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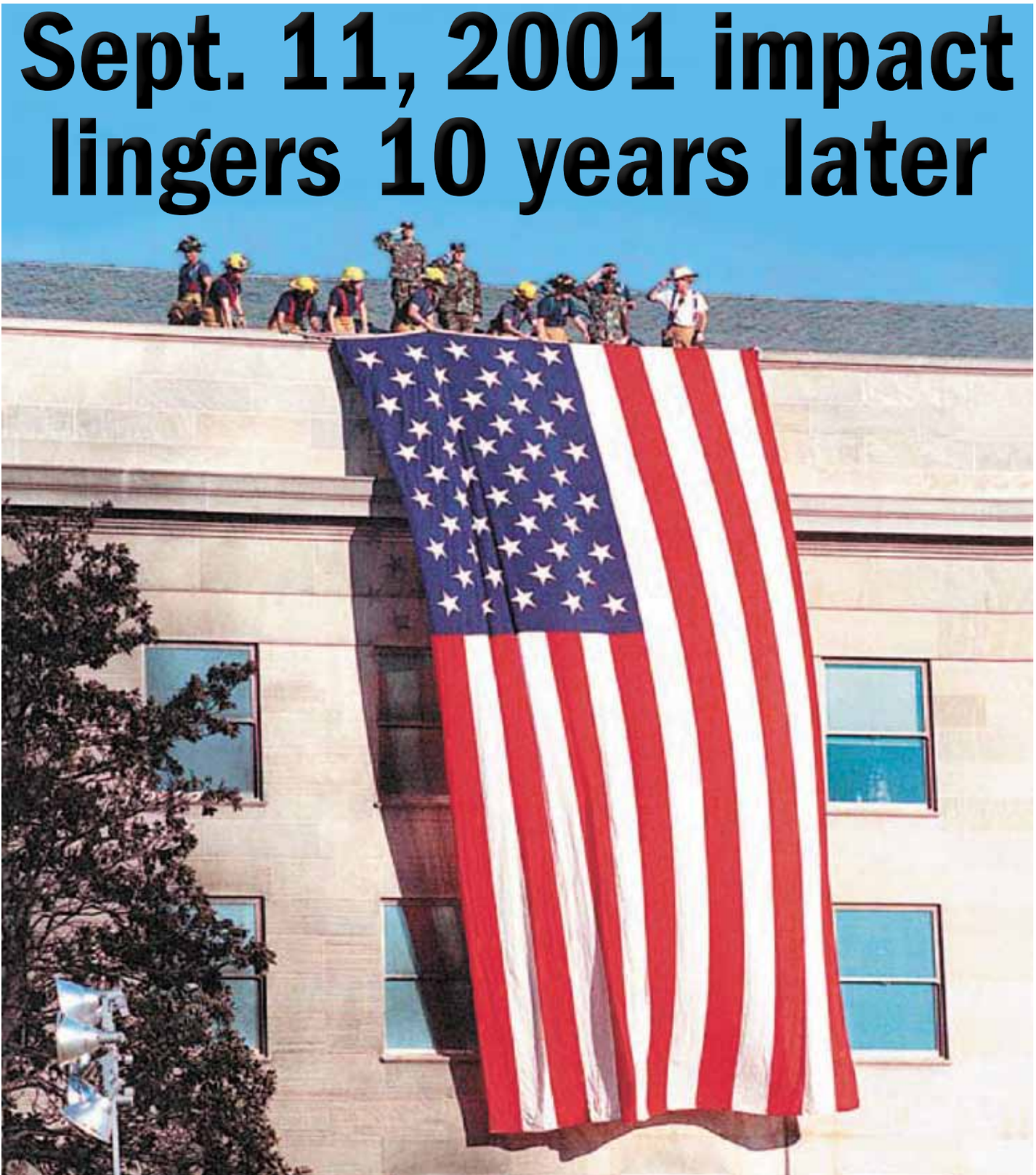
Sept. 11, 2001 impact lingers 10 years later



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Still Serving Veterans assists in job search.
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Redstone Ten-Miler Team dedicates year to former member.
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RocketViews

What are your thoughts on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks?

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

Carl Leighton
Redstone Fire Department captain
"I'm hoping there'll be no more attacks. For me and I think everybody here, it's a time of remembrance for everything that's happened. And for firefighters, it's more personal for all the firefighters lost."

Chris Lindberg
Expeditionary Contracting Command
"I think that the United States has come a long way in fighting terrorism since then but I think we still need to focus on it because I don't think the threat has disappeared."

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Holder
AMC Band
"It makes us remember where we were 10 years ago and look how we've made things change to better the country, and to not forget what happened on that day."

Sgt. Dana Cox
115th Signal Brigade, National Guard
"I think that our country came together pretty well. While we don't all support the war, we're supporting our troops. I think you can thank the Vietnam veterans for that. And I think the image that hit me the most on the whole Sept. 11th was a Jewish man helping a Muslim man when the buildings collapsed. It shouldn't be about race or gender or anything like that, it should be that we're all Americans."

Letters to the editor

Redstone senior commander salutes 9/11 Generation

In remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001 and the tragic attacks that caused our nation to enter into war, I encourage all of us to remember the men and women who have fought to keep us safe. The 10th anniversary of 9/11 is a time to honor the victims of those attacks, to keep faith with their families, and to express our nation's appreciation to our troops and their families — the 9/11 Generation — who have now been at war for 10 years.

But from adversity comes change and transformation, and we have seen a lot of that in this past decade.

The 9/11 Generation has earned its place among the greatest of generations in U.S. history. Over the past decade, more than 2 million American sons and daughters have served in the war zones. Hundreds of thousands of troops have deployed multiple times. Our National Guardsmen and Reservists have completed an unprecedented number of deployments.

Our troops have proven themselves as a generation of innovators. They have adopted new tactics, mastered new languages and harnessed new technologies. Junior officers have taken on responsibilities once reserved for more senior commanders. Our servicemembers have not only had to defeat their adversaries on the battlefield, but they've also excelled in political, economic and development tasks that have been critical to our successes.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers

On this 10th anniversary of 9/11 we honor all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice over the past decade — more than 1,600 who have given their lives in Afghanistan and more than 4,500 in Iraq, as well as tens of thousands of our wounded warriors, and the Gold Star families of our fallen heroes.

As we move forward and rebuild the foundations of our national strength at home, the 9/11 Generation has played a pivotal role, just as our World War II veterans came home and built the largest middle class in history. The nearly 3 million veterans of the 9/11 Generation are uniquely qualified to be the teachers, skilled workers, community leaders and entrepreneurs to help strengthen the pillars of American competitiveness in the 21st century.

Just as earlier generations of Americans overcame great tests and turmoil, the 9/11 Generation has risen to the challenges of our time, ensuring that America will emerge even stronger.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers
AMCOM commander

Building removed from maintenance contract

Could you find out why the Army property around the old post office is being neglected? It has not been mowed in months. The grass has grown into tall weeds. It is a refuge for vermin, an eyesore and a wildfire hazard. Is the contractor only being paid for occupied buildings? Or are they not doing their job? As an office resident of the area and a taxpayer, it seems that the upkeep of this area is of no concern to the Garrison.

Lisa C. Townsend

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern on grounds maintenance around the old post office facility. The facility (building 3648) is scheduled for demolition by the end of the current calendar year. As a result, it has been removed from the grounds maintenance contract. At completion of demolition, the area will be allowed to grow to its natural state. Areas to the south and east of the facility are naturally wooded and the increased risk of wildfire and vermin will be relatively insignificant. Again, thank you for your concern and your interest in making Redstone a better place to live and work."

Quote of **the Week**

'Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward and freedom will be defended.'

— President George W. Bush
Sept. 11, 2001

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to **know you**

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Luis Ortega

Job: Chief of Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources, Garrison

Where do you call home?
I was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador in South America. I came to the United States when I was 8 years old and grew up in Queens, N.Y.

What do you like about your job?
I like taking care of customers here in the Redstone community, which includes Soldiers, retirees, family members and of course our civilian work force. I enjoy providing the best possible personnel service support to the community.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy watching TV to relax. And I'm also a Little League baseball/softball umpire. I've been involved with the Little League program since 1980. I enjoy being with my family. I have a wife (Kenya) and two little dogs.

What are your goals?
My goals are to eventually be able to retire from civil service at a young enough age so I can enjoy traveling and doing other things. I'm a retired warrant officer (chief warrant officer 2 with 20-years service).

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
I'd like to win the lottery just like everyone else does to be able to assist others and enjoy an early retirement.
Editor's note: Ortega, the new chief of MILPO, can be reached at 842-2418.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 25-31:

Aug. 25: A chemical spill was reported at building 7804. All personnel were evacuated and Chugach cleared the facility of all materials related to the spill.

Aug. 25: A civilian approached Gate 9 driving erratically and said he was lost. He was suspected of driving under the influence; and he failed the sobriety tests. He submitted to a Drager test resulting in a blood alcohol content of 0.01 percent. He was detained in the detention cell and later cited and released.

Aug. 25: A Soldier was arrested for desertion by the Whitfield County (Ga.) Sheriff's Office. He was released to Redstone Arsenal Police and later returned to the PCF at Fort Knox, Ky.

Aug. 28: A civilian motorist who was on post for a bicycle race was stopped by Redstone Arsenal Police for speeding. He was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license. He was cited and released.

Aug. 29: Someone placed a suspected counterfeit $5 bill in the night deposit at Regions Bank.

Aug. 29: A contractor removed two electric motors and various amounts of copper piping from Fox Army Health Center. He was issued a citation, fired by his employer and escorted off post.

Aug. 30: A Soldier was arrested for desertion by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. He was released to Redstone Arsenal Police and later returned to his unit at Fort Riley, Kan.

Aug. 30: A Soldier was arrested for desertion by the Knox County (Tenn.) Sheriff's Office. He was released to Redstone Arsenal Police and later returned to the PCF at Fort Knox.

Aug. 31: A civilian approached Gate 1 and said he was lost. He was suspected of driving under the influence; and he failed the sobriety tests. He refused the Drager test. He was detained in the detention cell until his BAC reached an acceptable level, then he was cited and released.

Aug. 31: A contractor entered Gate 8 and was selected for a random inspection. She was found to be driving with a suspended license and had three misdemeanor warrants through Huntsville Police Department. She was cited and released to Huntsville police.

Traffic accidents reported: Seven without injury.

Violation notices issued: 46 speeding, 7 failure to stop for a posted stop sign, 2 for driving with a suspended license, 1 driving with an expired license, 4 no proof of insurance, 1 improper backing, 1 following too close, 1 DUI, 1 open container, 1 larceny.

AMCOM workers updated on fiscal 2012 cuts

Civilian job reductions planned Armywide

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Seventeen civilians in the Aviation and Missile Command have been notified that their jobs will be cut in fiscal 2012.

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers said during a town hall Aug. 30 that he will try to ensure they are placed in equivalent positions either in AMCOM or other organizations at Redstone.

"Our mission is to find them a job in their position and grade in FY 12," Rogers said.

Of the Army's 8,700 civilian cuts in fiscal 2012, AMCOM's portion is 272.

The command worked to meet that requirement with the least impact on the work force. Besides divested positions, reassignments, retirements and transfers, 92 applicants were approved for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers addresses workers during the Aug. 30 town hall in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"Seventeen out of those 272, I don't have a home for. But my goal is to find a home for them," Rogers said.

All 17 people were notified either Aug. 29 or the morning of Aug. 30. Rogers addressed the command's work force in a filled 650-seat Bob Jones Auditorium that afternoon.

"Our position at AMCOM is we will not have a RIF," Rogers said. But he will apply Oct. 1 for a reduction in force as a contingency because of the Army's lengthy approval process, 242 days.

Karen Bandera, director of human resources for the Aviation and Missile Command, answered employees' VERA/VSIP questions during a session in the auditorium after the town hall. "Right now we're down to 17 excess (jobs)," she said.

ID card customers served as quickly as possible

The director of human resources Joe Winston and the MILPO chief Luis Ortega would like to assure you that they understand the concerns surrounding the long waits in the ID card section and they're constantly reviewing their processes to be able to provide customers the best possible service.

"Please keep in mind our priority in issuing cards," a prepared release said. "Our Soldiers in uniform have first priority, then appointments, and then walk-ins in the order they arrive.

"We only have four contractors authorized to issue cards. A card can take anywhere from 10 minutes to 45 minutes, depending on the situation. Unfortunately, at the present time, budget constraints do not allow us to hire additional personnel.

"In the past couple of weeks, our CAC (Common Access Card) appointments have been full and we've had an influx of walk-ins. We ask that if you come to visit our facility on a walk-in basis, to please have patience and be assured that we will service you as soon as we can.

"One way that you can assist us and yourself is to ensure that you have all the proper documents required prior to you coming to our facility. We really hate to tell someone that they can't be issued an ID card, especially if they've driven a far distance."

For more information or to verify the documents required, call the ID card section at 842-2413. Ortega can be reached at 842-2418 and his office is located in the same building as the ID card section, building 3494. *(Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources release)*

Still Serving Veterans helping put ex-military to work

Local organization assists job search

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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More than 1 million veterans are unemployed.

Men and women that once dutifully donned the uniform of the American Soldier and went into battle for the love of their country are now left without a mission. Of the post-9/11 veterans, nearly 11.5 percent were unemployed in 2010, with more than 20 percent of veterans age 18 to 24 left jobless, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Still Serving Veterans, a Huntsville-based service organization devoted to empowering wounded warriors and veterans, and helping them transition into post-military life, is working to change those statistics, one job offer at a time.

"They have a spirit of loyalty and commitment," said Will Webb, president of Still Serving Veterans, drawing from the words of retired Marine Gen. Jim Jones. "They have a spirit of teamwork with the shared goal of mission accomplished. They have solid integrity, dependability, respect for others, and judgment, often in life and death situations with millions of dollars on the line. Hiring veterans is not just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. They are our national assets."

In 2010, Still Serving Veterans helped 71 veterans find meaningful careers, securing almost $3.5 million in new annual salaries, with an average salary of $50,214. The organization is on pace to exceed that number in 2011, with 56 veterans placed in new careers with an average salary of $51,000, and 146 new work force transition cases opened this year. Despite the lagging economy, the Tennessee Valley, through the help of local economic drivers Redstone Arsenal and other federal agencies located on post, as well as the 300 aerospace and defense companies throughout the community, has reached out to give the community's wounded warriors and veterans a new mission in life.

"This community wraps their arms around those heroes and lifts them to new paths," Webb said.

President Obama has challenged both the federal government and the private sector to hire more veterans, directing the Department of Defense and VA to create a "reverse boot camp" which would help new veterans transition themselves and their military skills into civilian jobs. He announced plans for a proposed Returning Heroes Tax Credit and Wounded Warrior Tax Credit for companies that hire unemployed veterans, and veterans with a disability, last week at the 93rd annual conference of the American Legion in Minneapolis.

"When Congress returns from recess, this needs to be at the top of their agenda,"

See Veterans on page 10

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Will Webb, president of Still Serving Veterans, an organization staffed by veterans, for veterans, explains how the Huntsville-based center assists veterans and wounded warriors find jobs when their career as a Soldier has ended.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Dining Facility closes

In operation since 1962, the Dining Facility has closed with the departure of the Ordnance school to Fort Lee, Va. From left are contract Dining Facility manager Dan Tyree, Chasity Tyree, Hyon Haugsness, Jamey Meeks, Alice Christopher, Arthur Harris, Judy Meeks, Jeanette Howard, Audry Jolly and Wilfort Shephens. "I would like to thank my employees for being truly dedicated, and for all their years of service to all of the troops," Tyree said. "These are seriously dedicated employees."

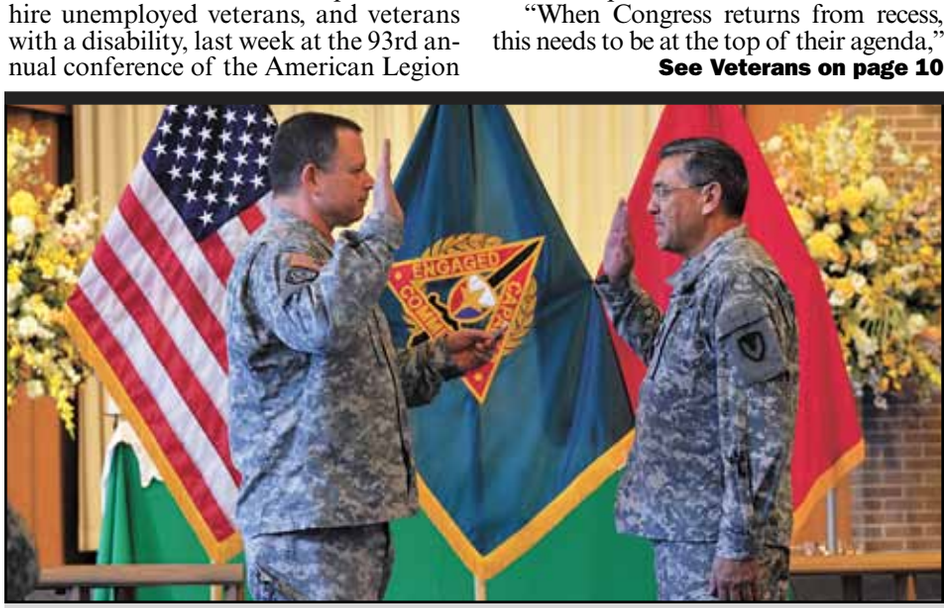

Photo by Beth Clemons

Chaplain promoted

Expeditionary Contracting Command commander Brig. Gen. Joe Bass administers the oath of office to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera during the ECC chaplain's promotion ceremony Sept. 1. Bass pinned on his silver oak leaves in the ceremony at Bicentennial Chapel. He also serves as the Redstone Arsenal senior Catholic chaplain, responsible for all Catholic programs and services here.

Oktoberfest returns with 'oompah' Sept. 15-18

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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Let the good times – and the beer barrels – roll.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation's annual Oktoberfest returns for another year to the Redstone Activity Field Sept. 15-18, to celebrate the German heritage that helped rocket America into space, and put Huntsville – and Redstone Arsenal – on the map.

"If you like good music, good food, good beer and a good time, there's no better place to be," Mark Germonprez, FMWR business operations officer, said. "Let's not forget the Soldatenstube German food, the schnitzel and bratwurst, and the beers we have flown in for the fest."

A good time is sure to be had by all as Terry Cavanaugh and the Alpine Express, an Oktoberfest favorite, return this year, to put a little polka and "oompah!" into fest goers' steps. Performances are 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, and 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

"Terry Cavanaugh is always the biggest hit of Oktoberfest," Germonprez said.

The carnival, complete with Ferris wheel, and some bigger and better rides, returns this year as well, with plenty to do and see for all ages. And for those wanting to know the score of the big game, five different HD TVs will be available in the Sports Tent Friday, Saturday and Sunday broadcasting both college and NFL games, as well as other sports. The ceremonial keg tapping will be held Friday at 6 p.m. in the Fest Hall Tent.

Oktoberfest kicks off Thursday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. Hours are 5 to 11 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, 12 p.m. 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 are free. Open to the public, enter through Gate 10. For more information, call 313-5224.

Exchange plans weekend for serving retirees

As part of its annual "Still Serving" weekend, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service will salute former Soldiers and airmen by offering unique specials and events at the Redstone Exchange on Sept. 23-25.

"Still Serving" sales and benefits information is arriving in the mailboxes of approximately 800,000 Army and Air Force retirees. The flyer offers exclusive savings on a wide variety of products including 25 percent off on select items, $50 off any in-stock Toshiba notebook and several food court "meal deals."

"At approximately 2.3 million, retirees account for 26 percent of the Exchange's 12.3 million authorized shoppers," Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "The specials offered in this year's mailer, combined with the host of 'Still Serving' events and festivities, should provide plenty of incentive for retirees to come and rediscover the value the Redstone Arsenal Exchange offers."

Also shoppers will be given an opportunity for 20 cents off per gallon if their Military Star card is used to purchase gasoline at the Shoppette.

Shoppers can learn more about activities planned for the weekend of Sept. 23 by calling the Exchange at 883-6100. *(Exchange release)*

Fox Army Health Center preps for retirees' day

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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Less than a month away from Retiree Appreciation Day, the staff of Fox Army Health Center is hard at work planning a first class health fair for their retirees and their families.

Fox Army Health Center will hold a two-day health fair as part of Retiree Appreciation Day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30 at the Officers and Civilians Club, and from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Sparkman Center. The event is open to all retired and active duty military personnel and their family members.

"I am really looking forward to Retiree Appreciation Day activities," Col. Elizabeth Johnson, commander of Fox Army Health Center, said. "The retirees continue to serve those of us still wearing the uniform as mentors, volunteers and members of the civilian work force. RAD is a great opportunity to reach out to them in regards to health promotion and wellness, as well as an opportunity to exchange information and ideas."

More than 20 vendors from across the Tennessee Valley, such as Huntsville Hospital, Crestwood Medical Center, the Allergy and Asthma Center and Alabama Psychological Services will join Fox in giving retirees an opportunity to learn more about their healthcare and the benefits available to them. Vision screenings, bone density tests and blood pressure screenings will be available, in addition to healthy snacks and other wellness information.

"It's a great opportunity for us to reach out to our retiree population and to offer blood pressure screenings, vision screenings and bone density tests," said Valerie Francis, a registered nurse at Fox. "Some of these individuals have limited opportunities to have these screenings performed. It also allows Fox Army Health Center and Redstone Arsenal to show their partnership with the Huntsville and Madison County community. The community values the retirees just like Redstone Arsenal does."

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, chief medical NCO, updates the operation order for Fox Army Health Center's Retiree Appreciation Day Health Fair, Sept. 30 to Oct. 1.

Both Fox's pharmacy and representatives from Tricare will be on hand to answer questions and concerns about the vital benefits they provide to the retiree community, including the pharmacy's hours, procedures and updated formularies. Tricare will present two briefings at the Friday health fair at the O' Club, in addition to being available to answer questions one-on-one with retirees.

"It's a great forum to get information out to the retiree community," said Lisa Knapp, manager of the Tricare Service Center. "We're constantly surprised how little information or understanding the retirees have about their benefits."

More information about Fox's participation in Retiree Appreciation Day will be available in the weeks to come. Stay tuned to the *Redstone Rocket* for further details.

Army Contracting Command leadership changing

The Army Contracting Command will change leaders in September, the Army Materiel Command has announced.

Jeffrey Parsons, ACC executive director, leaves after more than 34 years of federal service: eight years with the Army, preceded by 26 years of active duty in the Air Force. Carol Lowman, ACC's current deputy director, will succeed Parsons.

The change of responsibility ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. Sept. 27 at the ACC headquarters.

Parsons is ACC's first executive director, serving since the command's inception in March 2008.

"It's been an honor to serve as ACC's executive director," Parsons said. "In the three years since we stood up the command, we have become a professional work force of more than 5,700 Soldiers and civilians providing global contracting support to our war fighters, and we're still growing. Together with the Expeditionary Contracting Command, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command and our six major contracting centers, ACC is providing quality contracting solutions at more than 115 locations worldwide. As the command continues to grow and develop the Army's contracting corps, ACC's professional skills will be in even more demand, especially as the Army struggles with wringing the most capability out of its shrinking budget."

Lowman has been ACC's deputy director since November 2009.

"I'm excited and humbled by this opportunity," Lowman said. "ACC's work force plays a crucial role in providing our Soldiers what they need to accomplish their mission. I look forward to helping the command continue its growth and development."

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

Jeffrey Parsons

Carol Lowman

Fire department leader cited for his expertise

Acting fire chief recognized for seven months of service

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Cyrus Jones, deputy chief of the Redstone Fire Department, had no idea what he was walking into Thursday morning. Jones thought the 8:30 meeting was just a morale-call until he was summoned to the front of the room.

Jones was honored for his time as acting fire chief by the director of emergency services Mike Sheehy. Jones received a plaque and medal as Sheehy commended him for his hard work, saying he did a phenomenal job.

"For someone to be an expert is a great skill," Sheehy said. "But for someone to be an expert and a leader is more than you could ask for.

"He has convinced me of the value and I have a better appreciation for this division because of the work he has done. We really take what we hear from this division at face value and that is because of all the hard work that he's done."

Jones acted as fire chief from Jan. 1 through July 31. During that time the station responded to 966 calls, including those related to the April 27 tornadoes and the recovery work.

Jones was surprised by the ceremony and the recognition.

"I was totally surprised," Jones said. "When the chief sent out the email I thought it was just a morale-call then he called me up front."

Photo by Megan Cotton

Director of emergency services Mike Sheehy, left, presents an award to Cyrus Jones for his work as the acting fire chief.

While accepting his awards, Jones said that he would not be receiving them if not for the work the whole station has done and that instead he was accepting them on everyone's behalf.

"This means a whole lot to me and it makes me appreciate what these guys are doing," Jones said. "It's not me who is getting these, it's them out there every day responding to calls."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Leader motivation

Self-discipline strategist Rory Vaden speaks during a joint training workshop for Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders and the Leader Investment for Tomorrow members Aug. 30 at The Overlook.

Veterans

continued from page 4

Obama said. "For the sake of our veterans, for the sake of our economy, we need these veterans working and contributing and creating the new jobs and industries that will keep America competitive in the 21st century.

"These are the obligations we have to each other – our forces, our veterans, our citizens. These are the responsibilities we must fulfill. Not just when it's easy, not just when we're flush with cash, not just when it's convenient, but always."

The Army Materiel Command and Naval Sea Systems Command joined forces in July to work together to provide career opportunities for wounded warriors and veterans, giving Army Soldiers access to Naval Seas Systems Command positions, and sailors access to AMC positions. That commitment on behalf of AMC and NAVSEA has given Still Serving Veterans the ability to place veterans in careers in virtually all 50 states and more than 100 countries across the world, Webb said.

"Both of our commands offer outstanding employment opportunities," AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody said during the agreement signing ceremony in July. "This agreement will ensure those opportunities are open to those who have served so greatly and sacrificed so much. They bring with them a tremendous amount of strength, talent and experience."

"To have a four-star headquartered here is tremendous and to have the support of the commanding general is tremendous for veterans," Webb said. "The chain of command is serious about giving opportunities to veterans. We're having success – it's starting to show progress."

Through the Veterans Employment Transition Initiative, Still Serving Veterans has partnered with Redstone's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center to assist veterans in the job application process. Still Serving Veterans is the only Huntsville conduit with open lines of communication to CPAC, according to Webb. The desired outcomes of VETI include an increase in veterans in the federal work force, optimizing veterans' market competitiveness through job tools and education aligned with their aspirations, and breaking down barriers within the federal government hiring process, in line with President Obama's vision for an increase in veteran employment. For veterans seeking to continue their service to their country, it's the perfect career fit.

"It's really a win-win situation," Webb said. "The veterans would like to continue serving and would like the security of a government job. The government work force is enhanced by the skills they bring to the table."

Since its founding in 2005, Still Serving Veterans has helped more than 4,500 veterans reintegrate into civilian life, through counseling, career development, referrals to federal, state and local support services, and assisting veterans in obtaining Veterans Affairs and other benefits and services. The organization has been endorsed by two secretaries of the Army and the deputy undersecretary of defense and awarded the Spirit of Hope Award for "significantly enhancing the quality of life of servicemembers and their families." In addition to its many accolades, SSV has also been selected as a partner and pilot by the national Community Blueprint for Veterans, which aims to help communities create a blueprint that will better help them support veterans and their families by connecting resources available to them both locally and throughout the country.

"Our mission has become empowering veterans," Webb said. "We have taken on the role of advocacy – we are trying to educate the public and enhance the cause of the wounded warrior."

To match its ever-growing operations and to better meet the needs of its veterans, the organization will reopen at a new location, 224 Spragins St. SW, in downtown Huntsville Sept. 12. For more information, visit www.stillservingveterans.org.

Courtesy photo

Court in session

Redstone Test Center workers enjoy their second annual "Safety & Wellness Day" on Aug. 19 at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area. Activities included a donor stem cell drive, safety and wellness displays from 12 vendors, cookouts, softball, volleyball, horseshoes and basketball. Nine teams played basketball but RTC's Telemetry Division's DoD Team ruled the court.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retiring colonel

Col. Steven Busch, military deputy for futures integration at the Aviation and Missile Command G-3 (Operations), looks out at the audience during his retirement ceremony Sept. 1. At left is AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, who presided over the ceremony. Busch retired after serving more than 26 years and gaining experience in Army aviation, contracting, tactical and logistical areas. His assignments included serving as the contracting officer on the Kiowa Warrior Mast Mounted Sight, deputy to the director of the Missile Logistics Directorate and product manager for the Missile Defense Agency's Sea Based X-Band Radar. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and several other honors. "I will truly miss what I've been doing for 26 years, and the people I've encountered. What makes our job most rewarding is the people," he said.

Courtesy photo

Mr. Man 2011

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Ed Sasan, a Madison police officer, won this year's title of "Mr. Man." The first runner-up was Reserve Staff Sgt. Marcus Beasley, a Redstone police officer. Ten contestants competed Aug. 27 before a sellout crowd at the Huntsville Embassy Suites. Presented by SB Productions, the 2011 "Mr. Man Premiere" raised funds for Heals Inc.

Special**Section**

U.S. strength grows from ashes of terrorism attacks

Americans continue united front against threats to freedom, safety

By KARI HAWKINS
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Rising from the ashes of horrific destruction at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, was an example of a desired Army attribute that is getting a lot of attention these days.

That Army attribute? Resilience.

In the days and years following 9/11 – and as the 10th anniversary approaches this Sunday – the resilience of the military's servicemembers and civilians has permeated the Army culture and its values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Resiliency – the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges, and to bounce back from adversity – also defines an entire nation as it continues to respond to the threat of terrorism both at home and abroad.

"The attack on the Pentagon was a terrible moment in our history. But it was countered by example after example of selfless service and heroism," said Army Materiel Command Chaplain Col. Robert Coffey, who was serving at Crystal City across from the Pentagon at the time of the attack.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cedric H. Rudisill

The 26,000 military and civilians working at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001 had "no anticipation that anything would happen" when at 9:37 a.m. Eastern time five al-Qaeda-affiliated hijackers deliberately crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the western side of the Pentagon.

"At the same time that people were running out of the Pentagon, you saw many servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians running toward the smoke and fire to assist others. Many of those moments were captured on film, and it should inspire generations of Americans about the traits that make America a great land."

On Sept. 11, 2001, resiliency was the attribute that helped many at the Pentagon personally overcome the terrorist attack that took the lives of friends and co-workers, and threatened the core of the nation's military strength. That example was noticed by the entire country as the American psyche took in what happened on 9/11 and responded with resolve.

"Attitudes and fundamental daily

See Pentagon on page 18

Retired senior executive remembers Sept. 11th

By JIM FLINN
For the Rocket

Jim Flinn

On the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, command of AMCOM changed from Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan to Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, with all the appropriate recognition and farewells for the Sullivans, as he retired and entered civilian life. And we began bringing a new commanding general on board and welcoming the Dodgens. Maj. Gen. Dodgen and Leslie were moving here from his tour in the Pentagon, settling into the CG's quarters and beginning to meet his staff, the Redstone and Huntsville community.

The new boss was in the office early on his first duty day as commander, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. The first day was intended to be an easy get acquainted, orientation day – meet staff, plan for a new aide-de-camp, meet his new secretary, new deputy, new chief of staff. We started in his office, talking about his style of leadership, what he expected, how he operated. It would only be a short time before we watched that leadership style in action. We continued to the conference room to meet the others and he began to share his expectations while in command and his enthusiasm in being back in an operating command that touched Soldiers so directly. Remember that he had commanded a Patriot battalion in combat during Operation Desert Storm and later the 69th ADA brigade in Germany, experience that prepared him for all that unfolded that morning.

Shortly, we were interrupted with a note that an airplane had hit the World Trade Center. First impressions were that it might have been a private plane and was an accident. But within minutes, we were called out to come to watch live coverage, as the second plane impacted the South Tower, and the calls started coming in:

- From Mayor Loretta Spencer offering all assistance from the city
- From the governor with the same message
- And from news stations
- And from all over the Arsenal

And also a call from Maj. Gen. (now retired) Sullivan, from Florida I think, saying that he was ready to come back and go to work!

The CG's first action was to meet with the Garrison commander Col. Brent Swart, others of us in the Command Group, and Public Affairs, to understand and initiate immediate actions to implement the highest security levels for Redstone, and to get the word out to everyone about steps being taken to assure their safety and security. The initial steps were basic – button down the Arsenal, evacuate personnel who worked on the Arsenal, locate everyone and communicate.

Redstone had never gone to that high security level before, but the Garrison leadership did a great job. Over 25,000 cars to get off the Arsenal without every road becoming a parking lot, every vehicle that remained on the Arsenal inspected and accounted for, securing every gate with limited access to the Arsenal after that day, securing every building with standoff distances and concrete barriers, and on and on.

Working with every organization on the Arsenal to identify, locate and contact every employee away from Redstone, because we had people on travel, on vacation, at home. And all flights had been canceled, all airports closed. Every effort was made to get in touch and get them home.

The general was in a press conference with the mayor within a few hours, long before we really knew what had really happened in New York, in Washington, in Pennsylvania; connected with all the local, state and national police and emergency resources. All understood that Redstone was well-led and secure.

From that day we've learned so much: the resilience of our country and its defense community, no matter the threat; the closeness of our local community – cities, county, state, businesses, military, civilian; the strength, courage, brilliance and selfless endurance of the people who work on Redstone, not to take care of themselves but to go to any length to care for and support the women and men out there defending our freedom.

Editor's note: Flinn, who retired in 2004 as the deputy commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and a member of the Senior Executive Service, and whose 35-year Army civilian career included numerous ordnance logistics assignments, was inducted in May into the Ordnance Hall of Fame.

Homeland security secretary reflects on 9/11

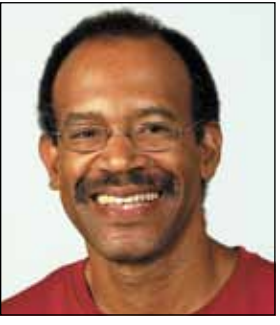
WASHINGTON – Secretary of homeland security Janet Napolitano issued the following statement:

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the safety and security of the American public remains our highest priority. While threats remain, our nation is stronger than it was on 9/11, more prepared to confront evolving threats, and more resilient than ever before.

"While there is no specific or credible intelligence that al-Qaeda or its affiliates are plotting attacks in the United States to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, we remain at a heightened state of vigilance and security measures are in place to detect and prevent plots against the United States should they emerge.

"Homeland security is a shared responsibility, and everyone plays an important role in helping to keep our communities safe and secure. We remind our federal, state, local partners, and the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities." *(U.S. Department of Homeland Security release)*

Our world changed after Sept. 11, 2001



Skip Vaughn

By SKIP VAUGHN
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There are some images that remain in our memories forever.

I still remember watching the flickering black-and-white television screen showing the aftermath of President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 with my classmates in grade school in Philadelphia, Pa.

And I still remember watching the coverage of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with my co-workers. They were already huddled around the television when I got to work that morning.

"It must have been an accident," I surmised as we watched the smoldering World Trade Center tower.

And then the second plane flew into the other tower – and we knew our country was at war.

There was a flurry of activity in the public affairs office the rest of the morning. The phones started ringing. Finally we got the word that most of us had to go home. Only key and essential people were supposed to work until further notice.

When the rest of us eventually returned to work, Redstone was a different place. There were guards on the gates, along with concrete barricades. Our world was different, too.

We were at war against terrorism; and that war continues a decade later.

Seventh-grade teacher let students watch history Sept. 11th

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

We had just started second period at school when someone came in to talk to Mr. Caven, my seventh-grade science teacher. He quickly turned on the TV as he explained to us that something had happened to a building in New York City and he wanted everyone to know what was going on. The TV had been on for less than five minutes when the second plane hit.

We spent that class wrapped up in CNN paired with Mr. Caven's best explanations as he tried to understand it himself. There was so much my class didn't know about the world until that day: what were the World Trade Centers, why would somebody want to attack us and how do we know if people are OK?

Our school was located in Virginia in the D.C. metropolitan area. Everyone in my class knew someone who worked in the Pentagon or had a flight that day. There was a lot of confusion and fear but our teacher explained everything the best he could.

In the days after Sept. 11, I remembered Mr. Caven getting in trouble with our school's principal. He was one of the few teachers who let us watch TV that day and she thought it was inappropriate. She was worried about us being too young. Ten years later I see her concern, but I'm glad he did.

There are a few events in your life that change the way you view the world. This is one of them. Sept. 11 is a part of our nation's history and has become a landmark moment in all our lives. No one will ever forget where they were or how they felt and I will never forget my teacher for treating us like grownups while together we watched everything unfold.

Editor's note: Virginia native Megan Cotton works in the AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs Office.

Community joins in song to commemorate 9/11

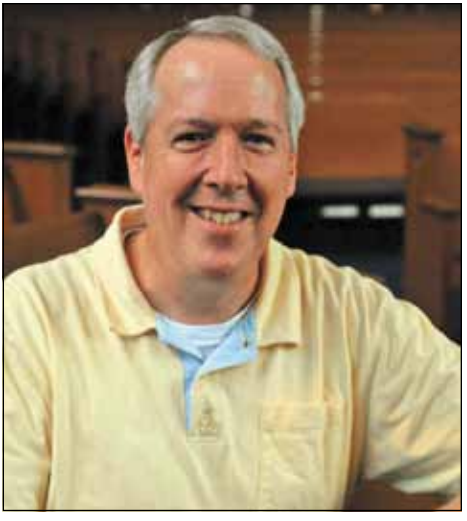

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Billy Orton, artistic director for the Huntsville Community Chorus and minister of music and worship at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, will direct 9.11.01: A Memorial Concert this Sunday at 5 p.m. at First Baptist, 600 Governors Drive.

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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When there are no words left to be said, music will fill the Tennessee Valley to honor those that lost their lives on Sept. 11, and those that remain to mourn them.

Nearly 300 musicians will lift up their voices and instruments in song Sunday to present "9.11.01: A Memorial Concert" at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, 600 Governors Drive, beginning at 5 p.m., preludes shortly after 4:30 p.m. The Huntsville Community Chorus will join forces with the First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra to present a memorial concert that will mourn the lives of those that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, honor the heroic efforts of those that responded to the tragedy, and celebrate America. The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken for Manna House and the Huntsville Assistance Program, which benefit the needy in the community.

"It's such a unique day in the life of our country," said Billy Orton, artistic director for the Huntsville Community Chorus and minister of music and worship at First Baptist, Huntsville. "You've got heart, emotion and memory all coming together. When you merge things like that, it can be very moving. We're coming in on that day with music which is designed to stretch the imagination, comfort the soul and the heart, and raise minds to ask the question, 'what does this mean for us now?'"

The concert has been years in the making for Orton, who had the difficult, but "joyful" task of choosing just what music would unite the community, offer them a sense of patriotism, and help them mourn the tragedy and loss associated with the 10th anniversary of 9/11. In the end he chose songs of peace, comfort,

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Running 9.11K for the red, white and blue

Saturday road race commemorates 9/11

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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They will take to the streets of Redstone Arsenal for the love of their country, and for those that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

For the first time ever, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation will hold a run – an appropriate 9.11K – to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks. Runners from across the Arsenal and the Tennessee Valley community will gather Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at Sparkman Center building 5302 for the race.

"We want to honor those that have served and lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy," FMWR fitness director Gaylene Wilson said.

What is typically a 10K run in October has been transformed into this year's commemorative event, per the suggestion of the Garrison's retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper. A record number 97 people have preregistered for the event, surpassing the 70 runners from last year's 10K, making it FMWR's biggest run yet, a number that is sure to grow with race day registration.

"9/11 just changed our country and it's something we're never going to forget," Wilson said. "I think that's why we have drawn more people in that want to run."

The Army Materiel Command Band will help kick off the event, with firefighters from on post sounding their sirens to start the race. The course will take runners on a 9.11K route – approximately 5.66 miles – from the Sparkman Center north on Patton Road, west on Neal Road, and eventually bringing them back to the Sparkman Center, where awards will be given to the winners.

Members of the National Guard and Vettes for Vets Corvette Club will serve as road guards throughout the race.

Race day registration is available to those with access to the Arsenal, between 6:30 and 7:15 a.m. at the Sparkman Center building 5302 parking lot. Cost is $20. For more information call 313-1201, 876-2943, 313-6091 or 955-7508.

Faith communities unite in memory of Sept. 11

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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They will come as strangers with their own stereotypes and preconceived notions, but will leave as one – with a little bit more understanding, respect and honor for the person standing next to them.

Individuals from all walks of life, faiths, races, heritages and neighborhoods will unite this weekend for the Interfaith Mission Service's Weekend of Service and Unity, a time dedicated to tearing down walls and barriers, and coming together for one common cause: the community.

Around a dozen worksites in Huntsville, such as First Stop, the National Children's Advocacy Center and CASA, will welcome volunteers Saturday, where they will unite for the same mission, whether it be picking up litter, assembling meal kits or cleaning. While volunteers will begin the day as strangers, relationships will be formed as conversations open up to questions and answers that help dispel the myths and stereotypes associated with each volunteer's background.

"This brings us together so we can live without fearing one another," said Tom Lovell, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, where all volunteers begin Saturday morning for breakfast and community building. "A lot of faith based media on all sides have created stereotypes that we need to correct."

What is now a Weekend of Service and Unity began as a day of service and unity on the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11. The Interfaith Mission Service, a 42-year-old cooperative of congregations from a variety of religious backgrounds, including Christian, Islam and Jewish from across the Huntsville area, began the event to bring people together to improve the community and connect to different faith backgrounds through service projects. While the physical work of the day concludes by 12:30 p.m., the dialogue that is begun remains for years to come.

"It's not just a matter of tolerance. It's a step beyond tolerance," said Frank Broyles, senior program specialist for IMS. "This is honor and respect. You can't do that without understanding."

Participants are also invited to tour the Huntsville Islamic Center, 1645 Sparkman Drive, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, to better their understanding of the religion that has come under fire since the 9/11 attacks.

"There is a continued misunderstanding about Islam," Broyles said. "This year we need to give extra attention to fighting those stereotypes."

A 45-minute candlelight service, "Remembrance, Courage and Hope: We The People Dedicating a Decade of Building Lasting Bridges," coordinated by the IMS will conclude the weekend at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the National Children's Advocacy Center, 210 Pratt Ave. Music, litanies, readings and stories of those who served in the Weekend of Service and Unity will be included in the service, as well as a call to continued action.

"The focus on this service is on dedicating ourselves to a better world for the children of tomorrow," Broyles said.

See Faith on page 21

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Frank Boyles, left, senior program specialist for the Interfaith Mission Service, and Tom Lovell, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, gather materials needed for the IMS's Weekend of Service and Unity in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

Chapel dedicates traditional Protestant service to 9/11

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie, pastor of the 11 a.m. traditional Protestant service at Bicentennial Chapel and Garrison chaplain, and all those gathered for this Sunday's 11 a.m. service will dedicate their prayers and worship to the memory of Sept. 11, 2001 – for those that died on that fateful day, those that were there responding to trauma, and the men and women that have fought for their country in the years that have followed.

"We will dedicate our service to New York City firefighters, New York City police officers, Port Authority police officers, EMS workers, health care workers, court officers and uniformed servicemembers," Luckie said. "They laid down their lives for strangers. They were inspired by their sense of duty and their love for humanity. We will also honor our service men and women, who have taken the fight to the enemy. We will honor the fallen there also.

"We will never, never forget the cowardly acts that were perpetrated against our country, our freedom and thousands of innocent lives. We must remember every innocent victim, every brave rescuer and every brave hero, who died in their honor. We must always remember every family that still lives in grief. We must remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls from the heroes on our airplanes and the thousands of funerals of innocent children, loving parents and brave rescuers.

"At 1100 hours, 11th day of September, we will celebrate our freedom of speech, our freedom of worship and our freedom of fear. Come and join us as we ask the Lord to comfort those who still grieve, defend our freedoms and continue to give us resolve to hold fast to our hearts and hold forth to the world the torch of liberty."

Images from the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks

Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Watson, USN

A New York City firefighter looks up at what remains of the World Trade Center Sept. 13, 2001, after its collapse following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

Numbers sum up Sept. 11th terrorist attacks

4 coordinated suicide attacks

2 hijacked planes crashed into Twin Towers of the World Trade Center

3,000 deaths approximately (including 19 hijackers)

6,000 injuries exceeded

3rd hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon

1 hijacked plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., after passengers tried to take control of the aircraft.

Photographer's Mate 1st Class Preston Keres, USN

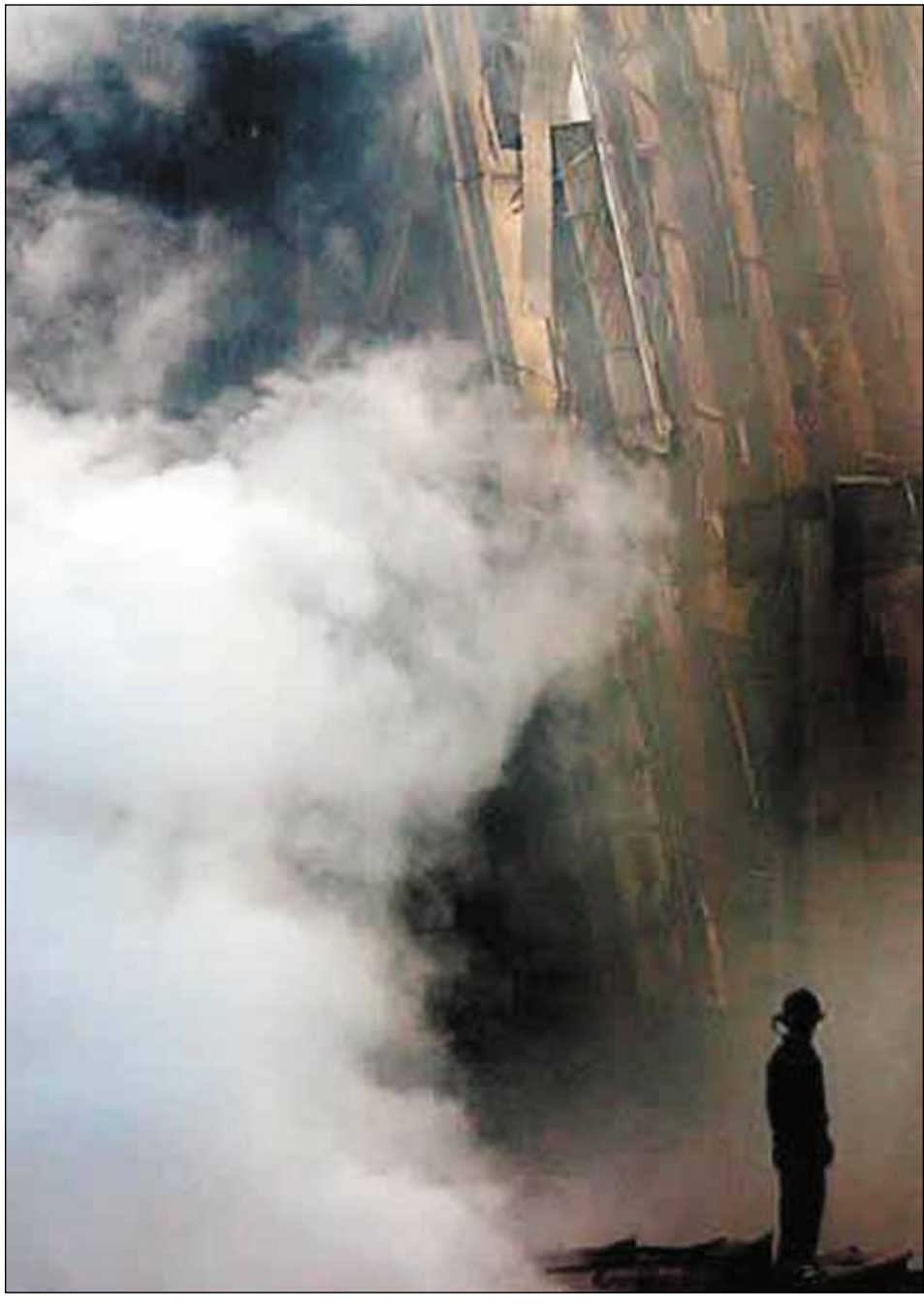
Retired fire chief Joseph Curry barks orders to rescue teams as they clear through debris that was once the World Trade Center Sept. 14, 2001, in New York.

Photographer's Mate 1st Class Preston Keres, USN

A New York City fireman calls for 10 more rescue workers to make their way into the rubble of the World Trade Center, Sept. 15, 2001.

Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Watson, USN

A firefighter emerges from smoke and debris of the World Trade Center Sept. 14, 2001, in New York. The twin towers of the center were destroyed in the Sept. 11th terror attack.



Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Watson, USN

A solitary firefighter stands amidst the rubble and smoke in New York City, Sept. 14, 2001. Days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, fires still burn at the site of the World Trade Center.

Pentagon

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processes were permanently and irrevocably changed," said retired Col. Rick De Fatta, who was the chief of staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology at the Pentagon on 9/11 and later became project manager for Short Range Air Defense at Redstone. "For the first time since the second world war, foreign aggression significantly and directly impacted the innocent lives of everyday Americans – at home. In effect, it brought 'the fight' to folks that had largely grown complacent with our military commitments and the security and freedom that our armed forces allowed them to enjoy.

"From that day forward, the Department of Defense also took on a new attitude and resolve. The same complacency that affected our citizens and impacted the military/industrial team through a general lack of support resulted in a 'business as usual' mode of operation. That approach was immediately replaced with renewed dedication and support for what we did for the nation. Since 9/11, every program I have been involved with, both in and out of the military, has had a focus on immediate contributions and long-term commitment to our national security and defense. There was renewed urgency to provide responsive support to both our deployed troops and our forces providing homeland security."

9/11 attack

As commercial jets crashed into the World Trade Center, many at the Pentagon knew there would be a war. Business continued, perhaps even more diligently because of the day's initial attack, within the walls of the 6.5-million-square-foot Department of Defense headquarters. Its 26,000 military and civilian employees had "no anticipation that anything would happen at the Pentagon," said Col. Skip Sherrell, who at the time was working in the Office of the Congressional and Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon and now is the chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command.

At 9:37 a.m. Eastern time, reality changed as American Airlines Flight 77, en route from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles International Airport, was deliberately crashed into the western side of the Pentagon by five al-Qaeda-affiliated hijackers.

"We were about 150 yards from impact," Sherrell recalled. "We felt a shudder in the office and then heard someone yelling 'Smoke!' We quickly and without pain started getting out. Everything was very orderly. I think that goes back to (Department of Defense) civilians and military who worked in the building who are unfortunately used to working in crisis situations and dealing with the unknown."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

AMCOM chief of staff Col. Skip Sherrell was working only 150 yards from the area where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

At the time of the Pentagon attack, in another part of the building about 125 feet from where the airplane's right wingtip collided with the building, then Col. Bob Devlin was working as a deputy in the new offices of G-4 Logistics, preparing for a briefing he was going to give on aviation spares for AMCOM.

"We were trying to get back to some reasonable level of spares to keep helicopters flying," he said. "My wife had called and told me a couple of planes had just hit the World Trade Center and she said 'I guess you're at war.' We knew it was a terrorist attack. But New York got hit. It wasn't the Pentagon. So I walked down the hall to do the briefing.

"Part way through the briefing, the room started to shake and ceiling tiles fell. Someone yelled 'A plane hit the building!' I walked out in the hallway and smoke was rolling down the hall toward us. Rubble was everywhere. We began moving people out of the Pentagon to the parking lot. The plane was disintegrated, but we could see smoke coming from the building. Since two planes had hit the World Trade Center, we kept thinking 'When is the second plane going to hit the Pentagon?' The police wanted us to get away from the building because they expected a second plane. We were trying to find ways to get people out and we wanted to start doing accountability of employees."

No sign of plane

Even as employees were evacuating the building, many did not know what had happened.

"We thought a helicopter had crashed at the helipad (right outside the area hit)," Sherrell said. "We couldn't tell. Everything was consumed. It had knocked down parts of the building, but there was no sign that an airplane had crashed into the building from the outside. We were all trying to assist those still in the building."

Inside the Pentagon, 125 people were killed along with the 64 people on the airliner. But those numbers could have been much higher. Because of renovations, several offices in the area where the plane hit were unoccupied, including the previous offices where Devlin and the other 200 G-4 employees had been located only two weeks earlier.

"There should have been 5,000 people working in the area that was hit. (There were actually only 800 assigned to the area at the time.) Our old offices were destroyed by fire. I had friends down the hallway on the fourth floor who walked right into that fire and burned to death," Devlin said. "Renovations clearly helped keep the building together, or there would have been even more deaths."

The attack, though unbelievable and terrible in that it was against civilians on U.S. soil, did not cause Devlin or others to hesitate in their response.

"I had been shot at before. I had been in Somalia and this was kind of like one of the mortar attacks I had experienced there," he said. "When the first one happens, there is really nothing you can do. You start waiting for the next one and try to be prepared."

Recovery starts

Both Sherrell and Devlin would end up spending the day helping others leave the Pentagon. They were able to get messages to their wives, although Devlin's wife had to wait six hours before finding out her husband was still alive. The next day, Devlin reported to duty at the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon.

"It was surreal. Walking in the other side of the Pentagon, everything looked normal. The only difference was you could smell jet fuel," he said.

"There was flooding and collapsing in the Pentagon where the plane hit. And there were a lot of employees calling and a lot of questions. At the time of the attack, we were coming to the end of the fiscal year. How do you close out budgets and start a new fiscal year when you can't even get to your computers and you don't have anywhere to put employees? We eventually got our computers and we did a lot of teleworking. I ended up working a lot of the response, identifying casualties, supporting budget closeouts and getting ready for war."

Across from the Pentagon at Crystal City on 9/11, chaplain Coffey assisted in

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Arsenal security takes on 'new normal' after 9/11

By BRENT SWART
For the Rocket

On 9/11, Redstone Arsenal was in much better shape than most other Army installations simply because we already had controlled access to the south end of post, civilian guards, and required vehicle registrations and decals. Most Army installations at the time were literally "open" posts with little or no access controls and very limited, if any guard force.

The north end of Redstone was completely uncontrolled and open to the general public, but we had gates in place should we require them. We had just completed a rewrite of the Force Protection standard operating procedures and had done some rehearsals focused on closing the post.

So, when the time came to do so it was just a matter of manning all ingress gates and controlling access. That was doable in the short-term with the organic guard and police force augmented by the NASA security force.

A month later C Company of the 167th Infantry, Alabama National Guard, was activated and subsequently provided a much needed security augmentation and quickly became the darlings of the Arsenal and of the Huntsville community. They are a great bunch of young Americans.

Our biggest challenge was adjusting the stringent security requirements with a cueing theory analysis that indicated that if we spent more than four seconds on each entering vehicle, the lines would be as much as two miles long at Gate 9. It seemed like they were at least that long each and every day!

Overall, that day produced a "new normal" for Redstone Arsenal and it would be a very long time before the military community of retirees, contractors, military and civilians would adjust. Closing the north end of the post had a tremendous impact on our customers as well as the Arsenal's Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation programs. Programs and activities previously open to the public were no longer available to the general public. Bible Study programs at Bicentennial Chapel, golf, bowling, the Officers and Civilians Club, the crafts center and even the PX were adversely affected as participation plummeted. We have since adjusted and the "new normal" is well ... the "new normal" … Hooah!

Editor's note: Retired Col. Brent Swart served as Garrison commander in 2001.

Security

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setting up a command and control center. Later in the day, he assisted with recovery efforts at the Pentagon and remained overnight to set up the chaplain's operation tent within the security perimeter across from the attack site.

"All that happened that day made us more aware of the need for vigilance against unconventional attacks. But it also revealed the strength of the American people when they refused to let the 9/11 attack define the way we would live our way of life. Civilian and military personnel showed up for work at the Pentagon the next morning," Coffey said.

Rallying call

Col. Bob Pastorelli, who had just finished a briefing as a member of the Army G-3 Operations team when the plane hit the Pentagon, recalled the nation's reactions after 9/11.

"Initially, there was a great sense of loss by every American that day. Thereafter, the sheer act itself became a rallying call that immediately united the country and gave us all a sense of purpose to overcome this tragedy and to go after those responsible for such a heinous crime against innocent people," said Pastorelli, who now works for the Security Assistance Command at Redstone.

"The 9/11 attacks put all of us on a wartime footing that included both those in the service of their country (military, civilian and contractor) and the everyday citizen. As for me personally, our focus in Army G-3 shifted directly to supporting the commanders and their troops as they prepared for upcoming operations."

In the following days and weeks, Pentagon employees dealt with the aftermath of the attack – the funerals for co-workers, re-organizing offices and finding new offices for organization's affected by the attack, getting back to the business of the military and preparing to go to war.

"Day after day there were funerals," Devlin said. "I could see it wearing on people."

Helping survivors recover was a top priority.

"The first thing we did was take care of the families of those we had lost," Sherrell said. "Then, we had to get the military prepared to conduct operations. We had to transition to an Army at war, which is very different from a legislative perspective. I was a congressional fellow with military experience, so I could relate with what was going on both at the Pentagon and downrange. We were busy taking care of families, honoring those who had passed and recognizing we would be in a war or combat not short in duration."

Devlin went on to serve as the Garrison commander at Redstone and is now retired from the military and serving as the deputy director for Marshall Space Flight Center operations.

"On Sept. 11, 2002, the first anniversary, I was looking out the window and I thought 'I don't want to be here.' I didn't want to be another target. But terrorism can happen anywhere," he said.

Making sacrifices

Since that day, the military has answered the call, making the sacrifices to fight the nation's battle against terrorism. The past 10 years have made the nation's military stronger, more capable and responsive, and more committed to promoting freedom throughout the world. Yet, there has been a cost.

"We've had 10 years of perpetual deployments and combat," Sherrell said. "Our military has had very little time at home. That has affected retention and recruitment. But our military recognizes what was required and continues to serve and to do so quietly, effectively and humbly, even after 10 years of war."

The war has required tremendous personal sacrifices. Soldiers have lost their lives or have returned from war with lifelong injuries. Families have had to cope with separations and loss. Commanders have had to deal with the "loss of great Americans under their command and have assisted their families as best we can," Sherrell said.

During those years, the military's support of families has improved. The Wounded Warrior program along with other programs offered through the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made a difference for servicemembers recovering from war injuries.

And although the U.S. has been successful in beating back terrorism, Sherrell believes it will take much more to eradicate the root of terrorism.

"When the World Trade Center was hit we knew it was an act of terrorism," he said. "Since then we've been trying to locate and eradicate the individuals that caused the attacks, but also we've been trying to eradicate the causes that lead someone to want to be a terrorist. It's one thing to find people, but it takes a long time to deal with the cause. And it is difficult to come to a successful conclusion when the enemy is difficult to identify."

Safer U.S.

Sherrell said the U.S. is safer with the Global War on Terrorism fought within the borders of other nations rather than on U.S. soil.

"I think it's important to recognize that the last 10 years of no terrorist attacks in the continental U.S. were not without great sacrifice and that continues to demand great sacrifice," he said.

In the wake of the 9/11 attack, Americans have become more appreciative and supportive of their military, they better understand the nation's role with world coalition partners and they are more interested in the aspects of globalization.

"9/11 heightened the nation's awareness and vigilance," Coffey said. "It increased pride and respect for the nation's military, a realization that freedom and security are each citizen's responsibility and a determination to preserve this excellent way of life for our children and their children."

And more than anything, security will remain an issue in the American consciousness.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Col. Bob Devlin, former Garrison commander at Redstone and now the deputy director of operations at Marshall Space Flight Center, was giving a briefing when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon near the new offices of the G-4 Logistics.

"We have been fundamentally changed in a way that will never be reversed," De Fatta said. "9/11 demonstrated that no matter how prepared we think we are, we are always going to be vulnerable in some way to unconventional attacks from a determined adversary, and we don't know who that will be or how they will try to attack. Therefore, I believe that virtually all Americans are willing to sacrifice in some way to preserve our freedoms, and are much more tolerant of national efforts to accomplish that goal. The concern for economic success, guaranteed rights and the good old American way will always now be underwritten by a concern for national and personal security."

More stringent travel policies and procedures, a new Homeland Security organization and better personal awareness also add to the safety of Americans, Pastorelli added.

"Americans now understand that we should continue to support foreign countries and our allies to counter terrorism in all forms and fashion in addition to always looking for peaceful ways to end strife, discord and belligerence," he said.

In addition, the U.S. government is more integrated and connected both on the federal and state levels to better protect personal freedoms and deter terrorism.

"We should maintain a viable, strong and overwhelming military capability as the most significant deterrent force, immediately respond to attacks, successful or unsuccessful, with appropriate measures, continue to develop robust defensive capability for the homeland, deployed forces, and allied nations, and continue diplomatic efforts to bring the U.S. closer to former and potential future adversaries," De Fatta said. "Also we should continue to develop technical and procedural approaches to preventing, identifying and eliminating the possibilities for direct or indirect attacks."

Terrorist concerns

There are concerns by several military leaders that U.S. defense budget cuts and drawdown policies could re-energize terrorism efforts worldwide.

"We have to be very careful how we conduct our military drawdown," Sherrell said. "We have to be careful to focus on programs both military and non-military that have led to stronger homeland defense measures.

"We have to focus on the importance of building coalitions as we get involved in warfare and as we deal with long-term solutions for difficult circumstances. That requires a greater relationship between the Department of Defense and the State Department … The military will continue to make a difference with the support of the American people. We have strengthened our collective resolve as we have dealt and responded to 9/11."

Even though U.S. agencies have become experts at identifying and preventing possible attacks, the threat is still there.

"I worry that we don't know enough about the form and target of the next attack from an increasingly more sophisticated adversary," De Fatta said. "The next devastating attack probably won't involve airplanes, explosives, or overt actions, but seems more likely to be covertly aimed at infrastructure, processes and everyday services. I know there are defensive efforts ongoing to detect and deter these threats, but as they say, you don't know what you don't know."

In the end, more than anything, 9/11 woke up a resiliency within the American people and its military that has made it stronger in the stand for freedom, Pastorelli said.

"Sept. 11, 2001 shows us that no one is immune to terrorism and that the great people of the United States are resolute to bring about its eventual end and/or stop those that perpetuate its use," he said.

Former senior commander described outpouring after 9/11

Rocket reprints interview with the late Larry Dodgen

By SKIP VAUGHN
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On Sept. 10, 2001, then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen became commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal. The next day brought the terrorist attacks on our nation.

Dodgen became a lieutenant general and commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command in December 2003. He died Feb. 20, 2010.

Here is the text of an interview with Dodgen which the Rocket published Sept. 11, 2002, the first anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks:

What are your thoughts on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks Sept. 11?

Dodgen: "I guess my thoughts now are to the response of the American people, the Soldiers, the firefighters, the policemen, everybody coming together wanting to do something and supporting each other. I guess the one thing I remember is that feeling as a nation. There are few things that drive our diverse society together and 9/11 was one of them. What I remember the most is the giving of the people for the people who have suffered, the support of our armed forces and realizing that the defense of this nation resides in those forces. I just gained an overwhelming confidence in our civil liberties and institutions such as our police officers and firefighters, and an understanding now more than ever that we all have to come together and work together if we're going to truly keep America safe."

How did the attacks impact the initial days of your tour at Redstone?

Dodgen: "The initial impact was a complete rearranging of the priorities. Normally when a commanding general comes in, you want to understand the institution and the people's priorities. In the aftermath of 9/11, it focuses you on security. It focuses you on a certain aspect of the command. So it's certainly taken me longer to get to know the institution. Also after 9/11, you just gain a tremendous respect for the dedication of the Soldier and this work force to the security of this nation and to assuring that the Soldiers in the field have everything they need in order to move forward."

File photo

Then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen became the senior commander of Redstone Arsenal on Sept. 10, 2001, the day before the terrorist attacks on our nation. He became a lieutenant general and commander of the Space and Missile Command in December 2003. He died Feb. 10, 2010.

How would you describe your first year as the commanding general?

Dodgen: "I would say very hectic because of the adjustments to 9/11 and hectic because of all the reorganizations that the military has initiated."

How has the security posture changed in the past year?

Dodgen: "In the aftermath of 9/11, we sent all the workers home and we went to the highest security posture to assure we knew every person on the Arsenal. So we established a security posture I haven't seen short of war, Threatcon (force protection condition) Delta. And since then we have gradually adjusted our security posture to bringing things back as much as we could to a normal state. The posture is to continue to do the mission of Redstone Arsenal as well as safeguard our well-being. At the same time, routine security and monotony tend to undermine stability. We have continued to make adjustments to our posture to increase our security and keep our guard force alert. The caution is still there and the caution needs to stay there."

What is that posture now?

Dodgen: "If you go to the front of the gates, you see Threatcon Bravo. We're still in a state where we're cautious about people that enter on the Arsenal and we safeguard against unauthorized entry in certain areas. So we're still at a very high state of security compared to before Sept. 11."

What are your goals for the next year?

Dodgen: "I think the No. 1 goal would be the safety and well-being of every individual that works and lives on the Arsenal. At the same time I want to maintain the great support we've given to the Soldier. So wherever the Soldier is assigned, the aviation and missile support is as responsive as ever. At the same time since next year is the last year of our QDR (Quadrennial Defense Review) cuts, I want to begin to revitalize our work force, to bring in young people to work on the Arsenal and position the work force for the future."

How secure is Redstone Arsenal?

Dodgen: "I'd have to answer that by saying I'm confident we're looking at the right things, we're monitoring the right things, trying to predict threats of the future. We're doing what we need to do to say the Arsenal is secure and we'll continue to do that. A good part of that is the 100 Soldiers of Charlie Company 1st/167th, the job they've done the past year. Which is why we had such a great (farewell) ceremony today to thank Capt. Pugh and 1st Sgt. Haigler and the rest of Charlie Company. I'd say the Arsenal is secure. And I say that because we're recognizing the threats of the past and keeping our eye on the potential threats of the future."

What have you learned about the Redstone Arsenal community since Sept. 11?

Dodgen: "The thing I've learned is that the outpouring of support to the Arsenal and to every person in uniform in the aftermath of 9/11 is everyday business in this community. It involves community support, it involves patriotism. I've learned it's just a natural feeling of a great community and I'd say a special community."

Nurturing a city through 9/11 aftermath

Ex-Huntsville mayor recalls united spirit

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

A year after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Loretta Spencer, Huntsville mayor at the time, remembers the strong feeling of unity in the city.

"That first year anniversary of Sept. 11 fell on a Monday so we had a tribute to all those who lost their lives during our Concert in the Park," Spencer said. "The moving part was we happened to have three New York policemen here in our bomb school at the time. They had a cross made out of the World Trade Center rubble mounted on a plaque and they presented it to me at the concert."

Spencer then described that she gave the plaque to then AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, and the two of them walked through the crowd of nearly 5,000 together letting people touch the cross.

"It was a very touching moment," Spencer said. "People wanted to touch it and it was almost like they could still feel the heat coming off the World Trade Center when they did."

The city of Huntsville pulled together during the tragedy to offer help to those that needed it, she recalled.

"People felt a closeness that unfortunately only war and bad times bring," Spencer, the mayor from 1996 to 2008, said. "We really see the needs and everyone really wanted to see how they could help. It makes you have a sense of pride."

Photo by Megan Cotton

Loretta Spencer, former mayor of Huntsville, holds a plaque she received from then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, who was Redstone senior commander. The plaque has a piece of the Pentagon section that was hit in the Sept. 11th attacks.

'We're still at war with a vicious enemy who wants to defeat us'

Retired Lt. Gen. Pillsbury reflects on 9/11 aftermath

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury concluded his 38-year career in May at his retirement ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium. The Huntsville resident has a unique perspective of Sept. 11, 2001 and its impact.

He served as deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command from 2008-11 after his assignment as commander of the Aviation and Missile Command from 2003-07.

"As we reflect back on 9-1-1, it brought our country together," Pillsbury said. "And yet I feel like that togetherness is starting to slip away. I think we need to remember we're still at war with a vicious enemy who wants to defeat us and destroy our way of life.

"I couldn't be prouder of what our United States military has done – both Soldier and civilian side – to prosecute this war and keep our way of life, to keep our freedom.

"I know what AMC, AMCOM and Team Redstone have done and I'm terribly impressed with the selfless service these organizations have given our nation in the aftermath of 9/11."

Retired Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury

Faith

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Attendees will be invited to sign a pledge and commit to an action to help ensure future generations live in a world of understanding, respect and peace.

"We are trying not to emphasize the tragedy, but the hope and unity that has risen out of that," Lovell said. "We remember the tragedy and the lives that were lost. We hope for unity and a better understanding and respect for each other and our differences. We rededicate ourselves to that unity and understanding so that our children will not have to deal with division and violence."

The Interfaith Mission Service's Service and Unity Weekend is open to the entire community. To register for the event, visit www.interfaithmissionservice.org/ministries/faith-and-spirituality/wsu/. The day will begin with breakfast at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Drive. Service projects will conclude at 12:30 p.m. Both inside and outdoor work is available; those planning on working outside should bring their own yard tools if available. For those that observe the Sabbath on Saturday, call 881-4811 to coordinate a service project for Sunday.

Music

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life and liberty, such as "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful," and "I Shall Not Die Without a Hope," from "The Testament of Freedom," which the First Baptist Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra presented in a memorial concert on Oct. 11, 2001. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies, director of the Army Materiel Command Band, will direct the First Baptist Brass in Aaron Copland's famed work, "Fanfare for the Common Man."

"The music is not just music of comfort and solace and inspiration for those persons who suffered loss 10 years ago, or who were involved in heroic fashion back then," Orton said. "The music we present this time around is also for the many needs present today – persons who have suffered recent loss, etc. We believe that the music presented at this memorial concert will touch the concert attendees where they live today, and inspire folks for tomorrow."

First responders from the surrounding community, including Huntsville Fire and Rescue, HEMSI, Huntsville Police Department, Huntsville/Madison County 911 Center and the Madison County Sheriff 's Department will be recognized, in addition to civic officials. Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle will also give remarks.

As part of the 9/11 memorial, First Baptist, Huntsville will toll their carillon's lowest bell, the bourdon, which weighs 3,300 pounds and is over 4 feet wide and nearly 4 feet long, 10 times, at 7:46 a.m., 8:03 a.m., 8:37 a.m. and 9:03 a.m. CDT to signify the moments that airplanes struck the North Tower and South Tower of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. The tolling will be simultaneous with the tolling at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. , EDT.

A memorial concert dedicated to area first responders and military will also be held at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones High School auditorium, 650 Hughes Road, Madison. A select chorus from the Bob Jones Patriot Singers, Messiah Lutheran Church adult choir, First Baptist Church of Madison adult choir, and friends will perform Mozart's Requiem. Directed by Randall Fields, choral music director for Bob Jones High School, the event will include a solo quartet and orchestra, and readings recited by local civic leaders such as U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks and Madison mayor Paul Finley. The event is free and open to the public.

Teenage cancer survivor shares message of hope

Lindsey Jones will sing Sept. 14 at 2011 charity campaign kickoff

By KARI HAWKINS
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With every song she sings, Lindsey Jones shares her message of hope.

She enjoys singing songs like Mercy Me's "I Can Only Imagine," Miley Cyrus' "The Climb" and Carrie Underwood's "Temporary Home" for audiences across the state. She also has a long list of gospel songs in her repertoire that inspire and encourage.

At the young age of 15, Lindsey is a 10-year cancer survivor. Her disease has left her blind, and her slight 4-foot-6 frame conveys the struggles her body has gone through to overcome a cancer that is both rare and deadly.

Somehow, with hope, her family and God on her side, Lindsey beat the odds of her cancer and now shares her story through song and her own personal testimony. On Sept. 14, as she sings the national anthem at Team Redstone's kickoff of this year's Combined Federal Campaign in Bob Jones Auditorium, Lindsey will represent all the good that giving to the campaign can achieve. And with this year marking 50 years of giving, those who contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign can know their charitable giving has made a difference in the lives of others whose stories of hope are similar to Lindsey's.

For Lindsey, that giving came through the Make A Wish Foundation and Give Kids The World, two organizations that made sure a frail, but joyous 5-year-old enjoyed a dream come true.

"Make A Wish grants you a wish, any wish of your choice and my wish was to go to Disney World," Lindsey said. "I had just gotten out of the hospital. I had just finished chemotherapy. And that was my wish."

At first her mother, Terri, who works at Marshall Space Flight Center, didn't want to enjoy the offer of an all-expenses paid trip to Disney World.

"I thought, honestly, that when they made that offer it was for the terminally ill, and I didn't want that because I was in denial and I didn't want to think that Lindsey could be terminally ill," Terri said. "But then I realized this is a trip for the whole family to get away from all that we had been through. It was a trip for us to enjoy, and to get away from the thoughts of hospital rooms, doctors and treatments for a little while."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lindsey Jones, 15, and her mom, Terri, share a happy moment at home. Lindsey's blindness and her small frame convey the struggles her body went through in its battle with cancer. Lindsey will sing the national anthem at the Sept. 14 kickoff for Team Redstone's 2011 Combined Federal Campaign beginning at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

While the Make A Wish Foundation did make Lindsey's wish come true by providing transportation to Central Florida, during the trip she and her parents – including dad Keith, who works at Coca Cola and is a Navy reservist – stayed at the Give Kids The World Village, a nonprofit resort near Disney World for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Give Kids The World provided accommodations at its resort, meals for a weeklong vacation, and donated admission tickets to Disney World. Besides the usual family amenities of a resort, Give Kids The World also provided medical services if Lindsey needed them and the staff left surprise gifts for her every night in her room. Both organizations are registered with the Combined Federal Campaign.

"I gave to the Make A Wish Foundation before Lindsey got sick. But I never really knew what all they did for children. We're living proof that these two organizations do everything possible to give a sick child their wish," Terri said.

Lindsey's struggle against cancer began in spring 2000, about a month before her fourth birthday when her mom noticed she was dropping things and couldn't pick them up. A trip to the doctor in Huntsville got the prognosis of lazy eye. But about a week later, as Lindsey was stepping off their home's front porch, Terri noticed that her daughter was holding on to the stair railing while, at the same time, using her foot to feel her way down the steps.

Terri made a call to Children's Hospital in Birmingham and in a few days they were being seen by specialists at the hospital.

"They did a test and in 20 seconds they knew something was wrong up in my head," Lindsey said. "The next day, I woke up in my hospital room and said 'Mom, dad, turn on some lights. I can't see.'"

In just a few short days, Lindsey had lost her eyesight. Doctors determined that a tumor the size of a lemon was lodged behind her sinuses and was pressing on her optic nerve. Because her cancer was so aggressive, treatments of radiation in the morning and chemotherapy in the evening were started immediately, even though doctors were not sure what type of cancer they were helping Lindsey fight.

On April 3, 2000, Lindsey and her family were given the diagnosis of the rare and often deadly cancer that was attacking Lindsey's brain and her life. It is known as rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer that usually only strikes teenage boys.

"I was the first girl they have found this cancer in," Lindsey said.

For the next four months, Lindsey and her mother remained at Children's Hospital. Lindsey did not return home for good for a year after her diagnosis. Her tumor was inoperable, leaving chemotherapy and radiation as the only two options for fighting the cancer. The treatments made Lindsey vomit about 40 times a day. She lost her hair, had blisters in her mouth and down her throat, and had a feeding tube for nutrients because she couldn't eat. For four months, she couldn't walk.

"When we went to the hospital we knew something was wrong, but we didn't think it was cancer," Terri said. "Lindsey was always really healthy. Doctors told us that everybody has cancer cells in their bodies. It's just a matter of if and when they grow. There really is no explanation for what happened to Lindsey."

Despite everything, Lindsey remained the happy, optimistic child she had been from birth.

"I always told my mom that no matter how many times I threw up, isn't it a wonderful day? In my opinion, two things helped me get through this – a positive attitude and the Lord," Lindsey said.

"But I was really too young to understand at the time what was happening. I remember asking my mom 'When you were young, and you went through cancer was it like this?' I was too young to know that not everyone gets cancer."

Though Lindsey's tumor shrunk and no longer presses on her optic nerve, she still suffers from blindness. But Lindsey and her parents are hopeful that someday she will be cured from that, too.

"With the Lord's help, she will see again. There is new research every day," Terri said. "We don't give up hope. If we gave up hope, we would not be here today."

Until then, she lives a full life doing many of the things a sighted teenager does.

Lindsey takes tap and ballet lessons, attends Gurley Church of Christ, and has enjoyed Girl Scouts and 4H. As a sophomore at Madison County High School, she plays the small brass drum in the band, sings in the school choir, and is an active member of the school's Scholar's Bowl, Student Government Association

See Singer on page 25

59th nearly gone, but one of best remains

Clark-Davis joins Garrison as command sergeant major

By KARI HAWKINS
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When the 59th Ordnance Brigade packed up their classrooms and moved the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School from Redstone Arsenal, they left one of their best assets behind.

And that asset – carrying the name and rank of Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis – is now serving at the benefit of the employees and tenants of Team Redstone.

Recently named the Garrison's senior enlisted Soldier, Clark-Davis has put aside the day-to-day management of Soldier affairs to be the "eyes and ears" of the commander, Col. John Hamilton, throughout the Arsenal.

It's her first Garrison duty assignment, and one that, at first, she thought wasn't even a possibility.

"I was on TDY and I got an email from (Atlantic) regional Command Sgt. Maj. (Charles) Durr (of the Installation Management Command) that said 'Congratulations on your selection to be the next command sergeant major at Redstone Arsenal,'" Clark-Davis recalled. "I thought 'This has got to be a mistake.' I just didn't expect this. But Command Sgt. Maj. Durr told me he would not have sent the email if he wasn't sure about it. And he said I would be getting orders."

At the time back in June, Clark-Davis was making plans to take a command sergeant major position at the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

"I didn't even know this (the Garrison position) was in play or an option," she said. "Not going to Missiles and Space was bittersweet because I had met (Brig.) Gen. (Ollie) Knudson and his team, and I was looking forward to going there, too. They have a really great mission. I really liked the fact that the mission was DoD-wide."

"But this is also an awesome opportunity. The Garrison has a big responsibility for Team Redstone and for all the tenants that touch DoD and are part of this installation. I can't think of another installation where I would want to be part of the Garrison team."

The Garrison position is her fourth brigade-level job.

"Every one of those jobs has been different from the other," she said. "This job involves a lot of civilians and it's a great mission. I will be learning something different and I always look forward to that. I want to learn how an installation is run, and how you plan out and program in new work facilities and support facilities."

Clark-Davis' first brigade-level position was with the 29th Support Group, 21st Theater Support Company, in Germany, which consisted of truck, maintenance and ammunition companies as well as transportation units.

"Our mission was really logistics support throughout Europe," she said. "Then, I actually worked on deactivating of the 29th Support Group. So, there are some similarities between that assignment and what I did with the 59th. Some of the concepts were the same in the planning. But things were also different because at the 29th we were deploying and redeploying at the same time we were deactivating while at the 59th we were training while also moving."

She, herself, deployed as a command sergeant major to Iraq in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, to Egypt in support of Bright Star and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She then served in Romania and Bulgaria as the command sergeant major for the Joint Logistics Task Force responsible for standing up new installations in the two countries as well as providing training for the installations as part of Joint Task Force East.

"We were in temporary facilities while providing training and also overseeing the process to build new headquarters buildings," she said.

Her assignment with the 59th/OMEMS brought Clark-Davis back to her military career roots, as it was at Redstone, in 1983, that she trained as an ammunition storage specialist at OMEMS. That first assignment in addition to her experience in deactivating a brigade and training Soldiers made Clark-Davis a good match as the command sergeant major for the 59th/OMEMS as it began its moves to Fort Lee, Va.

"Things were somewhat prepared when I got here (in 2009). But there were so many classes going on and a lot of training equipment to move and a lot of buildings to empty here," Clark-Davis said. "We had to empty every building so that they could be turned over to Garrison for reutilization. It was a large mission to try to do all at once and we never took a pause in our mission, which was to train Soldiers, move a class after completion and then train Soldiers on the other end."

At the height of its mission, the 59th/OMEMS had a staff of about 1,100 military and civilian personnel who trained Soldiers of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion at Redstone. Of that staff, only a handful is left.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, known by many at Redstone Arsenal as the senior enlisted Soldier for the 59th Ordnance Brigade/Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, is now serving as the Garrison's command sergeant major. One of her new responsibilities will be to assist in planning that will turn OMEMS school facilities into office buildings for Army civilians working for Arsenal tenants.

"There are about 25 Soldiers still here with the 59th. Some are retiring in the next few months. Some are PCSing and don't report for duty until November or December," Clark-Davis said. "They will be transferred into the Garrison's Headquarters & Headquarters Company and we will facilitate for those Soldiers a mission for the little time they are still here. We still have to account for them and their mission."

As the 59th winds down to just a couple of buildings and then to no longer having a presence at Redstone, Clark-Davis' attention turns to the Garrison, where, coincidentally, she will help with a plan to refill those empty buildings with civilian offices for the Arsenal's growing number of tenants.

"I sit on a different side of the aisle now," she said. "I'm concerned now with what the Garrison can do to support the last of the 59th and help facilitate the final closing down of the organization.

"Ninety-five percent of the buildings have already been identified for a new tenant. The Garrison made recommendations on those tenants based on need, space and funding for renovations, and Maj. Gen. (Jim) Rogers (Redstone senior commander) was the approving authority. So, those buildings are now being reallocated and the Garrison is overseeing those tenant moves."

Clark-Davis said there are additional plans for the area surrounding the 59th/OMEMS buildings, including renovations at the Dining Facility that will turn it into a military and civilian service center.

"We're really going to save a lot of money because we will take the building's basic foundation and structure and reutilize it in a way that it will be an asset to the whole community," she said. "We will also be redoing the Redstone Fitness Center, and other MWR projects in the area that will make it a center for Soldiers, civilians, families and community support."

The command sergeant major is also looking forward to assisting the Garrison as it moves forward on plans for the Army Contracting Command headquarters on Martin Road, a shoppette along Martin Road and a new Exchange in 2013.

"All the things being planned will definitely be an asset to our community and will truly be utilized to capacity," she said. "It does take time to make these things happen and some may say they are long overdue. But we will get there."

See Soldier on page 25

Contracting interns graduate at Huntsville Center

By DEBRA VALINE
Huntsville Engineering Center Public Affairs

During a town hall meeting Aug. 19, four Huntsville Center contracting interns received certificates marking the completion of their three-year intern program.

Marta Anerton, Richard Locklair, Jordan Miller and Kenneth Salter received certificates from John Mayes, director of center contracting; John Teetsov, principal assistant responsible for contracting-Winchester; and Lynn Harper, deputy PARC.

Employees marking service milestones and others receiving their contracting officer warrant certificates were also recognized.

The intern program prepares individuals to assume positions as journeymen contracting specialists. Interns are given the opportunity to gain experience through on-the-job training and formal classroom training. They are rotated through different teams within the Contracting Directorate to add meaningful skills related to the procurement of services, supplies, construction, oversight and policy, and pre-award functions. In some cases, they were also afforded the opportunity to fulfill rotational assignments outside of Huntsville Center at headquarters Army Corps of Engineers and other districts. Upon completion of the program, each individual has obtained Level II Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certification in contracting.

"The intern program is one of the ways we try to enhance our work force with innovative new minds," Lillian Fox, the intern program coordinator, said.

Marta Anerton

Richard Locklair

Jordan Miller

Kenneth Salter

"We take the time to train them up to become journeyman procurement people."

To be eligible for the intern program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree in any discipline, 24 hours in business-related courses such as accounting, finance, management, economics, marketing, contract law, higher level mathematics such as calculus, etc., and a 2.5 GPA.

"This is the third formal intern graduation," Fox said. "Prior to these four individuals we have graduated seven personnel. In 2009, there were three graduates. In 2010, we graduated four. The four this year makes 11. We have 33 remaining interns within contracting."

File photo

Retired general dies

Retired Maj. Gen. Charles F. Means died Aug. 31. He was 83. Means was first assigned to Redstone Arsenal from 1959-64 in the Army Ordnance Missile Command as staff supervisor for research and development, test programs of the Army's surface-to-surface missile systems, then chief of the development coordination section, Pershing branch, Research and Development Directorate; and later deputy chief of engineering in the Pershing Project Office. He was commander of the Army Missile Research and Development Command at Redstone in 1977. He retired from the Army in 1981. Survivors include his wife, Anna Chan Means; six children, Janis Avery of Pensacola, Fla., retired Brig. Gen. Michael Means of Tucson, Ariz., Vincent Means of Dallas, Lynn Brauer of Bowling Green, Va., John Means of Huntsville and Sherri Barber of Houston; 14 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Courtesy of Photo Lab

Luncheon presentation

Guest speaker Steve Cash receives a token of appreciation from Deborah Mclemore-Baugh, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics. Cash, manager of the Shuttle Propulsion Office at Marshall Space Flight Center, spoke at SOLE's Aug. 18 luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Outreach program invites hearing-impaired students

By GAYLA McMICHAEL
AMRDEC STEM education/outreach manager

Focusing on opportunities for the hearing impaired, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center launched an educational outreach experience this summer.

The program, called the STEM Outreach Cooperative Education Experience, was endorsed by AMRDEC director Eric Edwards.

Alabama resident George White, a junior majoring in applied computer technology at Rochester Institute of Technology National Technical Institute for the Deaf, N.Y., is the program's first participant. He participates as an engineering aide in the Technical Management Division of the Engineering Directorate.

"I have enjoyed my co-op at AMRDEC this summer," White said, using sign language. "There are many things to learn about the job, meet workers, and find the parts for the status of the data. It's really wonderful to help people around the building. I would like to give a sign of salute to the building for working hard this summer."

Courtesy photo

Outreach participant George White meets AMRDEC director Eric Edwards.

While becoming familiar with technical documentation management and data workflow processes, White's major task is assisting with the transfer of hard copy legacy data to electronic formats for command repository submission. His supervisor is Deborah Cornelius, chief of the Status Accounting Office at the Engineering Directorate.

"George was excited to have the opportunity to contribute to our mission and complete his assigned tasks," Cornelius said. "As soon as he would finish one task, he would let me know immediately and be ready for the next one."

SOCEE is a learning opportunity available through the AMRDEC STEM Education and Outreach Office. Applicants must be enrolled at educational/academic institutes for the hearing impaired.

This cooperative learning experience provides an organized, progressive and diversified experiential learning environment designed to enhance employability, technical knowledge and skills beyond those available in the classroom. It allows students to experience their chosen professions in a real work environment.

For more information about SOCEE, call the AMRDEC STEM Education and Outreach Office at 876-2789 or email AMRDEC-Outreach@amrdec.army.mil.

Soldier

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Clark-Davis has enjoyed making the transition into her new assignment.

"I am still not up to speed on all the Garrison acronyms, but at least I am already familiar with the installation," she said. "There are a lot of great people here at Garrison. They have been very welcoming and very willing to teach me what I need to know. I really appreciate that."

As she "gets up to speed," Clark-Davis hopes to be an effective partner in communicating the Garrison commander's priorities and in bringing concerns back to the commander from Garrison employees and tenants.

"Feedback is so important," she said. "I hope to be another set of eyes and ears for the commander in continuing to improve the installation."

Clark-Davis is also looking forward to assisting in representing the Arsenal in the community.

"The community is so involved in supporting Redstone. We can't help but return the favor," she said. "Being out there in uniform and showing the community – and especially our youth – that we're behind them and supporting them and showing them what the military is all about is rewarding for me.

"On the installation, I hope I can help communicate that the Garrison team is here to support our tenants, and that our mission is not only to manage the installation but also to improve it. Everybody knows that Redstone is an awesome place. But we can always make it even better."

Clark-Davis was raised in Tuscumbia and attended Alabama A&M University. In 1983, she joined the Army but, like other Soldiers, didn't expect her commitment to extend into a full military career with honors. During her 28 years of service, she has earned a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and numerous combat medals, and was the recipient of the Ordnance order of Samuel Sharpe award. While serving, Clark-Davis, also raised one daughter as a single parent with the help of other family members, and today her family includes her husband of 10 years, three daughters through her marriage, two sons-in-law and three granddaughters.

"At one point, I decided I would serve for 20 years, so everything beyond 20 has been gravy," she said. "My next new goal is 30 years and beyond. My last chapter as a Soldier has not been written yet.

"Being able to serve as a Soldier and have the privilege to wear the uniform is unlike any other experience. When people tell me 'Thank you for your service,' I respond 'It's been my privilege to serve for over 28 years.' It has been a privilege to serve and protect our country, to represent the United States in foreign countries, and to do the mission of our elected leaders and officers. It's a great day to be a Soldier. Every day is a great day to be a Soldier."

Singer

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and Key Club. She is in honors classes and is in the top 10 percent of her class. She likes to text message and email friends, and loves to read and does so in Braille. Her aspiration is to be a National Merit Scholar and to someday be an oncologist so she can help others who are diagnosed with cancer.

"Even though I lost my vision, I still have a vision for life," Lindsey said. "Just because you can't see, doesn't mean you can't accomplish what you want in life. I want to do everything that a person who sees can do."

But there are challenges. Lindsey is taking growth hormones in hopes of reaching a normal size for her age. She has to be careful not to get sick because even a slight cold could be dangerous for her health. Eventually, her teeth will fall out due to the cancer treatments.

"A lot of people think that once chemotherapy is over you are done with it. But you aren't. It stays in your system for a long time," Terri said. "There are hurdles every day that we need to cross. Chemotherapy stunted Lindsey's growth. Her teeth have no roots. She still has nose bleeds and there is still a mass in her head. What has happened to Lindsey will follow us forever. It's like a lifelong journey."

"These things may be to worry about," Lindsey added about ongoing medical concerns. "But things could be worse. I'm still alive and I want to live life to its fullest. Why be sad when you can be happy?"

Lindsey's story of cancer survival has given her a way to inspire others facing cancer or other life threatening diseases.

"I like to tell my story to classmates and go different places where I can tell my story and sing," she said. "I want to give back to others what others have given me. I want to tell my story because I hope that someday there will be a cure for cancer."

She sang for the first time in public at a softball game at Central School when she was 6. Today, she is sought out to sing at various events throughout the area. Last year, she was the Champion Child for Alabama, traveling through the state to represent Children's Hospital. In that role, she appeared on the Children's Miracle Network and, in June 2010, she traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet President Barack Obama.

She remains an ambassador for Children's Hospital and is the honorary youth chairman for the American Cancer Society in Huntsville.

"I want to bring hope to others," she said.

"The main message I want to get out to people is to have hope, to keep a positive attitude, to keep your head up and trust in the Lord because no matter what you can get through anything."

Win or**Lose**

Ten-Miler Team devotes this year's run to fallen member

Redstone defending champion at Army's annual race in D.C.

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

This has been a tough year for Redstone's Ten-Miler Team.

A member of the champion team in 2008 and 2009, Capt. Laura Matejik Eberts, drowned March 21 while vacationing in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She was 28.

This year's team will run in her honor at the 27th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C. Redstone is the four-time defending champion in the government agency division and the two-time defending champion in the all-comers division.

Three members of the team are out because of injuries or health reasons.

"We're dedicating the season to Capt. Eberts because she was a member of our team who lost her life in an unfortunate accident," coach Harry Hobbs said. "And although we have injuries to key members, our plan is to defend both our championships in all-comers and government agency. And we are the reigning four-time champion in government agency and two-time champion in all-comers.

"And we're asking our runners to step up and live up to that legacy. Every runner is important. And we're still confident we're going to be champions.

"And we appreciate all the support from AUSA, MWR and Team Redstone and the community. We're training hard and we're prepping to win."

The runners include Hobbs, team captain Brad Schroeder, Randy McFarland, Timothy Pitt, Joseph Robenson, Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood, Brett Wilks, Brandon York, George Heeschen, Erik DeBolt, Col. John Hamilton, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper and assistant coach Skip Vaughn. Out for medical reasons are Rob Youngren, Lt. Col. Morris Bodrick and Derrick Gould.

"I am very excited to be part of the Army-Ten Mile Team this year," Schroeder said. "As a team, we have a great group of hard-working runners who are looking forward to the opportunity to represent Redstone Arsenal in Washington, D.C. We all have several hard weeks of runs and workouts in front of us, but once we get to the race, our training and preparation will help us compete to our best."

Said Hobbs, "We'll just keep moving on. We're going to be OK."

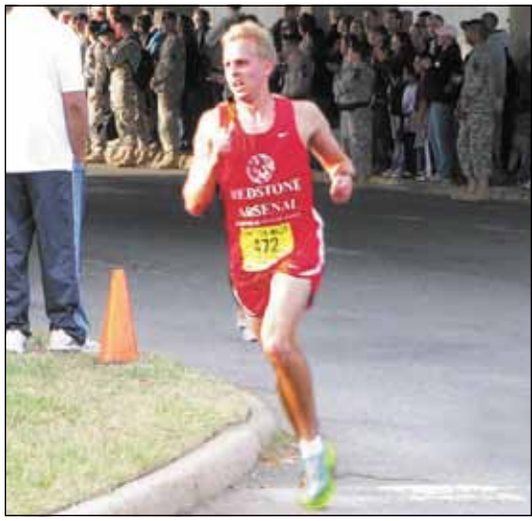

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Redstone's Brad Schroeder finishes the 2010 Army Ten-Miler in a team best 55:31.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Military patriots

Friday brought Military Appreciation night to Madison City Schools Stadium for Bob Jones High's football game against Hazel Green. Staff Sgt. Jerad Gough was one of the two paratroopers from the Screaming Eagles Airborne Air Assault who ski dived into the stadium 20 minutes before kickoff carrying the game ball. Military honorees were introduced before the game, which the Bob Jones Patriots won 52-7.

Crimson Tide picked to roll over Penn State

Auburn gets nod over Miss. St.

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

Here are Skip's Picks for the second week of the college football season:

Alabama at Penn St. – **Bama**
Mississippi St. at Auburn – **Auburn**
Alabama A&M at Southern – **A&M**
Cincinnati at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
South Carolina at Georgia – **So. Carolina**
Arizona at Oklahoma St. – **Okla. St.**
Missouri at Arizona St. – **ASU**
San Diego St. at Army – **San Diego St.**
Iowa at Iowa St. – **Iowa**
Oregon St. at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
Toledo at Ohio St. – **OSU**
Rutgers at North Carolina – **UNC**
Nevada at Oregon – **Oregon**
Hawaii at Washington – **Hawaii**
Wofford at Clemson – **Clemson**
Stanford at Duke – **Stanford**
Virginia Tech at East Carolina – **Va. Tech**
Southern Miss at Marshall – **So. Miss**
N. Carolina St. at Wake Forest – **NC St.**
California at Colorado – **Cal**
Purdue at Rice – **Purdue**
Tulsa at Tulane – **Tulsa**
TCU at Air Force – **TCU**
Jacksonville State at Chattanooga – **Jax St**.
Furman at The Citadel – **The Citadel**
BYU at Texas – **Texas**
Navy at W. Kentucky – **Navy**
UAB at Florida – **Florida**
Virginia at Indiana – **Virginia**
Fresno St. at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Arkansas at New Mexico – **Arkansas**
UTEP at SMU – **SMU**
Utah at USC – **USC**
Connecticut at Vanderbilt – **Vandy**
Northwestern State at LSU – **LSU**
Boston College at UCF – **UCF**
Georgia Tech at M. Tenn. St. – **Tech**
Notre Dame at Michigan – **ND**
San Jose St. at UCLA – **UCLA**

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Sports&Recreation

9.11K run

Runners can observe the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by participating in a road race Saturday at Redstone. The 9.11K Run, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Sparkman Center building 5302, will be 9.11 kilometers in memory of that tragic day. Race-day registration for $20 is available only to those who have Redstone access. Runners will check in from 6:30-7:15 that morning. The fitness centers and their phone numbers include Pagano Gym (876-2943), Sparkman Fitness Center (313-6091), Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center (955-7508) and Redstone Fitness Center (313-1201). This event, sponsored by FMWR Sports and Fitness, is presented by Woody Anderson Ford.

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.

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 Sept. 17. 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, beginning today and 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.

Cycling ride

Spring City Cycling Club will hold its "All You Can Eat Century" on Sept. 17 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 $30 for pre-registration, $35 after Sept. 12. 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 Sept. 17 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 register 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

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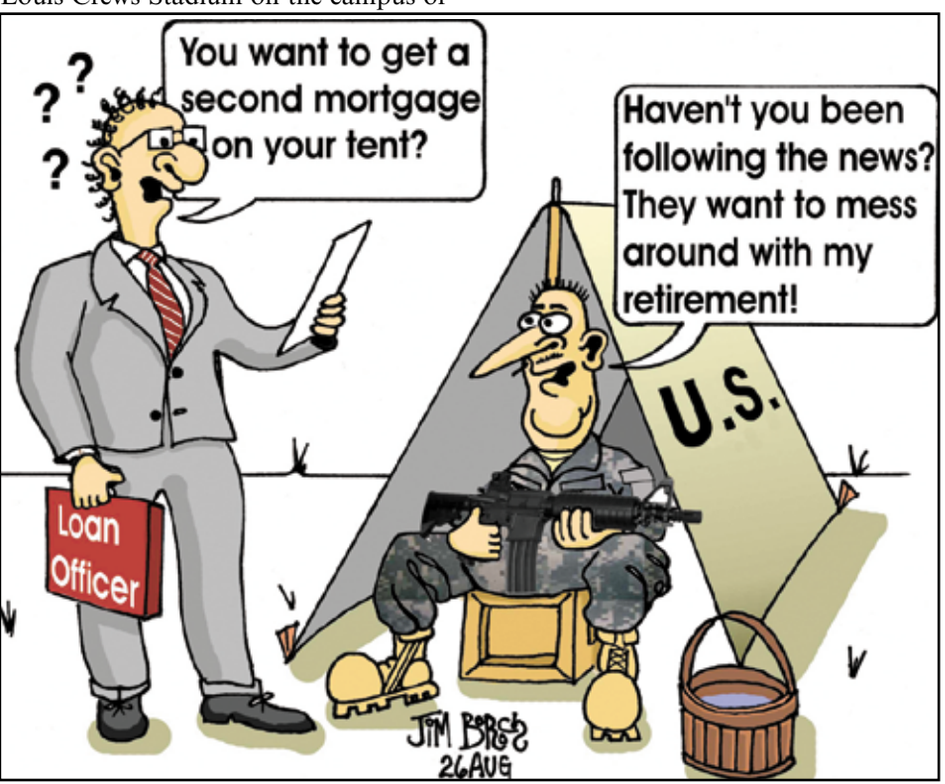

Photo by Melody Sandlin

Chow line

Employees from the Army Security Assistance Command enjoy a day of barbecue, softball, fishing and bingo at their annual Organization Day. This year's event was held Sept. 1 at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area.

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in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

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.

Reserve officers association

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

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 its Sept. 15 luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Reliability engineers

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

Defense women

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

Parkinson's support

Dr. Kim Caldwell from the University of Alabama will give an update on her research at the Caldwell Lab into the causes and possible improvements in treatments for Parkinson's disease at a meeting Sunday. The Parkinson's Support Group of Huntsville will meet at 1:30 that afternoon at Willowbrook Baptist Church on Bailey Cove Road. For more information, call Fred Seeley 534-6767.

Federal employees

The Huntsville Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time begin at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10. The speaker will be Dr. Debra Barnhart, director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Active federal employees and retired non-members are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Dr. James Gauthier, medical director of the occupational health group at Huntsville Hospital, will give a brief history of Civil War military pension systems. Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for $8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club will hold a general membership meeting and luncheon Sept. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured guest speaker is Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton. Cost for lunch is $14. For more information and reservations, visit www.rsacwc.org.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Training opportunity

The North Alabama Chapter of ASTD will present "The Bottom-Line on ROI (Return on Investment)," Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton, Huntsville. Cost is $145 per person. Register today at www.astdna.org.

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.

Education luncheon

Village of Promise presents lunch with Geoffrey Canada on Sept. 22 at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. In his 20-plus years with Harlem Children's Zone, Canada has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. Cost is $50 per person. Reservations may be purchased online at VillageofPromise.com, by phone at 536-8052 or by mail with check made payable to Village of Promise, 200 Pratt Ave. Suite B-2, Huntsville, AL 35801. Reservations must be purchased by Sept. 14. Follow Village of Promise on Facebook and Twitter.

Humane society event

The Greater Huntsville Humane Society is holding an "Open House" in honor of Patriot Day on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at its shelter, 2812 Johnson Road. "We will have some special guests – Huntsville Police K-9 Unit teams, HEMSI

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Search Dog Unit teams, and more," a prepared release said.

Child development center

The MSFC Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal accepts anyone with Arsenal access and currently has openings for children in the Preschool area and mobile/older infants. For more information, cal Kelli Wright 544-8609 or see the website at http://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/.

Commissary case lot sale

The Commissary will have a case lot sale Sept. 15-17 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 retails 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 Sept. 15. For more information, call 881-6992.

Latin dance classes

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation is offering basic (beginner) dance classes for adult couples in Samba and Merengue, six Thursdays, Sept. 8 through Oct. 13, from 7:30-9 p.m. at the School Age Services building 3155. No experience necessary. Cost is $66 per couple. Registration is open until Sept. 6. For more information, call 876-4531; or to register, visit the ITR Office in the lobby of the Community Activity Center, building 3711 on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads, on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sept. 11th concert

The First Baptist Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra, with the Huntsville Community Chorus, present 9.11.01: A Memorial Concert, Sunday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive in Huntsville. The concert is free; a special offering will be taken for the needy in the community.

Heroes discount

The Home & Outdoor Living Expo will be held Friday through Sunday at the Von Braun Center's South Hall. "Sept. 11th has been designated Heroes Day in recognition of military, law enforcement and firefighters and their families who gave so much on Sept, 11th and give every day as far as that goes," a prepared release said. "We are offering a $1 discount off of the admission price for those people attending with a valid ID." For more information, visit the Expo website at www.homeandoutdoorlivingexpo.com.

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.

Thrift shop

Fall items are now taken for consignment at the Thrift Shop. 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 drop by the shop. Volunteers are always welcome.

Humane society open house

The Greater Huntsville Humane Society will have an open house in honor of Patriot Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at 2812 Johnson Road. For information call 881-8081.

Blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: Sept. 8 from 7 a.m. to noon at building 5400 and at building 4488. … Sept. 9 from 6:30-noon at the Corps of Engineers and from 7:30-12:30 at building 4505. … Sept. 15 from 7-noon at building 5222 (Von Braun II Complex) and at the Sparkman Center. … Sept. 16 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316.

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.

POW/MIA recognition

World War II prisoner of war George Mills will be the guest speaker at the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on Sept. 16 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.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Gateway progress

Workers load and unload a dock of the new railroad spur as part of the Gateway construction project under way outside Gate 9.

Army photo

Outstanding support

Clark Lewis, left, foreign disclosure officer, and Cassandra LeFlore, right, alternate FDO for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, flank AMRDEC director Eric Edwards as they display a letter of commendation from Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commanding of the Research Development and Engineering Command. Lewis and LeFlore contributed to the successful accomplishment of the RDECOM's foreign disclosure mission from Jan. 1 through June 20. Together they processed 100 percent of submitted visits prior to the suspense date or the visit start date. Their efforts ensured AMRDEC's foreign visit requests were processed in a consistent and timely manner. These efforts contributed to the excellent rating the Army Materiel Command G-2 received during an audit of the U.S. Army Foreign Visit System program. Foreign disclosure is dictated by national level policy and guidance provided by Department of State, Department of Defense, and all service components, done in an interagency environment ensuring that disclosure is consistent with U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.