

Redstone Rocket

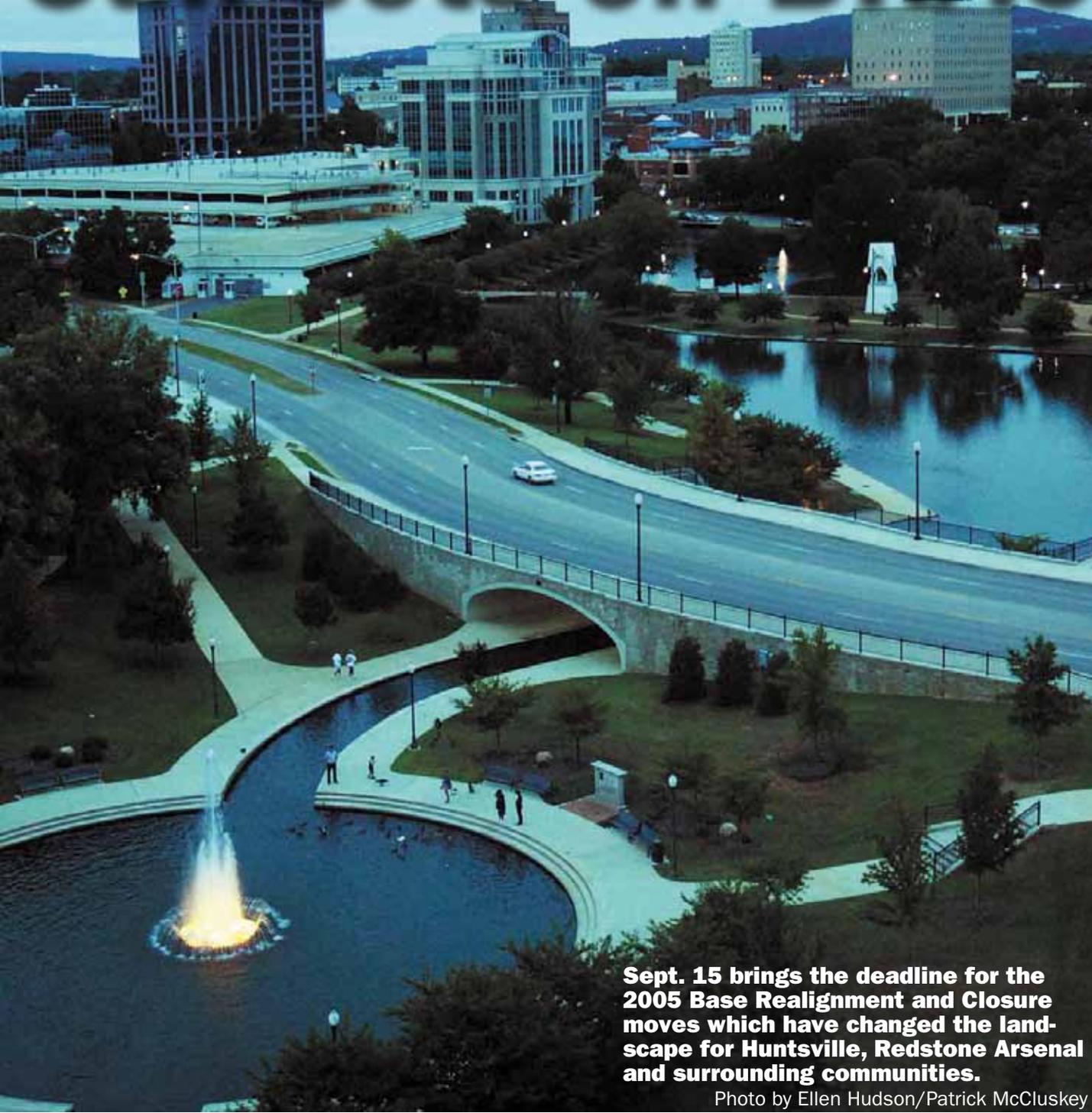
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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Sun sets on BRAC



Sept. 15 brings the deadline for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure moves which have changed the landscape for Huntsville, Redstone Arsenal and surrounding communities.

Photo by Ellen Hudson/Patrick McCluskey

COMMUNITY NEWS

Arts & Crafts Center wares will be on display at this week's Oktoberfest.

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SPECIAL SECTION

Community leaders assess the results of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure moves.

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HELPING HANDS

Couple celebrate birthday with fellowship for homeless people.

PAGE 23

WIN OR LOSE

Runners commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy.

PAGE 25



RocketViews

What's the biggest change you've seen at Redstone because of BRAC?

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



Jacki Meurer
Arts & Crafts Center
"Probably it's brought more business in for us and more accounts. More visibility, which is good for the Arts & Crafts Center. Because a lot of people don't know that we're here and what we offer."



Ray Boles
Garrison Transportation Division
"I came down with BRAC in '98, so I've seen all the stuff that's been put in place for this BRAC that didn't happen for the '98 people. They've instituted a lot of stuff and it's all good. It helps everybody. You can go up to the PX area and pick up your tag for your car. You can get your driver's license renewed there. If you came down with Virginia tags, you can get that switched over to Alabama tags there. It's a good deal."



Vanessa Williams
AMCOM G-8 (Resource Management)
"The biggest change is the building – the nice AMC facilities. And also the change in the jobs, the change in job assignments. The job assignments have increased. And plus I've gotten a chance to meet a lot of the employees from AMC."



Stanley Parker
Program Executive Office for Aviation
"The improvement in the military housing. That was all because of BRAC – the new houses they've built up. That was because of the BRAC

process. And it's truly a big difference being that I was a part of the 59th Ordnance Brigade (as a Soldier in 1987, 1997 through 2002 and 2008-10). Seeing the Soldiers are no longer a part of Redstone is almost unrecognizable, not seeing the Soldiers marching down the road."

Letters to the editor

Suicide Prevention Month: Watch out for each other

When I talk with garrison professionals who work in suicide prevention, they all have stories about the person who really made them realize the importance of what they do. There was the Soldier who seemed to have it all together, until one day he asked a course instructor, "When you're driving home, do you think about wrapping your car around a tree?" And the civilian supervisor with a stressful, high-visibility job, who did not want to attend the mandatory suicide prevention training because he did not want to admit to himself his own thoughts about suicide. And the family member who felt desperately alone and overwhelmed during another deployment.

Most of the stories have happy endings – the people received the help they needed. When they didn't, it was a hard, hard loss. Losing someone to suicide is doubly painful and confusing,



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

as those left behind not only deal with the absence of their friend, loved one or co-worker, but also with guilt and questions of what could have been done.

September is Army Suicide Prevention Month, coinciding with National

Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 4-10. Suicide prevention is an institutional Army program, focused on this urgent issue year-round, but this month the Army intensifies its efforts to make sure every Soldier, civilian and family member knows what resources are available to help those in need.

The Army has developed Ask, Care, Escort training to equip everyone to take care of a person at the point of crisis until a professional can assist. It is available through the garrison Suicide Prevention Program, as well as the Army's Suicide Prevention website (www.army1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp).

A number of other resources provide help with issues that can put a person at risk for suicide. These resources include the Army Substance Abuse Program,

See Suicide on page 3

Former Braves manager hit home run as leader

On Aug. 12, I had an opportunity to meet and greet with Mr. Bobby Cox, former Atlanta Braves baseball team manager for his Hall of Fame induction luncheon. Everyone waiting in line to meet him seemed all excited, and I was too. After all, not every day do you get to be in a room with a high-profile baseball manager, players, and have one sit at your table. I was delighted by Mr. Cox's approachable personality and his eye contact with everyone he shook hands with.

During the luncheon and retiring his number (6) at the evening game,

See Leader on page 3



Courtesy photo

KC Bertling, of SMDC/ARSTRAT, meets former Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox.

Union election at critical time for federal employees

AFGE Local 1858 is conducting a rerun election for the office of Local president by mail-in ballot sent to all Local members by Sept. 9. Members will have 30 days in order to return their ballots in the security return envelope provided. Current members should have already received their notice about the rerun election.

If you are a dues-paying member and did not get a notice, call the AFGE 5th District Office at 770-907-2055 and speak with Ted Jennings.

The candidates for the position of Union 1858 Local president are long-term Local president Don Eiermann and acting Local president Abner Merriweather. This election is significant as it takes place at a time when federal employee rights, salaries and benefits are under attack.

The American Federation of Gov-

See Union on page 3

Quote of the Week

A child runs to class to beat the morning's last bell.
Another child runs to avoid that night's jail cell.
With our help, this can be heaven instead of living hell."
— Skip Vaughn

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to **know you**

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Name: Edward Mendez

Job: Senior logistics specialist, Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate, AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

Where do you call home?
Originally I'm from Puerto Rico.

What do you like about your job?
I like that we directly impact the units by providing parts for the aircraft that we sustain.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to spend time with the family (wife Liza and son Edward Jr., 16) and participate in Latin activities, like (being the) deejay at different Latin events and stuff.

What are your goals?
I would like to continue being part of



the AMCOM team and reach my goal of being a team leader.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
The top of my bucket list would be to be able to see my son graduate from Auburn. Since he's been 10 years old that's all he's talked about – Auburn University. That's all he's been dreaming of is being in Auburn University.

Suicide

continued from page 2

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program, the Family Advocacy Program, Military and Family Life Consultants, Behavioral Health, Soldier and Family Assistance Centers, and unit and garrison chaplains.

Looking at the bigger picture, the Army has expanded the resources aimed at strengthening the overall resilience and well-being of our Army family. More training is now available through the

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, which focuses on physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual strength.

The Army's commitment to suicide prevention has resulted in some real policy and program changes that have reduced the number of people at risk. But as long as any member of the Army family views suicide as a viable option, we still have work to do. From the Installation Management side we are strengthening programs that provide critical support. This includes hiring more ASAP counselors and Suicide Prevention Program managers for installations worldwide,

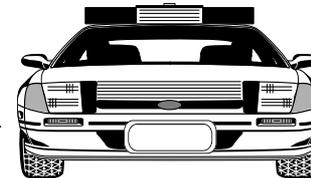
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 1-7:

Sept. 3: Two people approached Gate 9 lost. During turn around procedures, neither the driver nor the passenger could provide valid identification. A check of the driver's and passenger's information revealed there were no warrants. The driver received a citation for driving without a license. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

Sept. 4: A Marine was arrested by the Madison County Sheriff's Office for desertion. The Marine was transferred to Redstone Police for processing. Coordination with the Marine's unit was made to return him to the Marine Corps and he was placed in the Madison County Jail until his unit made arrangements.

Sept. 6: A driver approached Gate 9 lost. During turn around procedures, the driver could not produce a valid license and was found to have a revoked license. The driver received a citation for driving while revoked. The vehicle was



removed by a licensed driver.

Sept. 6: Redstone Police took custody of a Soldier from the Whitfield County (Ga.) Jail. He was returned to Redstone Arsenal where he was processed for desertion. The Soldier was returned to his unit in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sept. 7: Redstone Police and Fire responded to a report of a vehicle fire at building 3206. Redstone Fire extinguished the fire. Further inspection of the area revealed that a government vehicle parked adjacent to the fire was also damaged.

Sept. 7: A person in the Exchange was observed selecting a pair of blue jeans, concealing them and exiting the store without payment.

Traffic accidents reported: Six without injury, one with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 29 speeding, 8 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 driving with a suspended license, 2 driving without a license, 2 no proof of insurance, 1 driving under the influence, 1 possession of a dangerous weapon, 1 larceny.

Leader

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Braves key players shared years of their laughable and inspiring stories with him. Each of them with absolute respect to him expressed their love, adulation and passion for baseball. He was truly a dynamic leader in all aspects of human perspectives described by Braves players.

On the way home, I gave some thought on how a leader can impact on other people's lives. I believe great leadership requires artistic skills and deep human qualities beyond conventional notions of authority. Though I have plenty of weaknesses, personally I love to lead because it gives me the opportunity to show people how to do the right thing. Besides all the big words such as, integrity, honesty, etc., what makes a great leader? This is what I've always believed a leader must possess: 1. Absolute trustworthy; 2. Serve with conviction; 3. Aware of personal strengths and weaknesses; 4. Know when to say enough of the day; 5. Don't get lost because of isolation and delusion.

Great leaders motivate and inspire followers in humility. Based on Atlanta Braves players' comments, Mr. Cox has all of the above in my book. It was a very memorable and pleasant experience to meet him.

KC Bertling
SMDC/ARSTRAT

and revising the Total Army Sponsorship Program to help transitioning Soldiers, civilians and families build stronger connections with their new communities.

One key component to successful Army prevention efforts is fully engaged, committed leadership from top to bottom. Great leaders create a culture in which people observe standards and discipline, and also get to know and care about each other. They make sure policies are enforced, programs are run correctly and everyone gets the training they need to watch out for those around them.

Most critically, great leaders get out the

message that it is a sign of strength to ask for help. We will keep repeating that every which way – in formations, during stand down days, on Facebook, in print, on radio and TV, at FRG meetings, at community events – until we have no more cause for saying it.

Every positive outcome starts with one person reaching out to another and finding strength and hope together. We are the Army family and we take care of each other.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Installation Management
Command commander

Union

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ernment Employees is the largest federal union and represents over 625,000 employees across the United States. Redstone Arsenal has one of the largest concentrations of unionized DoD employees outside of Washington, D.C. AFGE Local 1858 represents 9,600 civil service employees locally. They are dispersed among 20 bargaining units both on and off-post. There are even employees serving in such places as Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan on temporary duty assignments.

Currently, federal employees have been the target of congressional criticism. Within Congress, there are efforts to freeze government employees' salaries, reduce benefits and alter exist-

ing retirement programs. The majority of DoD employees on Redstone hold advanced education degrees and oversee complex Defense programs that support our war fighters overseas. Many came to work for the government despite being able to garner higher wages elsewhere in private industry. The reason they continue to work at Redstone is simple – they want to serve their country.

Now, federal employees are being made scapegoats in the political arenas across the country. For this very reason, AFGE Local 1858 continues to grow and expand its membership. The membership will now choose the person who will lead them for the coming turbulent years that lay ahead.

Dean Allen

Arts & Crafts Center sells Oktoberfest souvenirs



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Lori Connors, facility manager for the June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, shows the beer steins and tie dye T-shirts made at the center that will be on sale at Oktoberfest, this Friday through Sunday.

*See original works
at weekend festival*

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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At the end of the day, they go where the creativity calls.

At work they are engineers, scientists, managers and Soldiers, but when the work is done and the play begins, the June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center unites them in one vocation – as artists. Whether it is woodworking, painting, drawing, digital media or framing, the possibilities are endless at building 3615, where members of the Redstone community can come to practice their favorite form of arts and crafts, or learn a new one.

“I’ve found that I like doing arts and crafts because it’s evidence of time well spent,” Lori Connors, facility manager for the Arts & Crafts Center, said. “I can watch TV, play solitaire on the computer or check email and then have nothing to show for it. I like seeing tangible evidence. I find that when I’m doing something creative it brings me joy and makes me laugh.”

The latest labors from the Arts & Crafts Center will be on display and available for purchase at the 2011 Oktoberfest, Friday, 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday 12 to 9 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. A limited quantity of engraved pint glasses, beer steins

with the Oktoberfest logo and tie dyed T-shirts specially made at the Arts & Crafts Center for the 2011 festivities will be on sale at their booth, giving fest goers the opportunity to take something home with them to remember the weekend other than a belly full of German food. The center will also have a booth at the Monte Sano Art Show Saturday from 9 to 5 p.m. at Monte Sano State Park. It’s a win-win for Connors and the artists behind the center, who get to showcase their work and the services they provide.

“A lot of people tell me, ‘I didn’t even know there was an Arts & Crafts Center,’” Connors said.

Tucked away at the corner of Vincent and Gray roads, in addition to custom framing, promotional services and woodworking, the Arts & Crafts Center also offers classes and do-it-yourself hours to allow artists of every medium practice and further develop their craft. Newly renovated, the building now offers brand new computers, reconfigured classrooms, better bathrooms, more work space and improved lighting to help projects along. Classes in woodworking, polymer clay, digital media, custom framing and more are all available, with new additions such as sewing and drawing to come in the future. For those that have done arts and crafts their whole lives, or those looking to start, there’s a little something for everyone.

“It’s the joy of doing it yourself and the ability to focus on something other than what’s troubling you or what the

See Crafts on page 6

Fox Army Health Center begins annual flu shots

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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With a smile on her face, Col. Elizabeth Johnson, commander of Fox Army Health Center, rolled up her sleeve Thursday and received the first flu shot of the year at Redstone Arsenal.

“The annual Influenza Vaccine Immunization program is a significant component of Force Health Protection,” Johnson said.

“People die every year from the flu,” Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine at Fox, said. “The best way to prevent the flu is to get the flu vaccine every year. The flu shot doesn’t take long, it’s basically painless, and it protects you during the entire flu season.”

Fox Army Health Center began offering active duty Soldiers flu shots Sept. 13 and will offer them again Sept. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Preventive Medicine. Other dates for active duty will be announced. Tricare Prime with providers at Fox will be offered flu shots during scheduled appointments beginning Sept. 19. Beneficiaries – active duty and their family members, military retirees and their family members – may receive their shots Sept. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Fox, Oct. 12

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary (adults age 18 and older only), and Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to noon at Fox.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months and older should receive a vaccine every year, particularly those that are immune compromised, such as small children, older adults, and those with medical conditions such as diabetes or hypertension, or who may be undergoing treatment for cancer.

“A lot of people have a lot of apprehension about the flu shot – they think, ‘I’m going to get sick,’” Pamela Rainey, a registered nurse at Fox, said. “The flu shot is not there to make people sick. It’s a preventive step. It’s important to get the shot because those who don’t get the shot get the flu and create a new strand.”

Individuals should receive a vaccination every year, Rainey said, as new strands develop and each year’s seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three strands that are expected to be the most common. Flu symptoms may include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, vomiting and diarrhea. The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated every year. The sooner an individual can receive the vaccine, the better.

“It’s good to get the flu shot early because when and how long the flu season lasts varies from year to year,” Rainey said. “By December or January, nine out of 10 people have already been exposed and created a new strand.”

Flu shot screening forms and Vaccine Information Statements for adults and pediatric vaccines will be available for printing on the Fox website, www.redstone.amedd.army.mil, beginning Sept. 19. For more information, call 955-8888, ext. 1441 or 1442.



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Fox Army Health Center commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson receives her flu shot.

Crafts

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stressors of the day are,” Connors said of arts and crafts. “It’s a great place to redirect your focus on something positive.”

The Arts & Craft Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is closed Sundays and Mondays. DIY hours are 1:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and all day Fri-

day and Saturday. Cost for DIY is \$3 per hour. For more information, call 876-7951.

Oktoberfest kicks off Thursday at 5 p.m. Hours are 5 to 11 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, noon to 1 a.m. Saturday, and 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$12 Thursday and Sunday, \$15 Friday and Saturday. Carnival rides, parking and entertainment is free. Open to the public, enter through Gate 10. For more information, call 313-5224. For more information about Saturday’s Monte Sano Art Show, visit www.montesanoartshow.org.

Texan learns about Tennessee Valley tornadoes

Engineers visited Redstone April 27 for conference

By **RANDY SINIARD**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

“We don’t hear tornado sirens in South Texas!” Andrew Mason-Leister said.

The mechanical engineer for Camber Corporation works with the Maintenance Engineering Division, Aviation Engineering Directorate, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.

When he heard the sirens wail, his heart began to pound from the anxiety of not knowing exactly what to do.

“My initial worry wore off quickly when the locals seemed perfectly calm and collected,” Mason-Leister said.

Mason-Leister was on temporary duty for a conference here April 27, but all plans for the day were canceled because of the impending storms.

“I went back to my hotel and hung out in the lobby with a few other seemingly unworried guests,” he said.

The storms passed and the power was



Photo by Paul Anneler

Mechanical engineer Andrew Mason-Leister was visiting Redstone April 27 for a conference, which was canceled because of the deadly tornadoes. He and aerospace engineer Cheryl Mendoza conducted a barbecue fund-raiser for the tornado victims. This effort by the Maintenance Engineering Division of the Aviation Engineering Directorate, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, raised more than \$1,300.

out.

“We went out to get some food,” Mason-Leister said. “It was on the drive to

the next town that I realized a tornado had passed within five miles of my hotel.”

The pitch black dark was pierced only by the lights of passing cars.

“We got back to our hotel and hung out in the tea-light lit lobby waiting for the electricity to come back on so we could shower and go to bed,” Mason-Leister said.

As the evening wore on, everyone headed to their rooms lighting the way by whatever means they had.

Mason-Leister began his trek back to Corpus Christi the next morning because the conference was canceled.

“As I drove and listened to the radio my heart sank as I heard horrific stories about some of the missing people,” Mason-Leister said. “I could hear the pain in peoples’ voices as they desperately sought help in finding their loved ones.

“The hair stood up on the back of my neck, my eyes teared up, and I became light-headed and overcome by a sense of worry, sorrow and relief of being alive all at the same time,” he said. “I kept thinking that I was

so close to becoming a victim and that none of my family, other than my wife, had even known I was in Alabama.

“I felt extremely lucky to be alive and felt that I needed to help, but the radio broadcasters were telling people to stay away and let the emergency responders handle the disaster now.”

Stopping only to clear the roads of debris, he drove through safely and eventually made it out of Alabama.

Mason-Leister continued through Mississippi into Louisiana before heading back to Corpus Christi.

“The long road trip afforded me lots of time to think about how I could help, but I never could come up with a really good idea,” Mason-Leister said. “Then right before hitting the road again after filling up my gas tank in Louisiana I received a text message from Cheryl Mendoza ‘What about a barbecue fund-raiser for Alabama when the LEs come?’”

“Perfect!” thought Mason-Leister. “The liaison engineers returning home would be an ideal time.”

Now Mason-Leister began to make plans as he drove home on exactly what needed to be done.

Editor’s note: This is the first in a five-part series.

Air Force receives modified Black Hawk helicopter

First of three aircraft delivered in ceremony

By **SEDRIC PENNINGTON**

For the Rocket

This was a classic example of one military service helping another.

The Army delivered the first of three utility helicopters to the Air Force in a ceremony Sept. 7 at the Prototype Integration Facility. The modified Black Hawk UH-60M represented the Air Force's first new helicopter in 14 years. The other two aircraft will be delivered by the end of this year.

The helicopter will be used in combat search and rescue missions for day and night personnel recovery operations in hostile environments. Renamed the HH-60U, it has an improved airframe, navigation, avionics and propulsion system. The Air Force will also use the aircraft for civil search and rescue, medical evacuation, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, security cooperation/aviation advisory, NASA space flight support and rescue command and control.

The joint project started last October when the Air Force Materiel Command, Aeronautical Systems Center and Rapid

Development Integration Facility contacted the PIF about a team effort to design, develop and deliver a new helicopter to meet the Air Force's immediate requirements. The Utility Helicopters Project Office worked with the Prototype Integration Facility, part of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

The work was completed at the Madison County Executive Airport in Meridianville. The helicopter arrived in March with the actual work starting in June and was completed by the end of August. The PIF either bought or built all parts that were needed to upgrade the aircraft to meet Air Force requirements.

During the ceremony, utility helicopters project manager Col. Thomas Todd presented the helicopter's keys and logbook to Col. Clair Gilk, the Air Force chief of headquarters ACC, Personnel Recovery Requirements Division.

"This project is about two important things – teamwork and lives," Gilk said. "The teamwork between the Air Force, PIF and the UHPO was essential in completing the project. The aircraft is important because it saves lives in combat situations. It has the capability to be downrange and bring war fighters back from very bad situations."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The HH-60U lands Sept. 7 at the Prototype Integration Facility.

The Prototype Integration Facility is working on the second HH-60U at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and will start on the third in October.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left are Patti Martin, director of Engineering Directorate at AMRDEC; Air Force Col. Todd Worms, Col. Thomas Todd and Air Force Col. Clair Gilk.



Uncomfortable subject has spotlight for September

Army dedicates month to suicide prevention

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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It was a Friday afternoon and nearly quitting time when he appeared at Ruby Turner's door. The man was in trouble, depressed and ready to end it all by the time he reached Turner's office on Little John Road, but he had come to the right place. Escorting him to Crestwood Medical Center, she listened and acted. When he returned to her office weeks later, she didn't recognize him. The weight of his depression and suicidal thoughts had been lifted and as a result of Turner's actions that day, his life saved.

"For people having thoughts of suicide, it's an embarrassment," Turner said. "People don't see a way out. They don't see a way out of their situation. There's always a way out."

For Turner, it's an ugly word – suicide – but part of her job as Army Substance Abuse Program manager, a vocation she has served in for the past several decades, saving countless individuals from ending their own lives. The Army extended last week's observance of National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 4-10, to the entire month of September to raise awareness and understanding of how each individual can

eliminate suicide and what Army support services are available for those that are in need, which include Turner and her office, building 3204. While the Arsenal has seen the departure of many of its young Soldiers who were at a higher risk for suicide, there is still plenty to be done on post to prevent it.

In July, a possible 22 active duty Soldiers committed suicide, according to the Department of Defense. In the general population, for every suicide, approximately 11 others have attempted to end their lives, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Risk factors for suicide include depression and other mental disorders, substance abuse, separation or divorce. Warning signs include talking about death, losing interest in things a person once cared about or always talking or thinking about death. While the signs and symptoms are often there, they're not always apparent to those close by.

"When we are close to a situation we don't see the signs and symptoms," Turner said. "A lot of times we don't want to see the signs and symptoms."

Turner and Richard Lewis with the Employee Assistance Program are both available to help those that may be having thoughts of suicide or to assist those that may suspect a loved one or co-worker may be having thoughts of suicide. Individuals are invited to visit their office, building 3204 on Little John Road, or call, 842-9895 or 842-9897.

"A lot of times when people suspect someone might be having thoughts of suicide, a lot of people are fearful to question it," Turner said. "It's OK to question it."

Not just OK, Turner said, but a question that may be necessary to save that life.

"It's almost like it's an unspoken word. It's an uncomfortable subject. What if you say yes? What am I going to do?" Turner said.

The answer: help them seek help. Take them to see Turner or Lewis, have them contact their doctor or escort them to the nearest hospital. Do not leave them alone and eliminate any access to firearms or other tools, such as medications, that could be used for suicide. Firearms, suffocation and poisoning are the most commonly used methods for suicide.

"You might save somebody's life," Turner said.

Turner will conduct Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training on Sept. 22-23 to train individuals across the Arsenal interested in becoming a person in their organization that people can turn to in times of trouble. The training teaches participants how to become ready, willing and able to help individuals at risk of suicide. To register, call Turner at 842-9895. Turner encourages every organization to have a designated person that people know they can turn to when thoughts of suicide occur.

"This is a person they can go to if (suici-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Ruby Turner, Army Substance Abuse Program manager, has spent more than three decades helping Soldiers and civilians find a way back from the brink of suicide. Individuals having thoughts of suicide are invited to stop by her office, building 3204 on Little John Road, for help.

dal) thoughts are going on. It's not counseling, it's just a listening ear," Turner said. "It's important for people to have someone in their organization that they can go to."

AMC branch garners award for distance learning

The Army Materiel Command's research and technology protection branch has earned the Federal Government Distance Learning Association 5-Star award.

This recognizes excellence in providing enterprise-wide distance learning solutions for the federal government. AMC G2 developed and implemented a three-phased technology protection qualification program which has been utilized by AMC, SMDC, USACE and MDA to identify and protect advanced technology that pro-

vides the Soldier a battlefield edge.

Multi-disciplined skills and experience are required to successfully conduct technology protection. One comprehensive training course did not exist within the federal government to train and educate technology protection officers on the diverse skills practitioners must possess. To train and educate the work force in the myriad of RTP-relevant functional areas necessary to accomplish the mission, AMC G2 developed the Materiel Enterprise TPO training and qualification

initiative. The program continues to reinforce AMC's role as the materiel enterprise leader in technology protection. (AMC release)

Courtesy photo

Members of the Army Materiel Command's research and technology protection branch include, from left, Dr. Ryan Averbek, Elijah Varga, Lora Hardman, AMC G2 Col. Bradford Nelson, Matt Kruse, Cappy Bray, Marvin Vinson and Michael Lehofer-Chavez.



BRAC paves way for construction in Tennessee Valley

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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While Thursday marks the deadline for BRAC, newcomers will be knocking at the door of the Tennessee Valley for years to come.

The growth from BRAC has not necessarily come in one spurt, but rather as a consistent pattern over the past several years as residents have flocked to the Tennessee Valley. Huntsville saw the largest population increase over the past 10 years, according to the latest census data, increasing by 21,889 residents, making it the second largest metropolitan area in the state. Now the fastest growing city in the state and the 10th largest, Madison saw a 46.4 percent growth from the 2000 census, with today's population hovering near 43,000. For area leaders, the growth is both a blessing and a call to action.

"Our biggest challenge in the city of Madison and this entire area is a challenge most areas wish they had," Madison mayor Paul Finley said. "How do you manage the continued growth that's coming? Most folks would trade places with us in a heartbeat if that was their only problem."

For the Huntsville and Madison area,

two of the biggest areas of concern for accommodating the growth are infrastructure and education.

"Redstone has demanded and our local governments are aggressively responding to the need to improve roads and schools," Joe Ritch, chairman of the Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee, said. "The type of employees that are moving with BRAC demand outstanding schools and all of the area school systems are adjusting to provide quality education from kindergarten to graduate school."

Madison continues to focus on the strengths that brought new residents in – a strong school system and the city's proximity to the jobs – and is working with Huntsville and the surrounding community to get the projects done that will help the community absorb the continued growth in the area, such as road projects like putting in an I-565 interchange at County Line Road, and Madison's new James Clemons High School that will open in August 2012, an additional educational institution that was needed to keep the quality of education high.

New retail opportunities, including a Target on Highway 72 slated to open March 11, and a new downtown building at 14 Main Street which will include retail space are underway, in addition to the current construction of a Holiday Inn Express at the northwest



Photo by Ellen Hudson

To keep the quality of education high in the city of Madison, construction is under way for a second high school. James Clemons High School off County Line Road near Mill Road, will open its doors to students in August.

corner of Madison Boulevard and Wall Triana, and a Redstone Credit Union branch in progress on north County Line Road. Madison Hospital will also open in February on Highway 72.

"BRAC and associated moves of specific commands to Redstone Arsenal have continued to keep growth happening in our overall community," said Amy Furfuri, director of community development and planning for the city of Madison. "When speaking to and working with national developers, retailers and other businesses, they hear and see how the steady growth in our area remains somewhat of an anomaly compared to the national trends."

"It's been very consistent growth in the city of Madison proper, which brings rooftops," Finley said. "Rooftops in turn have helped us bring more retail development. Retail development brings quality businesses and sales tax dollars, which improve

the quality of life. It's a huge impact in the city of Madison."

While the deadline for the 2005 BRAC is Thursday, the impact and growth from BRAC is far from over, according to Ritch, who expects Redstone Gateway to be an attraction for companies and other government organizations in the years to come.

"The impact has been very close to what we expected," Ritch said. "All the construction at Redstone was completed on schedule and 4,651 positions will have moved in advance of the Sept. 15 deadline. Area schools have added about 6,000 students since 2005 and the roads are more congested. All this sets the stage for new and existing defense contractors to expand in the years to come. The current delays in

the finalization of the 2012 Defense Budget has likely delayed some non-BRAC growth, but most experts expect a final bill to be approved in the near future and that should result in additional hiring."

"The impact that we've seen so far is just the direct jobs," Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle said. "I have a feeling that what we're expecting over the next one, two, three, four years, we'll have many companies that want to be close to AMC and MDA. What we're seeing at this point is pretty much what we expected out of the move. The follow on to this move is actually the support personnel moving here and setting up shop in the Huntsville area."

While a lot of the impact associated with BRAC is about dollars and cents – the average salary is now above \$80,000, according to the Garrison Transformation

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BRAC 2005

impact by the numbers

4,700 positions brought to Redstone Arsenal

10,000 new defense sector jobs announced in the Huntsville/Madison County area from 2005-09

4.6 million square-foot office complex planned near Gate 9 for the Redstone Gateway project

468 acres under development for Redstone Gateway.

Redstone well-postured for BRAC factor

Garrison had lead in efforts to win in 2005 Army transformation

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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Photo by Melody Sandlin

The Army Materiel Command and Security Assistance Command share this new facility on Martin Road since arriving through Base Realignment and Closure.

“How do we want Redstone Arsenal to be portrayed?”

“What do we want Redstone Arsenal to look like?”

“What’s Redstone Arsenal’s overall mission?”

Back in early 2003, those were the questions being asked by Arsenal leadership as they prepared for an Army transformation that would have a substantial and lasting effect on the Arsenal and its employees.

From those questions came the data, presentations and community input that put the Arsenal on a course to become a big-time recipient of Army changes through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act. Fast forward to today, with the Sept. 15 BRAC completion date looming, and all transformation goals have been met with facilities in place to take on the new missions brought to Redstone through BRAC.

Now in place because of BRAC are:

- The \$225.6 million, 800,000-square-foot Phase III wing of the Von Braun Complex for Missile Defense Agency employees;
- The \$138.7 million, 400,000-square foot headquarters for the Army Materiel Command and the Security Assistance Command;
- The \$53 million Rotary Wing Center and hangar and the Redstone Test Center headquarters;
- The \$4.8 million Army Materiel Command Band facility;
- The \$6.8 million 2nd Recruiting Brigade headquarters; and
- The \$2.6 million 2nd Recruiting Medical Battalion headquarters.

In all BRAC construction has totaled \$431.5 million at Redstone Arsenal since 2006, and represents much of the \$542.8 million of Arsenal construction during that time. Before BRAC, the Arsenal’s military construction budget averaged between \$40 million and \$50 million a year.

There’s no doubt BRAC has changed the Arsenal in more ways than construction. Today, there are about 6,000 more jobs at Redstone, taking the total Arsenal workforce to just over 35,000. In addition, more senior members of Army leadership now call Huntsville home and other non-related BRAC growth in the number of Arsenal organizations has been spurred on by BRAC. Indirectly, the BRAC factor has led to up-

grades or expansions for many quality-of-life facilities offered by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation at Redstone; upgrades of Arsenal infrastructure; upgrades and expansions at the Redstone Airfield and Fox Army Health Center; continued road and gate improvements to address new and increasing traffic patterns; and the beginning of the 468-acre office and support services development known as Redstone Gateway.

But how did the 2005 BRAC get here?

In 2003, following on the heels of the Army transformation that put Army garrisons under the command of the Installation Management Command, an announcement was made that further transformation would be achieved through a fifth BRAC used by the Department of Defense and Congress to close excess military installations, and realign the total military asset inventory to reduce expenditures on operations and maintenance. The fourth BRAC in 1995 brought many aviation assets to Redstone Arsenal from St. Louis, and Arsenal leaders hoped that the Arsenal was positioned to gain even more in the 2005 BRAC.

Col. Bob Devlin, who was Garrison commander at the time, had two major tasks at Redstone when he became Garrison commander in the summer of 2002. The first was to move garrison assets from under the Aviation and Missile Command and set up those assets as a garrison under the Installation Management Command. The transformation doubled the size of the Garrison’s employees, mission and budget.

Devlin’s second major task – and one that continued throughout his administration – was to lead the Garrison’s efforts through BRAC 2005. Those efforts helped Devlin and others on his staff define the purpose and roles of Redstone Arsenal in supporting Soldiers and the Army mission.

“Early on the Garrison itself ended up having a bigger role in BRAC than before. The Garrison became proprietor for the site,” Devlin said.

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Ordnance school closes doors, clears books

Longtime tenant goes to Fort Lee

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Workmen carried various items from what remained of the empty classrooms and offices. The last Soldiers and civilians made their final plans for what was left in the former school building.

Building 3301 was all that remained of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, which has moved to Fort Lee, Va., as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decisions. And that building is to be turned over to the Garrison today.

“You can see we’re moving a lot of stuff out,” Lt. Col. Rashann Harris, commander of the 59th Ordnance Brigade (Provisional), said. Building 3301 served as her headquarters after building 3300 was turned in.

The massive move to Fort Lee has amounted to 10.3 million pounds of hardware, more than 50,000 items – including all the military training equipment. They didn’t move furniture or desk computers; all the furniture was either left in place or turned in. The last truckload of administrative paperwork, including student records, left Sept. 7 for Fort Lee.

More than 50 facilities – culminating with building 3301 – and four range complexes were relinquished to the Garrison. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which maintains the ATF Na-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lt. Col. Rashann Harris, commander of 59th Ordnance Brigade (Provisional), and Command Sgt. Maj. Ray B. Johnson, the former senior enlisted Soldier for 832nd Ordnance Battalion, both plan to retire.

tional Center for Explosives Training and Research, received McKinley Range.

“Sept. 15th is the final closure for the brigade headquarters here,” Harris said. “All equipment will either have been shipped to Fort Lee, lateral transferred or turned-in in accordance with disposition instructions from the Army.”

More than 1,000 Soldiers and civilians either went to Fort Lee, were assigned elsewhere to meet the Army’s needs or got other jobs at Redstone. Some of the Soldiers and civilians retired.

The school had about 255 permanent-party military. Seventy-four of these Soldiers went to Fort Lee; and the remaining 181 have returned to the operational Army.

Sixty-eight residual personnel, all Soldiers, were the last on the books here. Twenty-four are leaving on permanent change of station moves, but are reassigned to the Garrison pending their departure.

All training has moved to Fort Lee. The last class at Redstone concluded Aug. 19 with final graduation from the NCO Academy. Col. Pharisse Berry is commander of the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Fort Lee.

Harris plans to retire March 1 and move to Columbus, Miss., after more than 23 years service. The Angie, La., native arrived in June 2010 as the OMEMS chief of staff after serving as Mississippi State University’s professor of military science over the ROTC program.

“The reason for the (BRAC) move was to consolidate the logistics training into one location at Fort Lee,” she said. “You’ve got state-of-the-art classrooms that the Soldiers are being trained in, compared to what we had here. I think here the big thing is the community will miss seeing the troops. That’s the sad thing. You lose the heritage you had for so many years. But having the training consolidated up there is probably a great



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Here’s the front of the former OMEMS headquarters building 3300, which has been turned over to the Garrison. The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School has moved to Fort Lee, Va.

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Garrison commander leads BRAC support

Arsenal influences area as it manages milestones in growth

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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Col. John Hamilton knew the positive effect the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure activities were having on Redstone Arsenal well before he became the commander of the Garrison.

While working in the Army Materiel Command's headquarters in 2008-09, Hamilton was involved in the planning for AMC's new headquarters at Redstone. He visited Redstone in 2009 for the groundbreaking for AMC's new building. He also was privy to some of the planning AMC employees were making about moving to Huntsville.

"Many were very excited about the move," he said. "But it is a very individual, very family-based kind of decision."

Hamilton took over the Garrison command last fall and learned quickly about the type of teamwork that brought BRAC to the Arsenal and that was working to complete \$431.4 million in building construction related to BRAC by this year's Sept. 15 deadline. What Hamilton saw when he came to Redstone convinced him that the Tennes-

see Valley community is well-deserving of its new BRAC-related tenants.

"Since I've been here, I've become familiar with the Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee, and how it engages with the Arsenal and the organizations coming here" he said. "The committee speaks volumes for this community. It is so aggressive about inviting and going out and meeting people and talking about opportunities, and assisting employees in making decisions to move here. This committee is extremely important and very, very valuable."

So, too, are local and state officials, community leaders and corporate partners that have created a synergy with Redstone Arsenal that benefits the entire region.

"The partnership is absolutely phenomenal," Hamilton said. "We are working very closely with each other to make sure we have a common understanding of the needs."

While BRAC has had a substantial impact on Redstone, Hamilton is quick to point out that it's not the only story of growth on the installation and in the community.

"The organizations that came here as a result of the BRAC reorganization are a piece of the growth," he said. "There is other growth going on. For some of that growth, BRAC was a catalyst. For other growth, you can't draw a direct line to BRAC. Most of the growth that occurs off Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. John Hamilton is the fourth Garrison commander to lead efforts in support of Redstone Arsenal growth related to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

and in the community around it is based on business decisions and the question "Where is the right place to invest money?"

Growth numbers show that Redstone Arsenal continues to have a significant impact on the Tennessee Valley and its communities.

"As we add employees to the work force at Redstone Arsenal we create additional growth in the community," Hamilton said. "Some of the changing nature of the types of work going on here causes other indirect

growth, and we continue to see new companies and existing companies expand. We will continue to see a growth pattern in response to Army growth."

Some of that growth just happens to be within a stone's throw of Gate 9, where the Army has joined in a government-business partnership known as an enhanced use lease to build one of the largest military-associated office complexes. The partnership between the Army, the city of Huntsville and Corporate Office Properties Trust will result in the development of the 468-acre, 55-plus building Redstone Gateway to provide space for business growth associated with the Arsenal.

"The capacity that exists in the enhanced use lease (Redstone Gateway) will be a great resource for this community," Hamilton said.

Other new office space that will grow Arsenal capabilities can be found on the eastern side of the installation, where buildings that once housed the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School will be converted into much-needed space for organizations both on and off post.

"The schoolhouse and its Soldiers were very, very visible in the community. The organizations that replaced them do very different kinds of work," Hamilton said.

"Now we need more office buildings with

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Commentary: Midwest native finds home in Alabama

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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The announcement two years ago that I was quitting my job and following love to, of all places on earth, Alabama, did not come as an easy one for my family and friends in the Midwest.

I'm not sure if it was brotherly love or his protective instincts, but within 24 hours of my arrival in our great state, my oldest brother Pat called to inform me that he would be making the 17-hour drive from his home in Minnesota to Alabama, and true to his word, he arrived with my mother and brother-in-law in tow a week later, appearing just a few hours after the moving van had left.

For days my family explored the area, from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to downtown Athens, learning everything they could about Huntsville and the contributions the area has had to our nation, until, sufficiently assured that his baby sister had made the right choice, he announced one morning they were going home. What he found in those few days in Huntsville I



Amy Guckeen Tolson

think surprised him, and continues to surprise me every day.

As a journalist moving from Milwaukee where I had interviewed Olympic figure skater Scott Hamilton, CNN's Soledad O'Brien, now New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Rwanda's humanitarian Paul Rusesabagina, I was terrified by my perceived lack of opportunity in Alabama.

What on earth was there to write about in Huntsville, I asked myself. As I've discovered in my work for the *Redstone Rocket* – plenty.

Plenty the Arsenal has to offer not just its surrounding communities, but the Army, the nation and the world, and with BRAC coming to a close, but leaving plenty of room for growth, what we bring to the table is only getting bigger and better. For the longest time the contributions of Redstone Arsenal and the agencies that have supported it have remained North Alabama's best kept secret (or at the very least a secret from the Midwest) – with

BRAC, it is a legacy that can no longer be contained to our little part of the world.

It was the words of Madison mayor Paul Finley in my interview with him last week about the impact BRAC has had on Madison that sent chills down my spine, because what he said rang true.

"While we don't have the uniforms per se, many folks take such great pride in national defense and their jobs on Redstone that support the war fighter," Finley said. "It's neat to be a part of a community that shouts patrio-

tism. There are a lot of communities that are struggling with the nation's sense of being and that's not the case here."

Never in another job have I had so many opportunities to thank Soldiers for the sacrifices they make every day, or do something so simple as say the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the national anthem on a regular basis. Over the past few years the Tennessee Valley hasn't just grown in people, it's grown in patriotism. What a blessing it is that that growth has only just begun.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Road dirt

Construction work is ongoing at the intersection of Hale and Rideout roads. The intersection is being expanded with new turn lanes to accommodate traffic growth. Hale Road provides access to the Redstone Airfield, the new Redstone Test Center hangar and the Software Engineering Directorate. The airfield has experienced tremendous growth in facilities and user activity because of 2005 BRAC.



Surrounding communities feel BRAC impact

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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Each morning, Decatur residents flock to Highway 20 with one destination in mind.

“Gate 9 is in Huntsville. It all builds from there,” said C. Wallace Terry, director of Economic and Community Development for the city of Decatur.

Highway 20 is not alone in its increase in passengers during the morning and evening commutes, but rather, all highways that lead in and out of the Arsenal are finding themselves more heavily populated these days. Nearly 4,700 jobs have come to the Arsenal over the past five years as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, with around 2,000 of them filled by individuals from outside the Tennessee Valley, according to Joe Ritch, chair of the Tennessee Valley BRAC committee.

It is a growth that has had a rippling effect felt from the state of Tennessee to Cullman County, DeKalb County to Lauderdale County, and beyond. For many newcomers, choosing a city to live in hasn't always been about the hustle and bustle of big cities like Huntsville



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Each morning and evening, traffic fills up the bridge leading in and out of Decatur that conveniently takes Redstone Arsenal employees directly to I-565 and Gate 9.

and Madison, but rather, about smaller communities, where everybody knows your name, and if they don't, it will only be a matter of time before they learn it.

“When you look at population growth overall, it's in a positive direction. In an economy like this, that's a good thing,” Terry said.

The impact of BRAC hasn't just been about more bodies in the Tennessee Valley, but the assets and needs they bring with them – an average salary of more than \$80,000 to add to the local economy, the children they have to enroll in area schools, homes they need to live in, roads they will drive on, and restaurants and retail busi-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Decatur mayor Don Stanford welcomes all new residents to the city of Decatur.

nesses they will patronize.

And while a lot of focus has been on those new to the state, the growth isn't just about newcomers. For every direct job filled on the Arsenal another three grow in the community, according to a 2008 study by the Office of Economic Adjustment, whether they represent schools that

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People enhanced career for retiring commander

USASAC leader leaving after 32 years of service

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Two years ago, Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker took command of one of the newest tenants at Redstone Arsenal.

The Security Assistance Command headquarters had moved here from Fort Belvoir, Va., as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decisions. USASAC was on the move; and most of its workers had already arrived from Fort Belvoir. So, officials decided to do the change of command ceremony Sept. 11, 2009 at Bob Jones Auditorium rather than at Fort Belvoir.

And now Tucker is preparing to relinquish command Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. in front of the new Army Materiel Command/USASAC complex. His successor will be Maj. Gen. Frank D. "Del" Turner, program manager for the

Saudi Arabia National Guard Modernization Program. Ironically, Turner was Tucker's successor in Saudi Arabia in 2009 when Tucker came here.

Tucker, 54, is retiring from the Army. "It's going to be very sad to leave the Army after 32 years because I've enjoyed every assignment," he said. "The opportunity to work with Soldiers and civilians who volunteered to serve their country has been an absolutely tremendous experience. And so it's hard to leave something that you've enjoyed so much.

"For my entire career the most important thing has been the people. The Soldiers, NCOs, officers and civilians at every assignment were extremely enjoyable to work with. And I've learned something from a co-worker or subordinate or superior in every assignment. The other thing that makes leaving the Army hard is we are still an Army at war and I enjoy



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker has led the Security Assistance Command since September 2009.

making a contribution to the Army every day. And I have friends and associates in Iraq and Afghanistan right now and it's going to be hard to leave the service when those folks are still downrange."

He's looking at future employment but has not made any decisions yet. He looks forward to spending more time with his family which includes his wife, Mary Ann, their son Matthew, 25, of Orlando, Fla., and their daughter Jacqueline, 22, of Austin, Texas.

"My time at USASAC has been extremely rewarding," Tucker said. "We have an absolutely superb, very dedicated work force who are committed every day to advancing U.S. strategic partnerships. And they have made it a joy to come to work every day.

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Communities

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are expanding, roads that need to be constructed, or grocery stores that need to meet the needs of more customers. As local residents take positions available on the Arsenal thanks to BRAC, another local resident has the opportunity to take their job, and another person the job after that, making it an employment opportunity that touches nearly everyone in the area, regardless of their education background or expertise.

"It's just a domino effect," Decatur mayor Don Stanford said.

"For the whole region, it has been a stabilizer in a down economy," Terry said. "We owe a lot of that to BRAC."

Since the 2000 census, Athens and Limestone County have experienced a growth of a growth of approximately 26 percent according to Jennifer Williamson, president of the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce, making it the fifth fastest growing county in the state of Alabama. While there is no definitive way to determine how much of that can be attributed to BRAC, part of it has undeniably come from the Arsenal's growth.

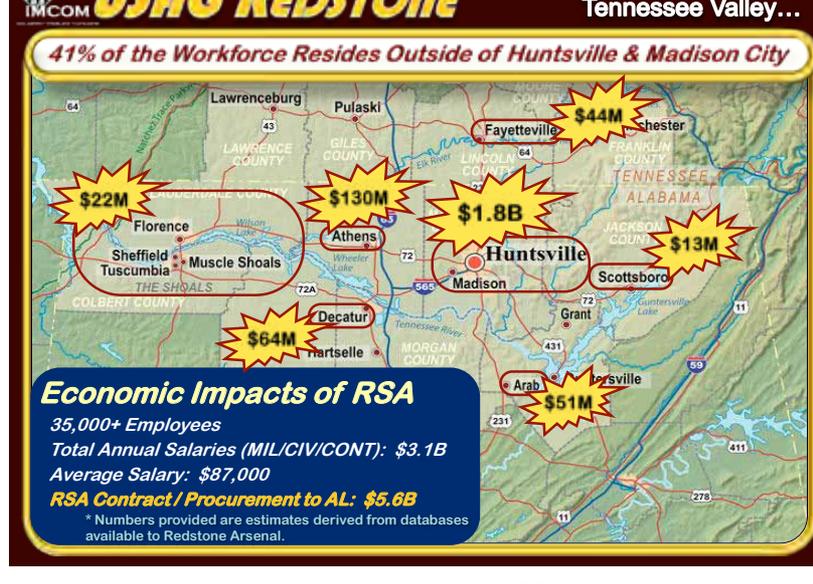
"Athens and Limestone County have a comfortable mix of agricultural production, industry, retail business, banking, healthcare, food service and education along with talented entrepreneurial diversity thrown in for good measure – all working together for the benefit of the community," Williamson said. "The quality of life that Athens and Limestone County offers is truly unique. Our community takes great pride in our culture and history. We have so many family friendly events in our area, you can always find something to do."

Decatur officials are working to increase the great quality of life that already exists in their city, bringing in new businesses such as the Olive Garden and revitalizing downtown, as well as talks of adding a dog park, all plans that complement the opportunities already available, including the Tennessee River, the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Point Mallard Park and the year-round ice rink. It is a mission – expanding the ways families can choose to spend their free time – that is being embraced in communities surrounding the Arsenal near and far, as they look to entertain their residents, and attract even more.

"We're trying to focus our attention on things that would be beneficial to those families that want to live here and work in Huntsville," Arab mayor Gary Beam said. "We're trying to make our park and recreation facilities the best that they can be. We have one of the best school systems in the state. We're constantly recruiting new shopping opportunities for our citizens."

An estimated 10 to 15 families have moved into the community 20 minutes south of the Arsenal, according to Beam, who has encountered some of his newest residents in church on Sunday. While the impact hasn't been tremendous, it has been positive for the community and the new residents that choose the small town life, Beam said.

"People here cherish the down home atmosphere that they can feel when they go



to church or the grocery store," Beam said. "We open our arms and welcome those that choose not to live in a larger city and we'll make every effort to make their experience in Arab a good one."

About 25 miles to the west, the city of Cullman is also feeling the effect of North Alabama's newest residents, many of whom have chosen to purchase homes or vacation property on Smith Lake, according to mayor Max Townson. Despite a down economy, businesses in the city of Cullman have actually seen growth in recent years. Cash Acme expanded their business by 200,000 square feet, along with Topre America, which announced a \$109 million expansion that is expected to create 250 jobs. The school system, already the third best in the state according to Townson, has also seen improvements, including a \$2 million reno-

novation of the Cullman High School stadium. Improvements are also being made to the local airport, with a request in to the FAA to extend the runway and more hangars in the process of being built.

"We've been very fortunate in this recessionary period," Townson said.

While the smaller communities are growing, by no means are they doing it with grandiose ideas of becoming the next Huntsville or Madison, but rather as partners of the metro area. Area leaders from across North Alabama have been in on discussions and planning sessions associated with BRAC for years, all investing their communi-

ties in the transformation that is occurring in the Tennessee Valley.

"We believe we have a lot to offer in the city of Cullman," Townson said. "We know we're not Huntsville. We're not trying to be. We're not an adversary, we're with you. What's good for Huntsville is good for Cullman."

That good fortune hasn't just come in the form of more sales tax revenues and higher census data, but in the actual, living, breathing individuals that have brought their families, brainpower and talents to the area.

"They've come in and made us a better town by bringing in new ideas and challenging us to be a better town," Terry said. "I've always said, if you're born in Decatur you're very fortunate. If you move to Decatur you're very smart," Stanford said.

Chamber of Commerce views impact from new jobs

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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Nearly 10,000 new defense sector jobs were announced in the Huntsville/Madison County area between 2005 and 2009, according to Mike Ward, vice president for government affairs at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce – a boom in employment for the North Alabama economy. Here, Ward gives his perspective on other ways BRAC has impacted the local business community.

Has the impact from BRAC on the local business community been as large as was expected?

Ward: “The impact of BRAC has been about what we expected. Of course we did not anticipate the economic downturn which has offset some of the net growth that we were expecting.”

What areas of business have reaped the most benefits from BRAC?

Ward: “All facets of the local economy have been favorably impacted by the BRAC moves as people have moved into the region. The defense sector has grown substantially, as we expected that it would.”

Have there been areas of growth that haven't surprised you, or any areas that haven't grown that have surprised you?

Ward: “As we've added jobs and people, I've been impressed at how well the community has accommodated the growth. There were initial concerns about the capacity of our health care systems and housing to accommodate the growth, but those issues have all been resolved. We do face some infrastructure challenges, mostly roads that we need to be expedited, but we knew this would be an issue.”

Has the impact of BRAC helped Hunts-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mike Ward is vice president for government affairs at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

ville/Madison County businesses continue to grow despite poor economic conditions?

Ward: “Yes. It's kept our economy fairly stable, comparatively speaking.”

How has BRAC been a unique opportunity and challenge for local businesses to grow and better themselves?

Ward: “There are several new customers on and off of the Arsenal as a result of BRAC. I think businesses who are flexible with the products and services that they offer are able to capitalize on these new opportunities.”

Where do we go from here?

Ward: “We're always looking out for threats and opportunities that could impact Redstone's roles and missions. I expect that Redstone will continue to grow and gain additional missions in the future.”

School

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move for the Army as far as transformation and trying to consolidate the training in one location.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Ray B. Johnson served as the 832nd Ordnance Battalion's senior enlisted Soldier the past two years. He relinquished that responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Shontina Edwards on Sept. 6 in a ceremony at Fort Lee.

An Augusta, Ga., native, Johnson plans to retire June 1 after 29 years and four months service and stay in the local community. His wife is Master Sgt. Andrea Johnson, the chief paralegal for the Aviation and Missile Command.

“Having been here for AIT (advanced individual training) in 1988 and for BNCOC

(Basic NCO Course) in 1990 and for AN-COC (Advanced NCO Course) in 1993, I didn't return here until I became the sergeant major here in 2009,” Johnson said. “So I'm used to the Southern hospitality of Redstone and surrounding communities. Just as much as the community is going to miss the Soldiers, we the Soldiers are going to miss the community just as much. However, the facilities at Fort Lee are state-of-the-art. It has clearly met the intent of a combined sustainment center of excellence. It has been an excellent transition from here to Fort Lee.

“It wasn't like the move of the Baltimore Colts in the dead of the night (to Indianapolis),” he added, laughing. “It's been a great move across the board following BRAC orders.”

More than 250,000 Soldiers and Marines graduated from the Ordnance school at Redstone in the past 59 years.

Garrison

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space for administration, acquisition, and research and development. There are fewer people in uniform here and those that are in uniform are, in general, more senior in rank and they do different kinds of work. There are more civilians now. And these employees need different kinds of facilities. With the changes in demographics, the Garrison's job is to deliver the right services in the right quantities in the right places."

As Garrison commander, Hamilton is the fourth and latest to lead efforts in support of the 2005 BRAC. Redstone became involved with BRAC efforts in 2003 under the leadership of then Garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin. After the 2005 BRAC was announced, Garrison leadership was passed on to the new Garrison commander, then Col. John Olshefski, and later to Col. Bob Pastorelli. All four have overseen efforts by the Garrison to respond to the

History

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Soon after the BRAC 2005 announcement, Garrison employees began meeting to prepare the installation for the requirements of the BRAC process. They were joined by AMCOM leadership, including then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury and Jim Flinn, deputy to the AMCOM commander, among others.

"We spent a lot of time defining the Team Redstone concept," Devlin said. "Early on we were asking: 'How do we want to be portrayed for BRAC? How do we want Redstone to look like? What's our overall mission?' These are questions that are good for planning, and they led us to themes that we used throughout the BRAC process.

"Those themes included integrated life cycle, the synergy of the whole community, location of Cummings Research Park, diversity of organizations, condition of infrastructure, community support and quick response to the war fighter."

That work prepared the Garrison to respond to requests by the Department of Defense.

"There were BRAC briefs and BRAC visits. We had general data calls. Ultimately, we sent 100,000 pages of data to respond to a standard list of questions," Devlin said. "And we understood throughout the process, that we had to make sure to rapidly respond to every request for data."

Through the process, Redstone was competing with 180 other installations who also wanted to be winners from BRAC.

Working alongside Devlin was Todd Hutto, who was tapped as the BRAC implementation team leader, or BITL.

"The main question was 'What does Redstone Arsenal do?' That's a really hard question to answer when you have such varied tenants as AMCOM, the Missile Defense Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

needs for facilities and services by its new and expanding tenants, with Hamilton taking on the responsibility toward the end of BRAC construction completion.

"We now have here at Redstone several fairly high level headquarters. These are organizations that function at the strategic level of the Department of Defense," he said. "There's not many places where you have this many senior level offices. It's very similar to what you see at the Pentagon with a heavy emphasis of civilian employees."

Hamilton likes to emphasize that BRAC is not an ending but a milestone in the growth of Redstone Arsenal. And it's a milestone that continues to have an impact on the area's road network, educational systems and workforce development programs.

"Those needs are widely regarded and widely agreed to in the community," the Garrison commander said. "BRAC growth will really extend past Sept. 15, and will have second and third order effects in growing this base and the community. We have a great re-

lationship with the community that will need to continue and I am confident will continue well after BRAC."

While the Army does have a huge influence on the area's economy, work force and industry, Hamilton knows the local industrial base needs to be diversified to remain healthy.

"The Army is always going to be one of the major employers in this area and will have influence on the types of industry in this area," he said. "But North Alabama will also continue to diversify."

At Redstone, the Garrison is still working on improvements in the infrastructure—such as the expansion of Martin Road and Gate 7, and renovations of empty buildings near Gate 10—to meet the growing needs of the Arsenal's working population.

"We still have work to do to really, fully resource all the growth," he said. "And we need to look at other services affected by the evolution of the Arsenal."

The Garrison also has a master plan for the installation that accounts for growth well

presentation in about a six-month process," Hutto said. "We were told we could talk about what we do, but not about what we wanted. And that was funny because after we went through eight hours of telling them what we do, Dr. Craig College (deputy assistant secretary of the Army for infrastructure analysis) asked us 'What do you want?'"

Devlin led the briefing with information about Redstone facilities and missions. Pillsbury took the second half of the briefing to explain the interconnectedness among Redstone tenants and missions.

Devlin said the congressional delegation—including Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions, Rep. Bud Cramer and Rep. Robert Aderholt—were fully involved in Redstone's effort to win from BRAC 2005.

The Garrison effort also benefitted from the community's involvement as it sought out leadership support in addressing what may have been considered BRAC shortfalls, such as the lack of general officer housing, and in promoting community strengths, such as support for the military and educational opportunities.

"It was neat for the community because it's a real great case of the broader community and the Redstone community working together," Devlin said. "BRAC was about how you position your community for growth, and positioning for growth is something that's always going on. So, you have to include the broader community in your planning."

When BRAC 2005 was announced six months later in September of that year, Devlin said he and the Garrison team had no indication of what the outcome would be.

"We had trends. We had some feeling of what we thought we would get. But they did a pretty good job of not letting the word out," he said. "There were themes that we saw that could have an impact, such as how quickly people could get off base, reduction in commuting and less expenses. Huntsville ended up being 40 percent cheaper than D.C. (in terms of living and operating expenses)."

beyond BRAC and into the future.

"We have to be willing to receive growth," he said. "From a physical perspective, we have the capacity to grow and that can play into any decision an organization makes about coming here. The question for those organizations is 'Where is the right place to position our particular type of organization to be efficient and effective?'"

To respond to those kinds of queries, it takes more than the master planning of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. It also involves other Garrison directorates, such as Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and the Directorate of Logistics.

"We play a significant role in the partnership with each tenant organization," Hamilton said. "We work to make sure they are resourced properly to do the mission. There is a lot of dialogue to determine how to resource the organizations here, and there is a phenomenal Garrison team in place to make sure our tenant organizations are in the right place to execute their mission."

But the Garrison team was confident that there would be a positive outcome from BRAC 2005.

"We already had a successful case and, to some extent, we built on the case of St. Louis," Devlin said. "Success breeds success, and we were hoping that would be the case here. I was proud of what the team had done. I knew we had a good team both on and off the Arsenal."

The BRAC 2005 announcement was made about two weeks before Devlin left the Garrison command. The changes caused by BRAC at Redstone were subsequently implemented by the Garrison under the commands of Col. John Olshefski, then Col. Bob Pastorelli and, lastly, today's commander Col. John Hamilton.

"It felt great to go out with the BRAC announcement. BRAC was the last thing I wanted to do and I got it done," said Devlin, who is now the director of operations for Marshall Space Flight Center. "We did have success, although it was sad for what we lost (the 59th Ordnance Brigade and the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School). But it's great to see how it has affected the entire North Alabama community."

Hutto, who now works as a logistics management specialist at the Army Materiel Command at Redstone, would be the first one to volunteer if the Garrison needed to put together yet another BRAC-related team.

"It was a great run. I really enjoyed it and I would do it again in a heartbeat," he said. "With the current economic climate, I suspect BRAC could be another tool the Department of Defense could consider using in the future to create more efficiencies.

"And I think Redstone would do well in another BRAC. To me, Redstone is now like the south Pentagon. There are so many important missions here and so many diverse capabilities here. There are one-of-a-kind opportunities here that you don't have anywhere else. We are well-postured for the future."

Development project meets future mission needs

Gateway answers call for more space created by BRAC and other growth

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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It takes a business team bullish on the economy to build a 468-acre office and support services complex.

While the declining economy has forced many communities to cut down on expenses associated with business development, Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville are getting ready to welcome the opening of the first of more than 55 office buildings that are part of a 4.6-million-square-foot office complex near Gate 9 known as Redstone Gateway. The value of the complex, once it is complete in 15 years, is estimated at \$1 billion.

The area's economic indicators made the Arsenal site an ideal location for the largest ever development for a government-business enterprise known as the enhanced use lease project. Among those indicators is one that has been a favorite with the local community for quite some time – the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

“BRAC is one of the aspects of this growing community,” said Craig Northridge, project manager for the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works and the EUL project manager. “It's why the Army offered to do this enhanced use lease. We saw a need that had potential. But this is not to say the development only happened because of BRAC. This development also helps with other regional growth and community growth, and with growth at the Arsenal not related to BRAC.”

For the Gateway's developer – Corporate Office Properties Trust – the communities

surrounding Redstone Arsenal have long been a target for business opportunities.

“A lot of this is BRAC driven,” Greg Hall, COPT's project executive for Redstone Gateway, said. “Our business strategy is to be located next to growing installations like the Arsenal. That's really our business model. BRAC helped with that.”

A year ago, the team involved in the project – the Army, Huntsville, Madison County and COPT – had a groundbreaking ceremony to signify the beginning of work on 180 acres in the northern one-third of the 468-acre site west of Rideout Road. Brasfield & Gorrie won bids to oversee both the infrastructure (with the city) and building construction (with COPT). So far, six major contracts totaling \$26 million have been let by the city and two more are pending, all in relation to the site's infrastructure. Of that \$26 million, \$13.5 million in infrastructure improvements directly impact the Arsenal and its employees.

Earth moving and road work began in the early spring, and has progressed to include building construction, and the initial work to move electrical lines, the electrical substation and the railhead now on the site.

While the Army offered the land for the development under a 50-year lease, the City of Huntsville issued a Tax Increment Finance Bond to pay for the work needed to install the site's infrastructure, and Madison County has supported the infra-



Work progresses at the Redstone Gateway site, near Gate 9.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

structure project with tax reimbursements.

“The infrastructure part of the project refers to the horizontal construction that includes earth movement, roads, utilities, sewer and everything needed to get the site ready for vertical (building) construction,” Northridge said.

The Tax Increment Finance Bond, popularly known as a TIF, was purchased by COPT. As the TIF area's property values increase, COPT will be reimbursed through the increased generation in property taxes.

“Our goal is to be the leader in public infrastructure,” Shane Davis, the director of engineering for the City of Huntsville, said. “This development will be open to the public, and we want to be part of the team to design and install the best infrastructure possible.”

Besides its engineering department, the city's traffic engineering, planning, inspection and zoning departments are all involved with the project.

“In the grand scheme, this is one of the

largest projects that we've had in the last decade,” Davis said. “This project is very important to the city. This is like a Cummings Research Park number 2. Success breeds success, and that's what we're driving for.”

For drivers who pass the development near Gate 9 on their way to and from the Arsenal, dirt work and construction is now giving way to the development's first building – a cornerstone so to speak – in the northern section of the Gateway.

“I'm very excited by the development,” Hall said. “It's nice to plan a project and then see it being built. It is always amazing to see what has been accomplished.”

“The goal is to get the first building complete by the end of the year and the infrastructure in place to support that building. We are on schedule to do that.”

But that first building represents more than the first of 48 buildings on the western side of Rideout Road and 11 buildings on the eastern side. It also represents “a lot of decisions that have had to be made” by a company whose slogan is “Advancing the Missions of Redstone Arsenal,” Hall said.

“The biggest challenge of any project is when all the decisions have to be made. Now is the time to get it right,” he said. “We've got a good team in place, a lot of professionals at all levels who know how to make decisions about things like utilities, roads and entrances. These decisions will affect everything about the project.”

The first building – Building 1000 – is part of a three-building complex. Once completed, construction will begin on Building 1200, which will be a mirror image

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Commander

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“The other thing that I've enjoyed about this job is the opportunity to represent the Army and AMC to so many of our international partners. And the third thing that I've enjoyed is the success of our support to the war fight commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

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

“The last thing that I've enjoyed about USASAC is the teamwork inside AMC,” Tucker said. “We've been very blessed to have great partners among the other commands within AMC assisting in the foreign military sales program.”

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

“The thing that I am most proud of is the success of the USASAC work force under demanding conditions,” Tucker said. “In the last two years, the USASAC work force and the Army security assistance enterprise have improved the FMS process, increased support to the commanders in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and completed the BRAC relocation – all of that done extremely well and all of it done simultaneously. The team here along with our AMC LCMC (life cycle management

commands) partners have done a superb job in improving the Army's FMS program for our international customers. I am very, very fortunate to have been the commander of USASAC during the past two years.”

Tucker's military career continued a family tradition of service which began in 1935 when his father, Reuben, graduated from West Point. “Someone in my immediate family has been in the Army continuously from 1935-2011 or the past 76 years,” Tucker said.

His father served in World War II and Korea. His brothers Bruce and Jeff served during Vietnam. His brothers Scott and Glenn served during the Cold War, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Tucker has served since 1979.

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the Army's program executive officer for aviation, is a longtime friend. They've known each other

since 1967 when they met at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. Crosby's father was the assistant commandant of cadets and Tucker's father was the commandant of cadets.

“General Crosby and I went to high school together, went to college together (at The Citadel) and we had our first assignments together at Fort Stewart, Ga., in 1979,” Tucker said.

Tucker's father retired from the military in 1963 in Charleston, so that's where Tucker grew up. Away from work, Tucker enjoys playing golf, running and spending time with his family.

“Thirty-two years in the Army has been very rewarding because of the people,” he said. “The senior leaders of the Army, the NCOs, the Soldiers and civilians have made every day a great day to be a Soldier. And the support of my family and friends kept me motivated for my entire career.”

Gateway

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of Building 1000. The construction timeline on the second building will be determined by customer demand.

"These buildings are going to set the stage for the Gateway. They will be the first buildings you will see forever coming in to the complex," Hall said.

Centered around a courtyard, each of the three buildings will be five stories and will include 120,000 square feet. They will be state-of-the-art in both appearance and purpose.

"Our goal here is to raise the bar in Huntsville as far as multi-tenant office space is concerned," Hall said. "We want to offer high quality space that is attractive to tenants. We are building a very desirable community that is integrated with support services."

COPT management especially enjoys working with small tenants that have the potential to grow their footprint within the complex.

"We are known for providing space for multiple small tenants in one building," Hall said. "Hopefully, those tenants will grow to larger tenants over time, and we will have the space and amenities to accommodate that growth."

Initially, those smaller tenants may only



Courtesy photo

Craig Northridge of the Garrison's Department of Public Works points to an area on the Redstone Gateway map where development is now ongoing. Discussing the project with him are, Huntsville city engineer Shane Davis, foreground at left; Greg Hall of Corporate Office Properties Trust, background at left; and Huntsville city project manager Chris McNeese, foreground at right.

need 5,000 square feet of space or a single floor in a building.

"We want to meet their needs so they are successful. We have the capability to grow with them," Hall said.

The second cornerstone for the development will be Building 7200, a 60,000 square foot, single story, flexible office building in the southwestern section of the one-third of

Northern Alabama and Southern Tennessee area of the major impact Redstone Arsenal has on the Tennessee Valley," Ritch said. "Redstone is a key part of our nation's defense and its importance is likely to grow in the years to come. Redstone produces thousands of jobs and millions in tax dollars and our state legislators and local community leaders all over the Tennessee Valley have become aggressive advocates for Redstone."

Construction

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office – the lasting legacy of BRAC may have nothing to do with money, but rather the way the nation views Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding community.

"One of the most positive changes has been the increased appreciation by our state legislators and communities in the

the 2005 BRAC.

Members of the Tennessee Valley BRAC committee have spent much time and effort over the past several years, traveling to commands to assure impacted workers that they were both wanted and needed at Redstone Arsenal, addressing concerns and answering questions from both the local community and the new transplants, and sharing the story of Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding area to help attract new jobs and new people. Despite the Sept. 15 deadline for BRAC, the committee will remain active, as BRAC is a never-ending process, according to Joe Ritch, chairman of the committee.

"If we can continue that spirit of cooperation, we'll be successful in other ventures," C. Wallace Terry, director of economic and community development for the city of Decatur, said.

the site under development. The building will be able to accommodate administrative, warehousing and manufacturing needs. It is estimated that in this area of the Gateway 90 percent of space will be used for office space while 10 percent will have other uses.

The third cornerstone will be Building 1600, a 43,000-square-foot project that includes one main building and two out parcels for support services. It is located in the southeastern section of the one-third of the site under development.

"We want to have an integrated park that offers the convenience of support services to tenants," Hall said.

While the support services area will include office supply businesses, restaurants for employees, and, eventually, hotels for business guests and conferences, it will not provide the full shopping experience of Bridge Street, its neighbor to the north.

"The idea is to keep people in the park with all the support services they need," Hall said.

While the dates for building construction are not yet solidified, several infrastructure improvements are set for the spring or summer of 2012. They include relocation of the electrical substation at a cost of \$11.1 million and the railhead for \$900,000, the rerouting of Goss Road for

"I don't think our community has realized the importance of having this many general staff officers in one place and not in Washington, D.C.," Battle said. "I think we're going to see across the board this has stepped up the role of Huntsville in the defense of our nation."

It's not just the impact Huntsville has on the nation, but also the impact the nation has on Huntsville and Madison County, where more than 35,000 workers

\$2.5 million and the construction of Ride-out Road interchange improvements for \$2.5 million. As part of that, the electrical substation, which provides power to all of NASA at Redstone, will be new and will be upgraded from 50 megawatts to 80 megawatts, allowing for more growth.

"The existing substation is old. It has become obsolete," Jerry Robinson, electrical engineer for the Garrison's base operations, said. "From this, we will get a state-of-the-art substation with higher capacity. It will improve our reliability and our reaction time."

As the completion of the Gateway's first building nears, Hall said work is being done to secure the development's first tenants.

"We have quite a bit of activity, but no formal commitments yet," he said. "But we are confident because we provide a product that people want and need. This is what we do. The tenants we attract here are probably our tenants in other locations. We are committed to Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal, and we are excited to be able to meet the current and future needs of the installation with this development."

As the Gateway's tenant list grows, there could be changes in the development's plans.

"We do have a master plan, but it is a living document," Hall said. "It's going to change over time. We do know our plan, but we also have to be flexible to meet the demands of the future."

go to work each day on Redstone Arsenal to support the Soldier, as do countless others in the community.

"While we don't have the uniforms per se, many folks take such great pride in national defense and their jobs on Redstone that support the war fighter," Finley said. "It's neat to be a part of a community that shouts patriotism. There are a lot of communities that are struggling with the nation's sense of being and that's not the case here."

Committee continues work for future ventures

While the substantial growth in the Tennessee Valley in recent years would not have occurred without the acronym that's seemingly heard around North Alabama on a daily, if not hourly, basis – BRAC – Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding communities largely have the Tennessee Valley BRAC committee to thank for that growth being as tremendous as it has been.

Originally formed in 1994 to aid the Arsenal in the BRAC process, area leaders in government and business from across both southern Tennessee and North Alabama joined together to brainstorm and form a strategy that would meet the community needs that the BRAC growth would create. Once the 1995 realignment of the Army's Aviation Command from St. Louis to Huntsville was complete, the communities involved on the committee continued their partnership to assist in



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Growth from BRAC in Madison has resulted in the construction of a new Target at the new Shoppes of Madison center on Highway 72. Target is scheduled to open March 11.

Helping Hands

Couple celebrate birthday with homeless friends

Pizza and fellowship make 50th a day of giving to the needy

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Dorphelia Foster was all ready to give her husband Will a big birthday bash to celebrate his 50th, complete with decorations, presents, great food, and family and friends.

But her husband had other ideas.

Forget the expense of a bash, he said. Instead, let's spend Aug. 6 with our friends under the bridge.

The idea, though indeed different, didn't surprise Dorphelia. She and her husband often offer their fellowship along with food to Huntsville's homeless living in tents in city-managed camps. Although they are both gainfully employed – Dorphelia works with the Army Contracting Command-Redstone and Will has his own car refurbishing business – they also recognize the need to help those who are having a hard time helping themselves.

"I wanted to take this very important day to me and give it to somebody else," Will said. "I just wanted to come out and spend time with them on my birthday. They are still people, too."

So, the couple bought some pizza, chips and drinks, received a generous donation of additional pizzas from Domino's, got a few balloons, rented some tables and chairs, and drove out to a homeless camp under the I-565 overpass. There, they spent time with their homeless friends, listening to music, reading devotionals and just talking.

"I enjoy hearing some of their stories,"

Will said. "I don't talk. I let them talk. They feel good having someone to tell their stories to. We let them share their day with us. They don't want to hear about our problems."

For the past eight years, the couple has been able to find time to visit their friends under the bridge. It's not unusual for Will and Dorphelia to forgo a weekend date to take food, clothing and other items to the homeless.

"When I have a good week, instead of going out to eat or somewhere, I get my wife and I buy a bunch of food and sit down with these guys, and laugh and talk," Will said.

"I want to let them have a good day. It's always a blessing to have a little extra once the bills are paid. God blessed us, so we want to share that with them. It's wonderful to put a smile on someone's face."

The couple attend Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Yet, their mission with the homeless isn't coordinated through a local church or community organization. Rather, it's just something one friend would do for another.

"I think people don't do things like this because they are afraid," Will said.

While they make it a point to visit different homeless camps, the one they chose for Will's birthday under an I-565 overpass is the one where they feel most welcomed and comfortable.

"I feel a connection with these guys," he said. "We sometimes go down by the bus stop or over to the projects. But this camp is the one we come to the most."

Will's connection with the homeless may be associated with the poverty he and his family faced as he was growing up. His mother has also influenced his need to give back to the less fortunate.

"I grew up in the projects. My mom had a bunch of kids, 13 or 14," Will recalled. "We barely had enough food to eat. It kind of brings tears to my eyes to think about it. The pain of hunger ... you never forget it. I never wanted to experience it ever again and it hurts me to see others feel that pain."

Even though there was often not enough food for his own family, Will's mother always found room at the table for any stranger needing a warm meal.

"Homeless guys were hanging around our house. As a child, I couldn't understand that," he said. "But, these guys would take care of my mom. They would help out and do



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Will and Dorphelia Foster take their own ministry of friendship to the homeless in Huntsville. This year, instead of a birthday bash for Will's 50th birthday, the couple celebrated by serving food to the homeless living in a city-managed homeless camp.

things for the family. When I grew up, I realized what it was all about.

"You got to help these guys and give them a chance. Sometimes you don't know how to get up when you've fallen because of depression and other problems. These guys need someone to come and give them a helping hand."

Dorphelia's upbringing was much more comfortable. She grew up in a middle class family with one sibling. But she also feels a need to give back to the less fortunate.

"We were always taught to share and to love everybody," she said. "Will and I both have big hearts. God knows how to put the right people together."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Micky performs an original song on his guitar for an impromptu audience that includes the Fosters, and homeless camp residents Michael and Troy.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Ready for CFC

Donna Johnson, the coordinator for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, presents Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton with this year's CFC T-shirt as they prepare for today's CFC kickoff. The event will be held at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium, and will include performances by the Army Materiel Command Jazz Band and teenage cancer survivor Lindsey Jones, cheers from the Sparkman High School varsity cheerleading squad, comments from John Nerger, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, and door prizes. The kickoff event will be followed by an agency fair at the Sparkman Center Parade Field that will include free pizza and drinks.



Center's retiring deputy director led by example

By **RANDY SINIARD**

AMRDEC Public Affairs

He remembered attending World War II reunions with his father, who had parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. And he decided to follow in his dad's footsteps.

"When I volunteered to join the Army, I asked to go to the Airborne and Ranger school and be assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division," John Oxford Jr. said. "The Army obliged. It has been gravy since then."

Oxford became a colonel who has retired as deputy director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center after 29 years in the Army. He served as the center's deputy director since June 29, 2009.

"John was always that solid, quiet force in the background that made everything happen as I went through the transition into my new job as the director," AMRDEC director Eric Edwards said.

"He led by example."

The same can be said about Oxford's father. Oxford reminisced about his childhood days traveling with his family for their vacations going to the World War II 82nd Airborne Division reunions with his dad. During the Battle of the Bulge, while riding in a jeep carrying wounded to an aid station, Oxford's father was blinded when the jeep ran over a land mine. Oxford remembered vacationing with his dad at the yearly Blinded Veterans of America Conventions.

Oxford spent two years as an Army medic sergeant in the Georgia Army National Guard. He was commissioned from the University of Georgia's ROTC program into the regular Army in 1984.

After holding a variety of staff and command positions, he earned a master's in management from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1996.



Courtesy photo

AMRDEC director Eric Edwards presents the flag to deputy director Col. John Oxford Jr., who retired after 29 years.

During his retirement ceremony, Edwards presented him with the Legion of Merit. He was awarded the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation along with

numerous certificates of appreciation from Alabama senators and congressmen.

One of the most sentimental moments was the presentation of the flag. By tradition a U.S. flag, which is flown over the Capitol in honor of the retiring member of the armed forces, is presented as a gift from a grateful nation.

This flag was flown over the Capitol at the request of U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks and presented on his behalf by Edwards.

During all his assignments, Oxford said a particular one stands out – his time at Fort Bragg, N.C., when he met his future wife.

"I was going for a swim and I noticed Michelle, she was a lifeguard at the pool," Oxford recalled. "I guess you can say she saved me and she's been there for me ever since. I'm really thankful she is."

Lab brings work force, students together

By **JASON CUTSHAW**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

In the Concepts and Analysis Laboratory, contributions can come from freshmen in college as well as seniors in their field of expertise.

Members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's CAL, along with the assistance of college students and interns, are using existing technology to support the Counter-Rockets, Artillery and Mortars program.

"We started working with the Projectile Tracking System Radar," Kevin Nash, CAL supervisor, said. "It was a test bed, developed at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., for the Crusader gun system. It was developed to track outgoing rounds off the gun and help them adjust their fire accordingly. We turned it around to track incoming rockets and mortars. We have used three different variants of the PTS interferometer radar technology in support of C-RAM since 2004.

"And what we have done is bring our young people out and they actually do the sensor operations. We don't need any contractors with them. We have a contractor there in case the system breaks but we do all of the target tracking ourselves and then we do the data analysis afterwards."



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Kevin Nash, Concepts and Analysis Laboratory supervisor, and Marcus Ratcliff, a general engineer in the CAL, discuss work being conducted on the Counter-Rockets, Artillery and Mortars program.

Although the CAL's students and interns contributions are limited to helping them as they capture and understand test results, their assistance is key in supporting C-RAM testing.

"Between 2005 and 2007 we observed intercepts with an infrared camera for the entire engagement of each target," Nash said. "The students created time-stamped movies of what happened and provided those to our C-RAM customer. That way the customer could assess the lethality of their engagements.

"On the radar side, our role is test support to record all of the tracks, so

the customer can perform an assessment of how well their tactical radars tracked the targets."

During the summer months, there are approximately 20 students and interns working in the CAL. There are others that continue throughout the year and intertwine working at SMDC with their college schedules.

"There are two main ways the students assist us," Nash said. "One is the actual operations of the sensors. We bring the students out to perform target tracking with radar and, previously, infrared.

"What they are spending the most hours on is helping develop data analysis software. One of the challenging things for the radar is that we have to make sure our track quality is good, so the students write programs that analyze the track and help give us a quality assessment so that when we turn in the data it is correct.

"The students' efforts help us improve our performance on the ground out at the test ranges. We want to track 100 percent of the targets and we want to have good quality data. Their products get us into high success ratings and our product here at SMDC helps the C-RAM program office characterize and assess their performance at the test range before they deploy to the field."

Nash talked about what he is most

proud of when watching the students he supervises as they progress in the CAL.

"It is amazing the contributions that these students are making," Nash said. "These students are really making some great contributions. Just watching them grow as some come back every summer as they progress along and their skills blossom is really amazing to see."

Many of the students are hired at SMDC through the Redstone Arsenal summer hire program while others are traditional Co-Op students. Nash said that one of the main ways students come aboard is through the Department of Defense Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation scholarship program.

As some students use the summer hire and intern programs as building blocks in their future, some of them become permanent members of the SMDC family.

"Starting here as a student was great," said Marcus Ratcliff, a general engineer in the CAL since 2008, who started out as an Auburn University student in 2004. "It got me excited about going out into the work force and gave me something to focus on while I was in college.

"The work here is interesting and exciting, especially working with the C-RAM program. If any college student is considering coming to work here for SMDC, I definitely recommend it. They will get a lot of experience that is helpful with both school and their careers."

Win or Lose

Runners mark 10th anniversary of Sept. 11th

9.11K race draws
165 participants

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

Redstone Fire Department's Capt. Robert Simmons ran Saturday's 9.11K run in full firefighting gear in honor of the 343 firefighters who died Sept. 11, 2001.

"It's not about me," he said. "It's about the 343. They did a lot more than I did that day."

The 9.11K (5.66 mile) race, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks, drew 165 runners. "That's like more than double we've ever had," Gaylene Wilson, sports and fitness director, said.

She thanked the race sponsors including the Association of the U.S. Army, Fleet Feet, and Woody Anderson Ford. Vets With Vettes brought 21 Corvettes and served as road guards. The Marine Reserve and Redstone's Ten-Miler Team also helped. The AMC Band provided music at the event near the Sparkman Fitness Center.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton thanked all the runners for their support and recalled the morning

when hijacked airliners were deliberately flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We started out that morning not certain of what we were seeing," Hamilton said. "We realized very quickly we were seeing pure evil."

Robert Whitaker, 52, of Owens Cross Roads, won the race in 34 minutes and 15 seconds, a 6:08 pace. The retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, originally from Memphis, is a systems engineer at Cruise Missile Defense Systems.

"Lots of training," Whitaker said, when asked how he won. "I train about 50 miles a week and I'm a very competitive racer in the local area."

"The cool weather really helped. It was kind of nice to run in this cooler weather."

Kathy Youngren, 37, of Huntsville, was the female winner in 37:48, a 6:46 pace. She teaches seventh-grade at Challenger Middle.

"For me I had a pretty good run today," she said. Her personal best time for 10K is 39:47.

Here are the overall and age group winners:

Male, overall: Robert Whitaker (34:15).

Male, 29-under: 1. Tim Wood (38:38), 2. Mark Hull (44:12), 3. Blake Hargrove



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The runners, including Redstone firefighter Capt. Robert Simmons in full gear, assemble for the 9.11K near the Sparkman Fitness Center.

(45:52). **30-39:** 1. Timothy Pitt (34:40), 2. Will Branwell (39:29), 3. Ken Heebner (40:17). **40-49:** 1. Andrew Peffer (39:12), 2. Karl Kraus (39:45), 3. Anthony Knight (40:01). **50-59:** 1. Gerardo Tomez (37:32), 2. Don Hillis (42:28), 3. Dave Cripps (42:47). **60-over:** 1. Jim Wasson

See Run on page 26

Oklahoma Sooners picked over Florida State Seminoles

Florida gets nod
to top Tennessee

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

Skip's Picks went 65-12 for the first week of the college football season. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Oklahoma at Florida St. – **Oklahoma**

Tennessee at Florida – **Florida**
LSU at Mississippi St. – **LSU**
Iowa St. at Connecticut – **Iowa**

Boise St. at Toledo – **Boise St.**
E. Michigan at Michigan – **Michigan**
Auburn at Clemson – **Auburn**
Southeast Missouri State at Purdue – **Purdue**
Wyoming at Bowling Green – **Wyoming**
West Virginia at Maryland – **Maryland**
Penn St. at Temple – **Penn St.**



Pittsburgh at Iowa – **Iowa**
Mississippi at Vanderbilt – **Vandy**
Kansas at Georgia Tech – **Ga. Tech**
Duke at Boston College – **Duke**
Colorado St. at Colorado – **Colo. St.**
La.-Monroe at TCU – **TCU**
South Carolina State at Indiana – **Indiana**
Washington at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Texas at UCLA – **Texas**
Missouri State at Oregon – **Oregon**
Virginia at North Carolina – **UNC**
Miami (Ohio) at Minnesota – **Minnesota**
Northwestern at Army – **Northwestern**

Georgia State at Jacksonville St. – **Jax St.**
Texas Tech at New Mexico – **Tech**
Akron at Cincinnati – **Cincinnati**
Michigan St. at Notre Dame – **ND**
Wisconsin at Northern Illinois – **Wisconsin**
Tulane at UAB – **Tulane**
Arkansas St. at Virginia Tech – **Va. Tech**
Nevada at San Jose St. – **Nevada**

Presbyterian at California – **Cal**
South Alabama at N. Carolina St. – **NC St.**
Navy at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
Washington St. at San Diego St. – **San Diego St.**
Gardner-Webb at Wake Forest – **Wake**
Southeastern Louisiana at Southern Miss – **So. Miss**
Kent St. at Kansas St. – **Kan. St.**
Arizona St. at Illinois – **ASU**
Florida A&M at South Florida – **So. Fla.**
Louisville at Kentucky – **Kentucky**
Idaho at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**
Houston at Louisiana Tech – **Houston**
Tuskegee at Alabama A&M – **Ala. A&M**
Ohio St. at Miami (Fla.) – **Ohio State**
Troy at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
North Texas at Alabama – **Bama**
Grambling at Alabama State – **Grambling**
UTEP at New Mexico St. – **UTEP**
Northwestern State at SMU – **SMU**
Syracuse at USC – **USC**
Utah at BYU – **Utah**
Hawaii at UNLV – **Hawaii**
North Dakota at Fresno St. – **Fresno St.**
Oklahoma St. at Tulsa – **Okla. St.**
Stanford at Arizona – **Stanford**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The 165 participants start the 9.11K run, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

Run

continued from page 25

(47:07), 2. James Champion (49:00), 3. Stephen Seniuk (51:01).

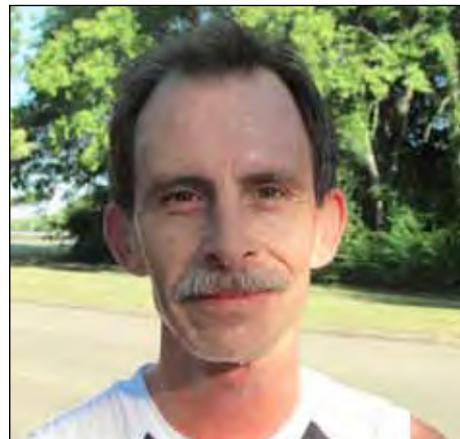
Female, overall: Kathy Youngren (37:48).

Female, 29-under: 1. Nicole Waits (45:12), 2. Megan White (49:25), 3. Jodi Ewald (50:30). 30-39: 1. Kelly Steele (42:46), 2. Tracey Pollard (43:27), 3. Jamekela Iles (48:34). 40-49: 1. Roberta Hauck (41:19), 2. Patti Holmes (44:54), 3. Lisa Vroonland (46:17). 50-over: 1. Ruth Vanzandt (41:49), 2. Betty Hooper (49:41), 3. Lauren Dirienzo (50:37).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone firefighter Capt. Robert Simmons finishes the race in full gear in honor of the 343 firefighters who died Sept. 11, 2001.



Robert Whitaker



Kathy Youngren



Courtesy photo

Kickoff party

Members of the Utility Helicopters Project Office held a Football Season Kick-off Pizza Party on Sept. 1 and wore their team colors to show support for their teams. Col. Thomas Todd is the project manager.

Sports & Recreation

Youth football competition

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association will hold the fifth annual NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick competition sponsored by the Tennessee Titans on Saturday. This competition, at Louis Crews Stadium on the campus of Alabama A&M, is open to all male and female youth ages 6-15 in the Tennessee Valley area. Registration is free starting at 9:30 a.m. with the competition beginning at 10, on the visitors side of the stadium. Only sneakers are allowed to be worn by participants (no cleats allowed). For more information, call C. Lamar Sterns 722-8093 or 679-8961 and Tourischeva Stubbs 372-4059.

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 Arstrono 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. Free tickets will be available Sept. 23 at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Cycling ride

Spring City Cycling Club will hold its "All You Can Eat Century" on Saturday at Madison County High School, 174 Brock Road, Gurley, 10 miles east of Huntsville. Mileage route options include 35, 50, 59, 67 and 106. Registration/check-in opens at 7 a.m., the course is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the 35-mile ride starts at 9 a.m. Meal is served from noon to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$35. Register online at Active.com. For more information, visit www.springcity.org/century.

Party after game

Pinnacle Affairs invites you to celebrate the Alabama A&M vs. Tuskegee rivalry Saturday at the Surie in Madison after the Louis Crews Classic football game. Doors open at 10 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20 and limited V.I.P. reserved tables of four are available. "The disc jockey duo, 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka), will be on the 1s and 2s and special performances will be provided by recording artists Kenn Orr and Rodney Gant," a prepared release said. Call 508-8674, email pinnacleaffairs@aol.com, or purchase tables or tickets online at www.pinnacleaffairs.com.

SAMD golf tournament

The Security Assistance Management Directorate will present the 2011 SAMD Golf Tournament on Sept. 20 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. It's a four person scramble format. Entry fees are \$260 per team (\$65 per player). There is a \$5 discount for members of the Links; so their cost is \$60 per player. To reg-

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ister call Joe Anderson 842-1081 or email joseph.m.anderson5.ctr@us.army.mil.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday night at Bicentennial Chapel. Fellowship begins at 5 p.m. followed by Bible study at 5:30. The actual service starts at 6:15. Bicentennial Chapel is located on Goss Road, building 376. For more information, call the Garrison Unit Ministry Team 842-2176.

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.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 22 at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club in the Loft Room. Lunch can be purchased from the snack bar and brought to the meeting. Everyone is invited. There will be a special guest presentation on career development opportunities. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275 or Kenya McLin 955-2233.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Men's 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.

Losing weight

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

Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association has canceled Thursday's luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Kansas club

The Kansas Club will have a Breakfast Buffet Social at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 24 at Lofton's in the Holiday Inn Select at 401 Williams Ave. downtown. Newcomers are welcome. "The Kansas Club is a friendly, social group consisting of people with Kansas connections and those who like to socialize with those with a Kansas connection," a prepared release said. A short meeting will be held after breakfast to discuss the future of the Kansas Club. Please call 883-0080 or 722-4798 for a head count by Sept. 20.

Air Force celebration

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association will salute 50 years of manned space flight and the Air Force's

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64th birthday with a celebration Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Redstone Federal Credit Union atrium, 220 Wynn Drive. Doors open at 6. The guest speaker is U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, will hold its monthly luncheon Thursday at the Holiday Inn on University Drive adjacent to Madison Square Mall. Phil Thiel will speak on Utilizing GIS for Installation Management. Signup begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 11:30. Cost is \$15. For reservations, email rsvp@samehsvpost.org.

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=a07e4acce3be6c3c0d>.

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.

Logistics professionals

The International Society of Logistics Tennessee Valley Chapter will have a luncheon Sept. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville. The speaker is Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive for aviation. Cost is \$15 for SOLE members, \$20 for nonmembers. The student rate is \$10 for student members and \$15 for student nonmembers. For reservations call Sharon Adams 533-5789, ext. 271, or email sadams@logicorehsv.com by noon Thursday.

Disabilities forum

Alabama A&M University will host its rescheduled third annual Dr. William T. Fennessee symposium focusing on current and relevant issues related to persons living with disabilities on Sept. 23 from 1-3 p.m. in the Clyde Foster Multi-purpose Room (in the New School of Business). The theme is "Wounded Warriors and Disabled Citizens: Job Ready & Available!" This event is free to the public. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the program. For more information or to register, call Dr. George Mamboleo 372-8002 or email george.mamboleo@aamu.edu.

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.

Exchange update

The Exchange has the following new hours, which began Sept. 1: Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Education test center

Taking online courses? Need a proctor

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

Ride needed

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

Safety officer course

The Garrison Safety Office will hold a Collateral Duty Safety Officer Course on Sept. 27-29. Newly assigned CDSOs or personnel that will be conducting duties as a CDSO are encouraged to attend the classroom training. Before coming to the classroom training, personnel should first complete the CDSO online course at the Army Combat Readiness Center, <https://safety.army.mil>. Upon successful completion, personnel will print a copy of the training certificate and place it in their CDSO binder. The CDSOs should familiarize themselves with Army Safety Program references. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides safety standards in the Code of Federal Regulation 29 CFR 1910 and 29 CFR 1926 for CDSO use. Space is limited. Send the name, organization, phone number and email address of personnel that will attend the CDSO training to Ralph Langford, ralph.langford@us.army.mil, or Jonathan Niedergeses, jonathan.niedergeses@us.army.mil. Individuals will receive confirmation, time and place of training by email once the class roster is complete.

Yard sale benefit

A local dog rescue group will have a fund-raiser yard sale Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 213 Oakwood, Huntsville. It's a yellow house on the corner of Oakwood and Virginia, near Five Points. All proceeds from the sale will go to the vetting of adoptable dogs.

Commissary case lot sale

The Commissary will have a case lot sale Thursday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Commissary case lot sale shoppers get 'bargains by the case' and savings up to 50 percent off regular prices on popular items," a prepared release said. Check out the webpage at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Thrift Shop job

The Thrift Shop has an opening for assistant manager. Requirements include Microsoft Office, organizational skills, interfacing with volunteers and paid staff, knowledge in retail sales, and must have dependable transportation. Applications are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at building 3209 on Hercules Road. The deadline is Thurs-

day. For more information, call 881-6992.

Acquisition careerists

The Army Acquisition Support Center announces the upcoming release of the Year Group 12 Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship Program. CDG/AAF is a three-year developmental Program that offers developmental assignments in program executive offices, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology offices, AMC headquarters and functional organizations. In addition, the program provides expanded training, leadership, experiential and other career development opportunities. Applicants must be current Department of the Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology work force members; GS-12/13 or an equivalent converted Personnel Demonstration Project broadband/pay-band level (pay equals that of a GS-13, step 1), and certified at Level III in any acquisition career field. For more information, call program manager Chandra Evans-Mitchell (703) 805-1247 or email chandra.l.evansmitchell.civ@mail.mil.

POW/MIA recognition

World War II prisoner of war George Mills will be the guest speaker at the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on Friday at 5 p.m. at the Morgan County Courthouse in Decatur. The event will include a candle lighting ceremony, the playing of Taps and a 21-gun salute. Members of the Alabama National Guard as well as the JROTC units from Brewer High and Priceville High will participate in the ceremony, which is being organized by the Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County. The ceremony is free and open to the public. For more information, call 606-4414.

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.

Impact aid kickoff

A kickoff event to spread awareness of federal impact aid forms and their importance for school funds will be held Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Goldsmith-Schiffman Elementary School, 1210 Taylor Road in Huntsville. This is a joint initiative with the Schools Foundation and Team Redstone. Federal Impact Aid is a program used to disperse federal grant money to local school districts that are financially burdened or impacted by federal activity populations. Impact aid assists school districts in educating federally-connected children – defined as

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children whose parents work on federal property (military, Department of Defense/NASA civilians, or contractors) and includes children residing on federal property or in federally subsidized housing.

Fox pharmacy hours

Effective Oct. 3, Fox Army Health Center Pharmacy's new hours will be 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.

Yard sale benefit

Christmas Charities Year Round will have a yard sale Saturday from 6 a.m. to

noon at 2840 Jordan Lane. Sell your usable goods by renting a booth for \$25. CCYR has exercise and lawn care equipment for sale. For information call 837-2373.

Military personnel office

The MILPO buildings located on Roadrunner Road, which includes the ID Card Section, will move during the week of Sept. 26-30 to a temporary location while the buildings get renovated. The ID Card section will be closed Sept. 27-28 to enable the transfer of the RAP-IDS computer systems to the new location. One workstation will be available both days for emergency situations only (lost ID cards and pin resets) on a walk-in basis. No appointments will be available on those days. Please make necessary arrangements to visit prior or after those dates. The ID Card section should be operational Sept. 29 at its new location which will be in the large trailer located in the parking lot behind building

3493. Luis Ortega, chief of the Military Personnel Office, Directorate of Human Resource, can be reached at 842-2418.

Thrift shop

Plenty of Halloween items are in the Thrift Shop. Fall items are now being taken for consignment. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. The Thrift Shop has an opening for assistant manager. Interested applicants

should visit. Volunteers are always welcome.

Young Marines recruiting

The North Alabama unit of the Young Marines will hold a new recruit orientation meeting Sept. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Marine Reserve Center on South Memorial Parkway. Boys and girls ages 8-18 are invited to sign up. The Young Marines is a youth education and service program which promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines is the focal point for the Marine Corps' youth drug demand reduction efforts. For more information, call 723-5798.



Courtesy photo

Pioneer hardware

Dr. Ryan Averbeck, chief of research and technology protection for the Army Materiel Command's deputy chief of staff for intelligence, has received the Pioneer award. This was in recognition of his initiative and leadership in the development and implementation of distance learning in the federal government.



Photo by Sharonda Pearson

9/11 remembrance

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis recites excerpts from President Lincoln's second inaugural address during the "In Remembrance" memorial concert held Sunday at the Bob Jones High School auditorium. The concert, conducted by the Madison County Arts Council, honored first responders and servicemembers who died during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.