournament

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have a golf tournament Oct. 14 at the Links at Redstone. Four-person scramble begins with check-in at 10:45 a.m., lunch at 11 and shotgun start at noon. Cost is \$45 per person, \$180 per team. Cash or check to ADAA, Huntsville Chapter, is due Oct. 10. For registration, email ralph.merrill@irtc-hq.com or trick.defatta@gmail.com. The non-golfing ADAA members' social is at 5 p.m. at the Golf Clubhouse.

Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering another Boating Safety Class to begin Oct. 13. The class is scheduled to meet at Redstone building 3687 at 6:30 p.m. The classes will meet Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 17 and Nov. 23. To sign up or obtain more information, call Tom Kunhart 830-6621, 527-4475 or email tkunhart@knology.net.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Protestant women

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

Sergeants major

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

Small business workshop

The U.S. Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs is conducting a "Small Business 101" workshop Oct. 26 for local small business owners interested in learning how to contract with the Army. Registration and more information are available at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

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.

Union meeting

Due to the Columbus Day holiday Monday, Oct. 10, the next AFGE Local 1858 membership meeting will be held Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. at building 3202 on Mauler Road.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time begin at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting at 10. Guest speaker Nancy Robertson will talk about the services provided by the TARCOG Association for seniors in north Alabama. Active federal employees and retired non-members are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Men's ministries

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

Engineer section

Join the ASME North Alabama Section for its October meeting today at 11:30 at UAH's Von Braun Research Hall, room M-50, to hear engineer Earl R. Foust. He will talk about what it takes to be a professional engineer and what changes are coming for the profession. For information and reservations, visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama> or email rpgetman@asme.org.

Modeling/simulation conference

AlaSim is accepting one-page abstracts for peer reviewed papers on topics in modeling and simulation. The deadline for submitting abstracts for all AlaSim International 2012 areas is extended to Friday. AlaSim International 2012, organized by the Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council, is designed to both showcase the breadth and depth of simulation activity in Alabama and to collect, document, display and discuss the current state of simulation technology throughout the world. The first AlaSim International 2012 conference is scheduled May 1-3 at the Von Braun Center. For information call Ralph Weber, general chair for AlaSim International 2012, at 964-4549 or visit www.AlaSim2012.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.

Women's meeting

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club will hold a General Membership Meeting/Luncheon on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The program will be presented by jewelry designer and gemologist Vicki Stickles. The monthly outreach is for the Humane Society/The Ark. They are in need of toys, food, cat litter, bedding and other animal supplies. Cost for lunch is \$14. For more information and reservations, visit www.rsacwc.org.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Greg Biggs, military historian, Civil War author, editor, researcher and tour guide, will present "The Atlanta Campaign: Part 1, Ringgold Gap to Kennesaw Mountain." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. Call 539-5287 for information.

Battlefield tour

Military historian Greg Biggs will lead a tour to Kennesaw for two nights Oct. 21-23. There will be roundtrip luxury motor-coach transportation from pickup points in Madison and Chattanooga for "The Road to Kennesaw – Sherman and Johnston in North Georgia, May-June 1864." Rates per person include single \$385, double (two beds) \$295 and triple (two beds) \$270. For reservations and more information, call 890-0890.

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have its annual dinner dance Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured speaker is Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, deputy for test and assessment, Missile Defense Agency. Additional details to include registration information will be announced soon.

Southern Miss alumni

Retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond will speak to the University of Southern Mississippi alumni associations and friends Nov. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The luncheon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in ballrooms 1 and 2. Cost will be \$16 per adult and checks payable to USM North Alabama Alumni Association. Send by Nov. 12 to Stacy A. Busby at 106

See Announcements on page 35

Rocket Announcements

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.

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/>.

Reliability engineers

The Society of Reliability Engineers, Huntsville Chapter, invites you to its fourth annual RAM Workshop, Nov. 1-2 at the Holiday Inn Hotel Downtown, 401 Williams Ave. For more information and to register, call Anna Gamble 922-9300, ext. 100, email anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com or visit the website <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=46uhokgab&oeidk=a07e4acce3be6cc3c0d>.

Defense women

Women in Defense, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will present "Leadership Challenges in National Defense," a half day workshop on the afternoon of Oct. 27 at the Marriott in Huntsville. The event will include a luncheon (with keynote speaker), afternoon focus panels and an evening reception. Speaking invitations to high-level government leadership have been extended. Additional workshop details to include agenda, registration

information and sponsorship opportunities will be announced soon.

Leadership seminars

Focus of Alabama Leadership Seminars begin Oct. 21. "Unlock the full power of your potential," a prepared release said. The registration deadline is Friday. For more information, call 652-9293 or visit <http://focusalabama.com>.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Oct. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Stephen Cash, director of safety and mission assurance for Marshall Space Flight Center, is the guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audra Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Space society

Huntsville AL L5 Society, a local chapter of the National Space Society, will have a program Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Main Public Library. Dr. Jason Cassibry, assistant professor for mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Alabama-Huntsville Propulsion Research Center, will speak on "The Case and Development Path for Fusion Propulsion." This event is free and open to the public. A social will follow.

Logistics summit

The Directorate of Logistics will hold a Logistics Summit on Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at building 1500, Challenger Activity Center, on Weeden Mountain Road. The purpose of this summit is to meet with supported tenant unit logisticians and leadership representatives to update them on DOL logistics services with em-

phasis on the Fiscal 2012 Garrison Support Catalog. Agenda items include ammunition receipt, storage and transport, ammunition safety and surveillance services, supply receipt/management/and issue, turn-in of property, vehicle and equipment maintenance support, CIF support, household goods movements, freight shipments, ordering of passports, commercial travel, non-tactical and GSA vehicle support, and the Hazardous Materials Management Program. Please submit any questions or issues by Oct. 19 that you would like answered at this summit to michael.durham1@us.army.mil.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

DA civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil> for your use. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Department of Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Lisa Glenn 876-2082. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name - all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Education test center

Taking online courses? Need a proctor for your exams? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764 for an appointment. They can proctor exams for most colleges. Proctoring ser-

VICES are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders).

Ride needed

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

Senior volunteers

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

Fox pharmacy hours

Effective this week, Fox Army Health Center Pharmacy's new hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Note: For the first 30 minutes, active duty have priority. The health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

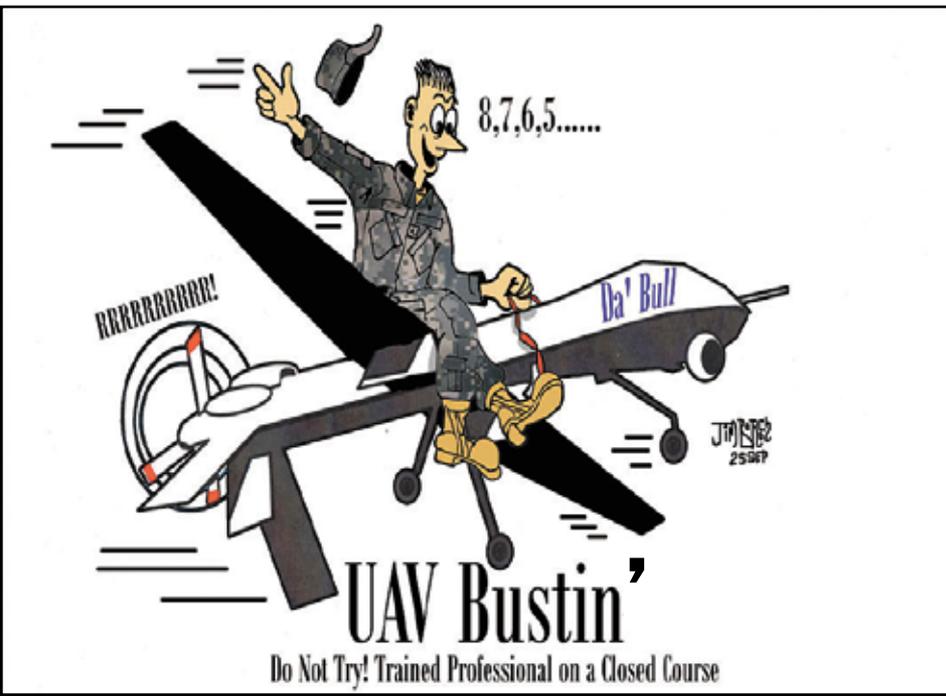
Employment overview

Need help understanding how to apply for federal jobs? Reserve a seat for the Federal Employment Process overview on Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will provide information on various recruitment sources, application procedures, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. There will also be a presentation on the "Ten Steps to a Federal Job." This session will cover how to analyze vacancy announcements on USAJOBS, write your resume in outline format, address KSAs and assessment questionnaires. All military ID and Common Access Card holders and their spouses are invited. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397 or email debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil.

Organization day

AMRDEC Organization Day is Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at building 3328.

See Announcements on page 36



Rocket Announcements

Lunch tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-10, and children 5 and under eat for free. Purchase tickets by Oct. 12. For more information call Pat Hooper 876-4273, Vanessa Cosper 842-1950 or John Joseph 842-4219.

Tango classes

Basic (Beginner) dance classes in Tango will be held five Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. Oct. 20 through Nov. 17. No experience necessary. Tuition is \$55 per couple. Reviewers who have taken Tango previously at Redstone may take this course at the reduced rate of \$44 per couple by eliminating the first class only. Classes are held at the School Age Services building 3755. Registration is at the Community Activity Center building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. Call 876-4531 for hours of operation and further information, including how singles may be able to attend this course.

Redstone career day

The Integrated Materiel Management Center is sponsoring its annual Logistics Career Day today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. This event is open to all Team Redstone employees. Attendees will be presented information on career advice, Lean Six Sigma opportunities, Army Acquisition Workforce, Resumix training, AMCOM Leadership Development Life Cycle, AMCOM developmental assignments, Leadership Investment for Tomorrow and Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, Civilian Education System, and professional development from the Civilian Logistics Career Management Office and various other IMMC subject matter experts. Attendees will be given an opportunity to meet with the CLCMO representatives during the lunch period to discuss issues for careerists within Career Programs 13, 17 or 24. The IMMC contacts for this event are Terrence Hamil 842-5325 and Donna Caldwell 876-6220.

Wounded Warriors fund-raiser

Want to attend a fund-raiser luncheon to support Wounded Warriors? Register now for this event scheduled Oct. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Retired Marine Corps Gen. Jim Jones, former national security adviser, Supreme Allied commander, commander of the U.S. European Command and Commandant of the Marine Corps. Jones will speak on "Contemporary National Security Issues of the United States." The Meet and Greet Luncheon is a fund-raiser to assist in defraying the cost of bringing the Wounded Warriors from all branches

and their spouse/caregiver to the Huntsville area during Veterans Week. Individuals may register at www.supportwoundedwarriorsweek.org. The cost is \$50 per lunch. For more information, call Faye or Henrietta 461-8815. This event is hosted by the Semper Fi Community Task Force.

Family fun event

Club H2O, at Bicentennial Chapel, will have its third annual October Slam on Oct. 28 from 6-9:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. There will be free food, games, blowups, train ride, hay ride, Andy and the Praise Band, horseshoe competition, door prize and the Garbage Can Band. For more information, call 842-3318, visit www.redstoneclubh2o.org or email darrell@redstoneclubh2o.org.

Red Cross blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: Oct. 7 from 7-noon at building 5681 and from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Exchange. ... Oct. 14 from 6:30-noon at the Army Corps of Engineers and from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400. ... Oct. 20 from 7-noon at building 5222, building 6263 and the Sparkman Center. ... Oct. 21 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316 and from 7-noon at building 4545.

A&M homecoming

Pinnacle Affairs invites you to come celebrate the Alabama A&M University homecoming at the Surie in Madison on Saturday, following Alabama A&M's homecoming football game against Mississippi Valley State. Doors open at 10 p.m. and admission is free before 11. Advance tickets with no line/no wait/no time restrictions are available for \$10; and limited V.I.P. reserved tables of four are available for \$60. "The disc jockey duo, 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka), will be on the 1s and 2s," a prepared release said. Call 508-8674, email pinnacleaffairs@aol.com, or purchase tables or tickets online at www.pinnacleaffairs.com.

Contracting seminar

Local contracting and business professionals learn "100 Worst Mistakes in Government Contracting," in a joint presentation by Byron Butler, retired as director of the Office of Procurement at Marshall Space Flight Center, and John Callahan Jr., government contracts attorney. This one-day National Education Seminar, hosted by the Huntsville chapter of the National Contract Management Association, applies principles from the new book of the same title by illustrating with local examples of common mistakes

made when doing business with the government. The event is Oct. 20 at Cobham Analytic Solutions, 401 Diamond Drive, Huntsville. Registration by Oct. 7 secures a rate of \$275 for members and \$300 for non-members. After Oct. 7, the seminar costs \$300 for members and \$325 for non-members. The program runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., includes lunch, a copy of the book by Richard D. Lieberman and Jason D. Morgan, and seven continuing education credits. For registration, visit www.ncmahsv.org.

Logistics achievement awards

The Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award Luncheon/Ceremony is Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This will present two awards: the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (or military equivalents). These awards are presented annually to recognize Team Redstone individuals who have provided outstanding service in logistics support, made notable contribution to the efficiency and quality of logistical support, and demonstrated excellent and professionalism in his or her assigned duties. Tickets are on sale through Nov. 4 for \$18. For tickets call Barbara Harris 876-3805, Jennifer Marchant 842-6768, Desiree Galloway 842-0848, Kelly McDaniel 313-1641, Darlene Readus 876-2392 and Kim Lund 842-2468.

Playhouse show

The Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater will perform "Arthur and the Magic Sword" on Oct. 7-9 and 14-16 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Show times are 7 p.m. Fridays, and 1:30 and 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets cost \$14. For information call 539-6829 or visit www.letthemagicbegin.org.

Blessing of animals

The annual Blessing of the Animals is Saturday at 2 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera will bless all animals that are brought to the event. Participants will enjoy refreshments, receive St. Francis Medals and get food samples for their animals. Bring your animals and enjoy the blessing.

Young Marines to D.C.

Members of the Madison Alabama Young Marines – a non-profit organization for boys and girls (8-18), whose mission is to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle while focusing on character-building and leadership skills – have been invited to Washington, D.C. in November by their organization's national headquarters to help celebrate Veterans Day activities. They will meet, talk to and hear personal stories from the five remaining Doolittle Raiders, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, tour Arlington Cemetery and much more. The

group is working to raise funds for this opportunity. Tax deductible contributions to help these Young Marines can be made by calling Judy Pettus 316-2902 or Amy De La Rosa (732) 713-9664 or by emailing madisonyoungmarines@yahoo.com. For more information on the Young Marine Program, visit this website <http://www.orgsites.com/al/yamarines/>.

Jazz performance

The Army Materiel Command Band's "Four-Star Jazz Orchestra" and "Latin Express" will perform a jazz concert in the Von Braun Cafeteria on Oct. 11 in honor of Latin Heritage Month. The concert is set for 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meeting professionals

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals marks the 30th anniversary when a small group of government planners and industry partners, led by Sam Gilmer, established the mission of enhancing the knowledge and expertise of meeting professionals. Over the years the national society has worked to improve the quality of, and promote the cost-effectiveness of, government meetings. SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. Recently at the Rocket City-Alabama Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting held at Embassy Suites Downtown Huntsville, Jonathan McKinney, director of sales marketing at Marriott Shoals Florence, served as the guest speaker and spoke on the importance of suppliers and planners networking together for a successful government meeting. Marking the 30th anniversary, the local chapter is taking part in a membership drive through Dec. 8 for government professionals to join the association. The annual fee has been reduced to \$30 (it is normally \$55) for one year. SGMP delivers membership value of education, resources and networking to more than 3,500 members and 32 chapters worldwide. For more information, call Barbie Baugh, AMCOM Protocol, 876-7138 or Sherry Hilley, RTC, 842-6715.

Driver safety course

In honor of all veterans, AARP is waving the tuition for veterans and their spouses and spouses of deceased veterans for their Driver Safety Courses offered during November. A course on Redstone is being offered Nov. 8-9 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. Completion of this eight-hour classroom refresher, designed for the older driver, may qualify participants 55 and older for an auto insurance discount. (Check with your insurance agent.) To register for the course at Redstone, call instructor Vince Guarin 880-6928. Class size is limited to 25. For other course locations, call AARP at 888-227-7669.